Global Online Academy comes to Poly

17 Upper School students take online courses spanning the 2013-14 school year

By JULIA WOHL
News editor

The Global Online Academy, a program that allows those signed up to take challenging online classes with independent school students from schools throughout the United States and other countries such as Jordan, Indonesia and China is now offering classes to Poly upper school students. The program is geared towards students who want to expand their global awareness, build relationships with fellow students from around the world and take classes not offered by Poly.

The classes are demanding and take place four times a week for 45 minutes each. Students are assigned blocks of around five to seven hours of homework to be done by the end of the week rather than daily assignments.

Students also interact with their teachers and fellow classmates using Google Hangouts, Skype or email. Teachers even have “office hours” during which they are available to students.

Senior Emily Woolway said, “It’s similar to a Driver’s Ed class; we have a lesson plan to follow online. Sometimes we have to post videos of ourselves, and other times we have to Skype for group assignments. Most of the work is reading articles and commenting and responding to each other in thread.”

The teachers generate their own material and draw from a variety of sources for their course. They strive to build relationships with their students and create opportunities for their students to share their own perspectives on global issues.

Assistant Head of School Greg Feldmeth is both the GOA Site Director for Poly and teacher of a course, Crimes Against Humanity, for the Global Online Academy.

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**Black box theater installed in Garland**

The Garland art studio was recently repurposed as a black box theater. The room is now known as the Upper Garland Studio, and its successful renovation was the final phase of the construction that has been going on for four years on the South Campus.

After the Visual Arts Program moved out of Garland to the Boswell building, the Performing Arts Department acted on their desire for a black box theater, which is what they thought would provide a unique, intimate environment for Poly's musicians, dancers and actors.

The new room’s floor, walls and ceilings are all pitch black. This gives performers an entirely new atmosphere in which to work. In addition, Garland Auditorium is often booked for rehearsals and performances, so the Upper Garland Studio will also function as an alternate rehearsal space.

Performing Arts Director Cynthia Crass said, “[The Upper Garland Studio] can be configured any way we like – audience on all four sides or on three sides, the performance space in a corner or on any of the walls.”

Crass continued, “It will also allow us to feature student work – that of playwrights, directors, composers and choreographers. This last desire is what really drove the decision to create a black box.”

Crass predicts that the space will also be particularly useful for music and dance oriented events.

The final touches on the theater, such as blackout curtains and acoustic materials, are scheduled to be implemented next month.

-Julia Wohl

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**Online Academy**

Continued from page 1

Fun to communicate with the other kids, but sometimes it can be hard because they’ll laugh at you for saying something they perceive to be stupid, or they don’t understand you. Otherwise, it’s a very satisfying experience.”

Although students enrolled in these courses can fulfill high school and college requirements, they do not replace the upper school’s departmental requirements.

Sophomore Matthew Van Citters said, “I joined Global Online Academy because some of my interests go beyond what Poly teaches. I can learn about stuff I wouldn’t be able to learn during my sophomore year, or maybe even any other year.”

There are currently 17 Upper School students enrolled in the Global Online Academy, taking courses that include Computer Science, 9/11 in a Global Context, Neuropsychology, Arabic, Game Theory and Multivariable Calculus.

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**Fun Food Friday**

Clubs or classes are now able to sell lunch on “Fun Food Friday” in order to fundraise or in the case of the Barbecue Club, to grill for the Poly community. Green Apple Gourmet will only provide lunch for the Upper School from Monday to Thursdays this year.

Last year, Poly agreed to prohibit students from selling food during lunch, which had long been one of the main ways for clubs and classes to raise money. It was especially hard for last year’s juniors, who had to raise money for Prom, but barely had any opportunities to do so. Now, because of the recent change, it will be much easier for groups on campus to generate revenue.

Junior Bing Barta said, “I think that Fun Food Friday is a great idea because it will provide alternatives to the plain Green Apple Gourmet food, and at the same time the different clubs will get the money to spend on donations and future events.”

Student groups have already begun taking advantage of the opportunity. The junior class started off the year by selling In-n-Out earlier this month, and the barbecue club sold chicken kabobs the week after.

-Teddy DeBreu and Nathan Lee

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**Founders Hall**

Continued from page 1

ago. It has long been an important gathering place for the community and is one of the North Campus’s most prominent structures. First established as a study hall for students, it was converted into a meeting and performing hall over 60 years ago. It is used by all grades, including lower and middle school morning meetings, middle school plays, the eighth grade speech contest and both middle and upper school dances.

In 1907, Ezra Seymour Gosney and twelve other donors pledged $12,500 to help found Polytechnic School. Later that year, the Board of Trustees branded his name into the Hall in appreciation of his gift and “spirit that prompted [him] in this good work [that] will inspire all future workers in ‘Gosney Hall.’” Gosney continued to work with Poly and the Board until his death in 1942.

However, he is now regarded as a controversial figure. His 1928 endowment of the Human Betterment Foundation, a eugenics foundation that played a large role in the sterilization of the “genetically unfit,” recently became the subject of recent scrutiny. According to a 2003 Los Angeles Times article, Gosney “enjoyed a mutually appreciative relationship with the advocates of ‘race hygiene’ in Nazi Germany” in the 1920s and 1930s.

In a short Q & A concerning Founders Hall, the Board maintained that the decision was made to “more broadly recognize all of the original leaders of the school, including Mr. Gosney.” When questioned about the “political correctness” of the issue, the Board gave credit to Ezra Gosney’s contributions and “long time service on the board” but also noted that his “leadership role in the Eugenics Movement certainly provided a catalyst for the name change.”

Four years ago, The Paw Print featured an opinion article titled “The life of Ezra Gosney” by Bob Samuels, one of the 2010-11 editors-in-chief. The article shed light on Gosney’s controversial life. According to a Panther’s Lair “Should Gosney Hall be renamed” survey in 2010, the majority of the student body favored renaming Gosney Hall due to his work in eugenics. An even more recent petition that supported removing Gosney’s name from the hall on MoveOn.org in January 2013 received 75 signatures.

Samuels said, “It’s certainly a move in the right direction...it’s certainly a positive move.” Samuels also elaborated on Gosney’s contentious association with the school. “The fact that Poly has been honoring someone who made a tremendously negative impact on Californian history really conflicted with the values that it strives to work towards. So, as a student it bothered me, as an alum it bothered me, and I’m glad that finally, regardless of the reason, the change was made.”

-Teddy DeBreu and Nathan Lee

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In 2004, Shaun of the Dead hit the big screen and accomplished something very few British comedies have done: it became a global success. In 2007, miraculously, Hot Fuzz did the same. Edgar Wright, the director of both films, and Simon Pegg, his star and muse, have been collaborating since 1996, when the former directed the latter in the groundbreaking British television show, Spaced. The World's End has been fourteen years in the making and brings those first collaborations full circle.

As the usual reviewer, The World’s End might seem oddly disjointed when juxtaposed with Wright and Pegg’s other movies. Perhaps one might think, as this reviewer did, that Wright toned down his stylized hyper-detailed directing, or maybe even that the script and the characters were just not as strong and that the film itself was weak. Box office rates might show this to be true as the film did considerably worse than its predecessors. However, after watching the The World’s End twice, it is, in this humble reviewer’s opinion, the most creative, clever, and referential piece of art that Wright and Pegg have ever produced. The attention to character and story is overwhelmingly

Crammed enough, this strange film, at first glance a cross between 21st century banality and 14th century heroinism also tackles issues like the growth of technology and the “Starbucking” of local eateries (and pubs). Regrettably, most of its brilliance will probably fly over your head upon your first viewing.

The World’s End concerns the tale of Gary King (Simon Pegg), Andy Knightley (Nick Frost), Steven Prince (Paddy Considine), Oliver Chamberlain (Martin Freeman), and Peter Page (Eddie Marsan). The whole film is about conflating the past and present, both in obvious and not-so-obvious ways. Wright and Pegg reference themselves and their past works freely in a purposeful, purposefully nostalgic fashion.

Gary King is the ringleader of his little posse and continually reminisces about the best night of his life, when he and his four compadres attempted and failed to complete the epic pub-crawl, The Golden Mile, through their hometown, Newton Haven. Focused on reuniting his crew, he attempts to bring them back to Newton Haven one final time in order to attempt and succeed at the crawl.

In trying to recreate his teenage wonder years with his incredibly reluctant friends, King clearly lives in the past. Unfortunately, Pegg, who has historically been cast as the protagonist in Wright’s films (Shaun in Shaun of the Dead, Sergeant Angel in Hot Fuzz), plays what we would consider a washed up anti-hero. He’s a loser. His friends have matured—they have jobs and lives and have grown up. King’s goal, his quest, is to pull his friends back into the past. And what better way to do that than to bring them all back 20 years into a town that, surprisingly, seems stuck in the past as well? Hurt: Newton-Haven’s eeriness is nothing short of supernatural.

The World’s End is not about watching Gary King mature and become a sober, functioning citizen. Both Shaun of the Dead and Hot Fuzz focused on the growth of a compelling protagonist in Wright’s films (Shaun in Shaun of the Dead, Oliver Chamberlain (Martin Freeman), and Peter Page (Eddie Marsan). The whole film is about conflating the past and present, both in obvious and not-so-obvious ways. Wright and Pegg reference themselves and their past works freely in a purposeful, purposefully nostalgic fashion.

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The World’s End is not about watching Gary King mature and become a sober, functioning citizen. Both Shaun of the Dead and Hot Fuzz focused on the growth of a compelling character thrust into an unusual, comic situation. The conclusion to the Wright-Pegg trilogy flips this convention on its head. King stays static. He clings to his beliefs and his inebriated lifestyle and, quite literally, changes the world around him. When watching this film, one should not expect explosions and easy jokes (although there are a few of both). The World’s End is surprisingly thought-provoking, and most of the backlash against it can be attributed to people who didn’t expect to have to think.

**California Minimum Wage to Rise to $10**

By NICKY STEIDEL

Opinion editor

California lawmakers, convening for the last time this year, have approved a $2 increase in California’s minimum wage, bringing it up to $10. This significant increase in the minimum wage, effective 2016, will make California’s minimum wage the highest in the nation.

The new minimum wage passed both houses of the California legislature with ease, but it has garnered national attention – and criticism. There are some who view the minimum wage hike as a victory, their logic being that workers should be able to live above the poverty line with a single full-time minimum wage job. This was unattainable with the previous minimum wage of $8, where a family of three would still find themselves below the poverty line [US Census Bureau]. However, with a $10 minimum wage, a family of three can live solidly above the poverty line, according to USA Today.

Opponents of the law point to the fact that another minimum wage increase will drive California further into debt, only compounding the state's economic problems. Many also point to the fact that the minimum wage hike will drive smaller businesses out of business, rendering them unable to pay their employees enough.

The Paw Print
Edward Snowden: Traitor or Hero?

By HENRY CAFFERATA
Opinion editor

Earlier this year, Edward Snowden carried out a large leak of sensitive information pertaining to the United States and its allies’ surveillance programs. Snowden worked as a contractor for the National Security Administration. During his tenure, he acquired a substantial amount of documents and files. On June 6, 2013, Snowden leaked 15,000 of them, detailing a massive spy network created by the US with the cooperation of foreign spy agencies. Much of America’s concern has been directed at the use of these spy networks on American citizens. The two programs in question are the NSA collection of telephony metadata and PRISM’s collection of emails, video chats, logins, and other internet data. Many feel that these programs violate the 4th Amendment’s guarantee that a search will be conducted only when it is reasonable. It is thus arguable that this program was largely ignored by the media. PRISM’s main goal is not domestic surveillance. The primary targets of PRISM are Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia. These countries are monitored for their diplomatic wrangling and unstable politics. The NSA’s metadata collection is primarily directed at China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. If I had to choose between the NSA and they, the way in which data is collected is fairly simple. First, the NSA gathers what it calls “metadata.” Metadata are not actual recordings of phone calls, but a collection would be impractical because of the sheer volume of audio that would need to be sifted through to find any information that relates to a threat to the American people. Metadata contains information such as the call’s location and duration, the phone number of both the caller and the receiver and the time during which the call was placed. Domestic data that is collected is left untouched by the NSA until a reason arises to use it. If a foreign number of interest connects to a number inside the United States, that action warrants the access of metadata. For example: if the NSA uncovers the number of a known terrorist in Afghanistan and they see that it has made several calls to a phone in the United States, then the NSA will investigate. If no connection can be made, then the investigation will be dropped. As National Intelligence Director James Clapper put it, “It cannot be used to intentionally target any U.S. citizen, any other U.S. person, or anyone located within the United States.”

As for this program being a revelation to the public, the information about the mass collection of metadata has been available since 2006, when USA Today published an article revealing the NSA’s mass collection of metadata. The question arises: why are people suddenly concerned with a program that has been public knowledge since 2006? If the American programs that were originally authorized by Congress and have been repeatedly authorized by Congress. Bipartisan majorities have approved them. Congress is continually briefed on how these are conducted.” These programs are not carried out on the actual action of the NSA alone, they are checked and approved by Congress. PRISM follows very similar guidelines in the usage of data collected. The FISA Amendment Act of 2008 puts limitations and restrictions on what Congress can approve. It also specifically states that any program that is authorized must fall into the constraints of the 4th Amendment. Other pieces of information that are important to these programs have been largely ignored by the media. It is certainly true, then, that the Republicans have many legitimate reasons to oppose the implementation of the ACA. The question, though, is whether it is worth risking their voter capital to do so. This past week, House Republicans voted in favor of a stopgap funding measure that would prevent a government shutdown while simultaneously and antagonizingly defunding Obamacare. The Republicans know that there is simply no way that the Democrats will approve that Bill, which may result in a government shutdown. A government shutdown caused by these Republican antics will certainly result in public outcry when veterans and the unemployed fail to receive benefits, and simply succeed in making the Republicans look calloused and petty. While this vote hardly comes as a surprise, it is a prime example of Republicans forgetting that one of the most basic goals of a political party is to get elected. In an OpEd piece in the Wall Street Journal, Republican strategist Karl Rove said that independents, which Republicans will need to win the 2014 congressional elections and the 2016 presidential elections beyond, overwhelmingly support the idea of the Affordable Care Act. At a time when the President’s legacy, and the biggest reform of healthcare since the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid. The ACA is difficult to digest, but in essence it aims to incentivize health coverage for all Americans by requiring that employers provide health insurance for their full-time workers, and that uninsured Americans purchase health coverage through State-established healthcare exchanges or marketplaces. As with many high-minded, well-intentioned legislative efforts, the actual abbreviated creation of the ACA created many unintended consequences. It is what happens when you try to cram for an exam or write the most important paper of your life in an unnecessarily short period of time. One of the most obvious and immediate drawbacks with the Act is that it is already encouraging small businesses with more than 50 full-time employees to jump ship and let their employees to juggle multiple shifts and work for several employers. Another negative consequence is that the Act imposes a “penalty” tax on employers with overly generous healthcare plans, thus causing employers to scale back those good benefits -- much to the chagrin of the employees who earned them.

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Edward Snowden has become one of the most controversial figures in the world.

Edward Snowden: Traitor or Hero?

By HENRY BROOKS
Opinion editor

At a time when drug and gang violence threatens the everyday lives of residents of Chicago’s south side neighborhoods, when the Somali Islamic militant group Shabab carries out horrific attacks on innocent people at a shopping mall in neighboring Kenya, when the United States continues to debate the war in yet another military intervention in the Middle East, this time against the regime of Syria’s Bashar al-Assad, the Congressional Republicans have decided that the biggest threat to America is “Obamacare.” This threat apparently looms so large in Republican’s estimation, that they are willing to gamble their electoral, or voter, capital in the 2014 congressional elections to wage an all-out war against it.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA or “Obamacare”) is predicated on the premise of changing employer-sponsored health insurance legacy, and the biggest reform of healthcare since the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid. The ACA is difficult to digest, but in essence it aims to incentivize health coverage for all Americans by requiring that employers provide health insurance for their full-time workers, and that uninsured Americans purchase health coverage through State-established healthcare exchanges or marketplaces.

It is certainly true, then, that the Republicans have many legitimate reasons to oppose the implementation of the ACA. The question, though, is whether it is worth risking their voter capital to do so. This past week, House Republicans voted in favor of a stopgap funding measure that would prevent a government shutdown while simultaneously and antagonizingly defunding Obamacare. The Republicans know that there is simply no way that the Democrats will approve that Bill, which may result in a government shutdown. A government shutdown caused by these Republican antics will certainly result in public outcry when veterans and the unemployed fail to receive benefits, and simply succeed in making the Republicans look calloused and petty. While this vote hardly comes as a surprise, it is a prime example of Republicans forgetting that one of the most basic goals of a political party is to get elected.
School Year Abroad Interviews

Emma Fuller-Monk
By SHUCHI SEHGAL
Assistant life editor

Senior Emma Fuller-Monk participated in the School Year Abroad program by studying abroad in the town of Viterbo, Italy. She immersed herself and fell completely in love with the culture. “The Italian people are very friendly and they loved to teach me about their culture, and appreciate mine,” she said. She attended an American school with about 60 other SYA students and was taught classes in both Italian and English. One of the main reasons Emma signed up was to become fluent in Italian.

Her host family made her feel at home by letting her spend time with their grandkids. In addition to taking classes, Emma also played on an Italian basketball team with other teenagers that did not attend school with her. Emma’s favorite memories of Italy were taking walks with her host family and going to Florence on an independent trip with a friend. Emma found Italian social events to be very different from American ones; dances in particular were more like family get-togethers where people lounged around and enjoyed each other’s company.

Emma traveled extensively during her time abroad, journeying to Torritino, a town near the border of France, where she observed the influence that French culture had on a predominantly Italian community, and to Rome, which gave her an opportunity to experience firsthand the culture and the history that had always interested her.

Perrin Lang
By DAVID OHTA
Assistant life editor

Senior Perrin Lang spent his junior year studying abroad in Rennes, a small town in Northwest France. Prior to his yearlong excursion in France, Perrin completed French III at Poly. Perrin was awarded a scholarship from the SYA scholarship program, making his journey less expensive than a year at Poly. Perrin described his trip as “part of a romantic adventure [he] had always dreamed of,” as he had never before spent extensive periods of time outside of the country.

Perrin’s host family in Rennes comprised of three brothers and one older sister. Perrin described his host family’s dynamic as “traditionally Catholic,” in which his father ruled over the household. “The kids in the household really only spoke to their parents when spoken to.” Perrin did develop a close bond with his 17-year-old “brother.”

Perrin attended classes from 8 o’clock a.m. to 6 o’clock p.m. but found that the curriculum was much easier than that of Poly. He had two hours of free periods during the day, and the SYA program tried to limit the amount of homework the students were given. Perrin commented, “They really didn’t give us too much work, as the program’s primary goal is to allow its students to spend time with their families.”

The light workload allowed Perrin to focus on sharpening his French. Although schooling certainly constituted a large portion of Perrin’s trip, he still managed to completely immerse himself in French culture. On Wednesdays, he participated in three-hour art classes, and he spent most of his time eating and hanging out in French cafés located in the center of town.

In a trip packed with memorable experiences, it was difficult for Perrin to single out a favorite occasion, but a trip to southern France was particularly noteworthy. “I went with some SYA students to southern France near Santro Pea. We all went on an evening hike up to the top of a beautiful mountain, which took about three hours to ascend. From the top, we could see the sea, as well as a bunch of little farms and villages below. Watching the sunset shimmer over the ocean was amazing.” In addition to his hike, Perrin noted his trip to the Normandy American Cemetery as a life changing experience.

The toughest part of Perrin’s trip was in December, when the combination of cold weather and homesickness put a damper on his mood. “Two students from Perrin’s French SYA program left early for home. Programs from other countries ended up losing as many as seven students, but Perrin credits the French program’s low dropout rating to the supportive community the students created.

Emma Molz
By MEGAN TCHENG
Assistant life editor

Senior Emma Molz spent her junior year studying abroad in Zaragoza, Spain. Initially drawn to the program as a way to improve her Spanish, Emma claimed “I’ve been to language camps before over the summer, and I’ve always been pretty quick at picking languages up. I really hoped a year abroad would help me with my Spanish language.”

Her time in Spain definitely allowed her to improve her Spanish skills, although she admitted “It’s hard when four of your classes are in Spanish and you go home and you’re living with your family and talking to them in Spanish. When you add it up, you’re literally speaking around ten hours of Spanish a day – and less than one hour of English.” When asked how her SYA school compared to Poly, Emma pointed out, “For one, we were learning most of our classes in Spanish. Only English and Math were taught in English. Like at Poly, most SYA students ended up taking around five to six classes.” Because school days ended later in the day at around 5:00 p.m., most of Emma’s free time in Spain was spent during the weekends. She shares, “When I wasn’t with my family, I spent a lot of time in the city center with the other SYA students, doing things like watching movies and shopping.”

When asked about her homestay experience, Emma noted, “I actually had to switch homestay families partway during the year. My first family ended up being kind of difficult to connect with – especially because I had two twin sisters who were really close and somewhat uninterested in connecting with other people. My second family was really great though! I had the sweetest parents and two younger siblings who completely welcomed me into their family.”

Emily Woolway
By MEGAN TCHENG
Assistant life editor

The study of Spanish language has played a crucial role in senior Emily Woolway’s life. She started attending Spanish camp in fourth grade and has since traveled to Spain over two summers. Her second summer in Spain was spent with the SYA summer program, where she fell in love with her homestay family and the city of Zaragoza, Spain. “I knew from that summer that there wasn’t anything I could do for my junior year except go abroad.”

Adjusting to her new home in Spain was easier than Emily expected. “It was really nice, because by the time I got to Spain for the school year abroad, I was already very familiar with and close to my homestay family. In that way the summer program really helped me.” Over the course of the year, Emily formed close relationships with her family, especially with her three younger sisters, ages 8, 14, and 16. Now that she’s back in the US, Emily still talks to her homestay family as often as possible, sharing, “We usually talk via Skype. One of my sisters just had her birthday and my family set up a laptop at the table so I could watch her blow out the candles.”

School in Spain was significantly different from Poly. As Emily detailed, “Most of our classes were taught completely in Spanish, so that was a big adjustment. It was especially hard when we were in a more difficult or advanced class, where we were learning words in Spanish that we didn’t even fully understand in English!” In her free time, Emily tried to spend as much time as possible with her homestay family.

When she wasn’t with her family, she explored the city of Zaragoza with fellow SYA Spain students. “Partway during the school year, we were given travel privileges, which meant we were allowed to travel in groups of 2-4 SYA students to anywhere within Spain on the weekends. That ended up being one of my favorite parts of the trip.”
ASB Dance: Casual Christmas
Where are you from?
I’m from Lille, France. It’s north of Paris and near Belgium. I attend one of the best high schools in the country. When I was 11 years old I moved from Amiens to Lille, where I met a lot of my current friends.

What are your favorite activities/hobbies?
I love to hang out with my friends. I also love playing the clarinet, which I have been doing for 10 years. I love music of all sorts and I love to DJ. I’ve even had several paid gigs. I’m also in a paid orchestra in France. I enjoy playing soccer and skiing, which I’ve been doing for a long time. I’m actually a certified rescuer for injured skiers. Besides that, I love fashion and shopping! In France, I am a model for the brand Super Dry.

How would you describe your personality and character traits?
My friends tell me I am quirky, amiable, social, generous, and sensitive. They also tell me that although I seem calm to strangers, I am crazy around my friends.

Describe your friends from France.
I generally tend to gravitate towards crazy, unique, nice individuals who are not easily offended or put in bad moods.

What are you looking forward to during your stay here?
I want to learn English, meet people, and discover American culture. I am also seeking a break from the fast-paced life I have in France.

What and who are you going to miss the most?
I will really miss my friends because I am dependent on them for a sound mind. I will also miss my family a lot! I think that my four siblings will miss me more than my parents will.

What is your favorite color?
Blue and orange!

Favorite artist?
Macklemore and Ryan Lewis.

Favorite food?
Japanese.

How has your experience in LA and at Poly been so far?
Visiting Santa Monica and Venice was a lot of fun! Everyone at Poly has been so friendly and Omar’s family has been very hospitable.

What was the most challenging moment in your life?
I had an accident on a trampoline that confined me to a wheelchair for three months, which resulted in hip surgery and three hours of physical therapy everyday. However, shortly after my recovery my hip became infected and I was confined to a wheelchair for nine more months. I was unable to go to school and it was a very hard time for me, but my friends and family helped me pull through!

What is the craziest thing you’ve ever done?
Come to America.

Student perspectives on surviving junior year
By NATALIA SANCHEZ-NIGOLIAN
Life editor

The majority of this year’s junior class was jolted by the abrupt commencement of the new school year. Within the first three weeks, tests and essays composed which contributed to the endless accumulation of academic, athletic and extra-curricular commitments.

Students have already begun to cope with the consequences of exhaustion, battling caffeine addictions and the overwhelming inclination to doze off in the middle of class. “Junior year has already proven itself to be completely exhausting,” expresses junior Erica Goodwin, who has taken on the challenge of multiple APs, including AP Biology. “The hardest part is not that there is one particularly difficult class, but that it is so crucial to stay on top of everything for all six classes simultaneously. It definitely takes a toll on all aspects of my life, because there never seems to be time for anything besides academics. While weekends should provide a break, and an opportunity to finally relax, there seems to always be an incredible amount of work that I should be doing instead.”

Musician and athlete Christopher Lopez agrees, “Junior year is definitely a step up in terms of academic difficulty, which demands more commitment than previous years. I place even more emphasis on academics since realizing that I am only two years up in terms of academic difficulty, which demands more commitment than previous years. I place even more emphasis on academics since realizing that I am only two years...”

“...years. I place even more emphasis on academics since realizing that I am only two years away from going to college makes its importance seem all the more imminent. What I can’t wait to see is what I am doing after I graduate. I have already planned my path to a career in medicine, so I am currently taking the necessary classes to prepare for that goal. However, I am also considering other options, such as pursuing a career in politics or law. I believe that these fields offer exciting opportunities for personal and professional growth.”

Nick McConnell rhapsodizes, “The core of our existence comes from new experiences.” This philosophical aphorism is immediately followed up with, “I guess it’s just really a difference in that I can’t do all my homework on Sunday night anymore. Happiness equals reality minus expectations.”

Come to America.
“I don’t think a test score is an accurate measure of intelligence. Most of the time it’s just how you can beat the test and colleges shouldn’t value these scores as much as they do. Applicants should be evaluated with an entirely holistic approach.”
- Riley Walker ’14

“I think the role of the SAT and ACT in the college process should definitely be changed. Expensive and rigorous prep courses can help students achieve scores they otherwise couldn’t have, which gives them an unfair advantage over other students who can’t afford those kinds of courses, which is the majority of high school students in the US. Besides that, though, I think standardized tests are helpful for colleges to look at as long as colleges do not base their whole decision off of those tests.”
- Erica Goodwin ’15

“Of the SAT’s most vocal critics, has suggested that the SAT should not be used in college admissions because it is a “wealth test” — more a measure of family socioeconomic status than academic potential. A study done this year by Ezekiel J. Dixon-Roman and Howard T. Eveson of Columbia University found that students with family incomes less than $10,000 scored on average 400 points less than students with family incomes greater than $100,000. In addition, the SAT writing section in particular is graded in a way that does not reward skill. Research by MIT professor Dr. Les Perelman found that the essay grades correlated only to the length of the essays, rather than the true quality of the writing.

Although the content of the ACT more accurately tests the material taught to students in high school than the SAT, research has shown that it is still no more precise than the SAT in predicting college grades. According to Valerie Strauss, an education reporter from Washington D.C., “No standardized test in which students sit there and fill in bubbles and write an essay can capture all of the work habits, coping skills, motivation and other traits needed to be successful in college.”

The whole culture of testing encourages a form of learning that focuses only on a set amount of material. It disincentivizes learning for learning’s sake and instead encourages people to only do what is required for them to succeed.

Despite all these flaws in the system, however, it is very challenging to think of an alternative to standardized testing that would prove easy to implement. In an ideal world, a test would exist that evaluated exclusively students’ aptitudes rather than the amount of time they spent preparing. Testing prevents students with easy classes from getting into college because of grade inflation and allows colleges to look at as long as colleges do not base their whole decision off of those tests.”
- Luc D’Andrea ’16

“As students of Polytechnic School, we are all too aware of the fact that an ‘A’ at Poly does not mean the same thing as an ‘A’ from a different institution. These standardized tests give students a chance to shine and demonstrate their abilities relative to the general population as opposed to the top students in the nation, and colleges must continue to take these statistics into consideration when they are choosing their admissions. While the system is by no means perfect, it is better than some other established methods in other countries.”
- Alya Crochetiere ’14

**Staff Editorial: Should Colleges Evaluate Applicants on the Basis of Standardized Tests?**
By NOAH KIM and JULIA ALISON
Editor-in-Chief and student contributor

The grossest flaw of standardized tests is that they discriminate against lower income students who are unable to afford expensive test prep programs. But rather than being eliminated, as some suggest, they should be modified to increase fairness.

Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier, one of the SAT’s most vocal critics, has suggested that the SAT should not be used in college admissions because it is a "wealth test" — more a measure of family socioeconomic status than academic potential. A study done this year by Ezekiel J. Dixon-Roman and Howard T. Eveson of Columbia University found that students with family incomes less than $10,000 scored on average 400 points less than students with family incomes greater than $100,000. In addition, the SAT writing section in particular is graded in a way that does not reward skill. Research by MIT professor Dr. Les Perelman found that the essay grades correlated only to the length of the essays, rather than the true quality of the writing.

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**The Paw Print Cartoon Caption Contest**

Students must submit a creative and comical caption that fits the cartoon to the right to thepawprint@polytechnic.org by October 9. The student with the winning caption will receive a free In-n-Out double-double and fries on October 11, and their quote will be published in the next issue.

“Would you believe that an alligator ate my homework?”
- Henry Brooks

“I’m going to have to be an investigator on why you didn’t do your homework.”
- Hunter Worland
Water Polo looks to repeat last year’s CIF Championship Season

By ZACH BERN
Staff Writer

Last year the Polytechnic boys water polo team won its first CIF championship. This year, the Panthers started out just like every other team in the division; with a 0-0 record, and a goal of winning a ring. The biggest difference between this year and last year is that the Panthers are the team to beat. Every team wants to bring down the defending champions. And with a more balanced, strong field of competitors within the division, the Panthers have a tough road ahead of them.

The team’s first job was to find a new rotation of starters to replace last year’s graduating seniors. Senior Dennis Grover noted, “This season we are looking for some new players to step up and contribute to the team. We brought up some guys from last year’s senior varsity team and we are excited to see how everyone is improving. As captains, Brock, Spencer, and I, along with the other seniors, are looking forward to helping the team reach its maximum potential.”

With the loss of players, and the rise in the level of play, it seemed only natural that the Panthers would feel intimidated by the new season. But long term goals have not changed. Senior Captain and Pasadena Star News Player of the Year Spencer Rogers commented, “Our expectations haven’t changed from previous years. We work to get better every day and play to win every game. Our league’s probably the strongest it’s been in a while and we’re looking forward to the challenge of winning the league title for a fourth straight year. We want to peak in November and bring another banner back to Poly. We have the pieces to be a championship team and we’re all confident we can make this season a special one.”

With three big senior starters returning, including last year’s scoring and assist leader, the Panthers look to return to yet another strong season. Poly opened with a loss to South Pasadena (7-8), but bounced back with a three-win streak against Pasadena, Los Altos, and Crescenta Valley.

The revamped Panthers look to carry their momentum and record of 5-2 in upcoming league games and hopefully bring home another CIF Championship.

Cross Country shows potential on both teams

By EVAN KIM
Assistant Sports editor

Varsity cross country begins the year with strong results from both the girls and boys team. Led by senior Evan Gancedo and junior Will Hubsch, the team showed all signs of a promising start in their past meet. Head coach Rick Christensen commented, “I am pleased with the influx of 9th graders. The girls team is starting to come together and, provided they stay healthy, I am excited to see them race as a unit this year. We have a nice running pack amongst the top girls. The boys are strong, but need some added depth.”

At the recent meet at Rosemead, Evan Gancedo maintained her status as one of the Prep League’s top runners by placing 9th with a time of 18:50, setting a new personal record for the course. In addition, senior Janna Wennberg as well as juniors Lily Wu and Emily Tcheng and freshman Melissa McCarthy all won medals for their performances.

Volleyball spikes down early opposition

By CHARLIE RAMIREZ
Sports editor

After another successful run in the CIF-SS 2A playoffs, the girls volleyball team looks to maintain its continued success. Having started off the season with a record of 5-1 (1-0 in league), a strong showing in league play and the remainder of the regular season look like strong possibilities for the Panthers.

Poly has lost a number of key players from last year’s team to graduation but has seemed to rebound in each role. With six returning players from last year’s squad, the Panthers have a solid amount of experience on the court.

After the Poly Tournament, the Panthers went on to win their first two league games. By sweeping Westridge and Rio Hondo Prep in straight sets, Poly has made their case as a strong Prep League competitor.

Junior Derek Logan commented, “Having a relatively inexperienced and new team coming into the season, many people had doubts on whether we could perform well as a team. Winning the tournament having only played a few games together was a big treatment to how well our team can perform as a unit. Those wins gave us experience and a big confidence boost to start off league.”

The Panthers starting core consists of a majority of returning players. Senior and four-year starter libero Hannah Kaufman leads the team on defense. Up front, Poly boasts a lineup of tall hitters and middle blockers. In addition to Logan are senior Kaitlyn Olah, junior Alex Clark, and first-year varsity player, Tessa Roos. One of the bigger adjustments to this year’s roster comes at the setter position, where former outside hitter Natalie Teisnier takes over in the starting role.

“In the seven years I have played volleyball,” said Teisnier, “I have never been a setter. This summer when Coach Beerman approached me and said he needed a setter, I agreed to take on the position. It has not been an easy transition, for it is not an easy position to master in a matter of three months. I am enjoying the challenge.”

One aspect the team relies on is their chemistry as a group. Hannah Kaufman commented, “The group of girls this year is very close, which makes every game and practice all the more exciting and enjoyable. We look forward to continuing to work hard towards another successful season.

Poly prepares for their upcoming four-game home stand that includes key league matchups against Chadbine, Webb, and Mayfield.

Tennis smashes Chadbine in league oppenner

By HUNTER WORLAND
Sports Editor

The girls tennis team opened Prep League play with a comeback victory against Chadbine this past Thursday (10-8). While locked in stalemate for the first rounds, the Panthers’ stamina and consistency earned the team a win in the final games of the contest.

“The support the teammates had for each other throughout the matchup and our overall endurance definitely helped us secure the win,” junior doubles player Julia Wohl added.

Tied until the final minutes, the doubles players eventually turned the tide against the Dolphins, winning seven out of nine of their matches.

The squad also relied on number one singles player, Anna Lamb, to help counter the Dolphins. In 12 total matches played in the season thus far, Lamb has only lost twice.

This victory marked the first time that the Poly girls tennis team has beaten Chadbine in three years. “As a team, it gave us a lot of confidence to beat Chadbine on the road,” Wohl noted. The squad looks to extend the 4-1 record of a “promising season” this Thursday against Westridge, another Prep League powerhouse.

Under new coaches Kim Weber Hall and Bayly Buck, Poly looks to average years of Westridge and Chadbine domination.

Lamb, commented, “After beating a top competitor in our league, the team is in a position to make a run for the league championship.”

Against South Pasadena in nonleague play, Poly demonstrated the depth needed for a Prep League title. Junior Brooke Olson and sophomore Samantha Collins proved a formidable opponent, going unscathed in their doubles matches.

Similarly, Lamb and senior Elisa Bogosian, went undefeated in singles. The South Pasadena Tigers lost (15-3).

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Football hopes to carry momentum into Prep League

By JARED LIM
Assistant Sports editor

Junior Griffin Carter’s four touchdown runs on Saturday led the Panthers to a 49-20 win over Malibu High School, extending their undefeated record to 3-0.

With consecutive wins against Marshall and Saddleback Valley Christian, the Panthers walked into Saturday’s contest as the team to beat against the struggling Malibu Sharks (0-3).

Junior linebacker Nick McConnell comments, “This was a game we had to win. Malibu is a good team so we had to make sure to get them down early. We had the upper hand in this matchup, which gave us all the more reason to defend our pride and keep the winning streak going.”

The Panthers made their mark early in the first quarter behind two touchdown runs by running-back Griffin Carter, and the Sharks struggled to respond. The Panther defense held the Sharks scoreless in the first quarter.

In the second quarter of play, consecutive touchdowns by senior Matt Carter and Griffin Carter, followed by an interception return touchdown by Nick McConnell put the Panthers up 35-0 as they headed into the locker room.

“We came out ready to play,” junior wide-receiver Parker Mathews notes, “Everyone did their job. We got them down early, and they couldn't find their stride until it was too late.”

The second half was more of the same. Griffin Carter tallied his fourth touchdown run of the day, and sophomore Joe Edwards recorded his first touchdown of the season. Although the Sharks responded late with three touchdowns, they fell short as the Panthers cruised to an easy 49-20 victory.

“It was a good win for us,” Griffin Carter adds, “We played as a team, and this allowed us to be successful on both sides of the ball. The offensive line did an amazing job at freeing up gaps and protecting the quarterback.” Griffin Carter finished the game with four touchdowns and 134 yards on nine carries, along with a crucial interception in the first half.

The junior head of the offensive lineman and center Max Beller adds, “The line did a consistent job the whole game by getting to their assignments and stopping the defenders from getting to our quarterback and running-backs. This year, we have a very experienced line, so there is no excuse for missing our assignments. It's a good thing to see. When our line is successful, our offense is much more efficient. If we can keep up the same level energy, we will have a good shot at winning league and making a CIF run.”

On the offensive end, senior Will Genske established himself as a dominant receiving threat, as his 6’6” frame creates problems for opposing defensive ends and linebackers. In the opening weeks, he has recorded six catches for 91 yards and two touchdowns.

Genske reflects on the victory, “We took care of what we needed to take care of in the first half by running the ball and stopping their running. Coach Schmoke had a great game plan with having us throw at the beginning and go hurry up to catch them off guard, and we opened up a big lead. Our second string just needs more experience so that we don’t give up points late in the second half.”

With an effective aerial game, the Panthers have relied on senior quarterback Michael Bowman for his leadership as captain. In the opening games, he has thrown for 305 yards on 20/34 passing with five touchdowns. Bowman has also established himself as a threat on the ground, rushing for 50 yards on five carries.

“Our passing game has had some success but it certainly needs some improvement,” Bowman comments, “It feels good to be throwing to some good athletes, it gives me confidence. We haven’t fully started clicking, but we are going to work hard in the next few weeks to do so. We’re off to a good start and excited for league, but we have to improve in a lot of areas.”

Unlike past years, injuries have not taken a large toll on the team thus far, and if the squad can stay healthy, they are poised for a successful season. The Panthers will look to continue their preseason successes as they take on Flintridge Prep at home on October 12 as Prep-League competition begins.

Football Leaders

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<tr>
<th>GRIFFIN CARTER</th>
<th>WILL GENSKE</th>
<th>MICHAEL BOWMAN</th>
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<td>vs. Malibu</td>
<td>vs. Marshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>154 Yards on 9 Carries</td>
<td>2 Receptions 58 Yards 1 Touchdown 1 Sack</td>
<td>20/34 Passing 305 Yards 5 Touchdowns</td>
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Athlete of the Issue
Brock Hudnut

As the fall season kicks off, there is always one team that Poly's student body can count on for success: the highly esteemed varsity water polo team. Carrying many returning seniors, the team will continue to be a contender for the CIF playoffs. One of those returning seniors is four-year letterman, attacker Brock Hudnut.

Senior co-captain Spencer Rogers comments, "Brock is a really talented player who adds a lot to our team. Besides being a great passer and shooter, he does a lot of the little things that outsiders probably don't notice but are so important to our success."

For the past two years, Hudnut has led the team in assists and has appeared on both All-Prep-League and All CIF teams. This year Hudnut has already posted seven assists, the second most on the team and in the Prep League. Head coach Ryan Kata hows, "Brock is a really talented player who adds a lot to our team. Besides being a great passer and shooter, he does a lot of the little things that outsiders probably don't notice but are so important to our success."

Hudnut is known for not only his prowess in the pool at Poly but also his contributions to his club team at the Rose Bowl. His teammate Dennis Grover adds, "Brock has become a great water polo player because of his hard work at practice and his dedication to both club and high school water polo. What makes Brock a special player is his ability to always deliver the ball to an open player even under pressure and to shut down the opposition's best player on defense." Brock continues to be one of the team's most prized elements in their hopes for back-to-back CIF titles.

- David Ondorff

Athlete of the Issue
Juliet Johnson

Juliet Johnson returns to the courts for her final season with the Varsity Girls tennis team in hopes of leading her squad to the CIF playoffs. Johnson's success is justified by her inclusion as 2012 Panthers MVP and 1st-team All Prep League honors. She consistently contributes to the success of Poly's tennis program and looks to surpass her previous level of play this fall.

Johnson's doubles partner senior Elisa Baghossian, notes, "Juliet has continually been a strong asset to the tennis team. Not only does she possess superior skills on the court, but she also has the mental attitude and toughness to enable her to dominate against any opponent no matter their style of play."

Johnson exhibits great leadership by acting as a role model to the younger players. Her contributions in both singles and in double matches show her versatility as a player. In the opening weeks of the season, she led the Panthers to an impressive 4-1 record. The first 4 matches were an impressive showing for Johnson as she achieved an 8-1 record in singles and a perfect 3-0 record in doubles.

Johnson's teammates praise her work ethic and attitude on and off the court. Junior teammates Anna Lamb, comments, "Juliet's role as a leader is just as important as her role as a player. Dependable and focused, she manages to keep a positive attitude while remaining serious. She's been a great captain this season, never giving less than 100% effort in her matches."

- Kyle Beerman

Athlete of the Future
Robin Lee

In her first year of a new program, freshman golfer Robyn Lee has already proven to be a standout. Putting-up scores as high as 85 and 77 in her first two matches against Mayfield and Westridge, Lee has shattered all expectations for a freshman in a new team.

While playing golf for six years without any form of professional coaching, Lee has proved to be a lethal combination of natural talent and raw strength. Her performance and hard work ethic has earned her the respect of her teammates.

Senior Simone Abegunrin noted, "Her perpetually joyful personality definitely keeps everyone's mood up during practice. However, underneath her easy-going demeanor lies her determination. She is focused on her game and is always looking to improve."

With an upcoming rematch against Westridge, the team will look to Lee to avenge their loss earlier in the season (277-248).

- Michael Bowman

Save the Date

POLY VS. PREP FOOTBALL
Where: Babcock Field
When: October 12
Last Meeting: Prep Victory 46-33
Poly Record: 4-0
Prep Record: 0-3
Poly-Prep Record in the last five years: 4-1

POLY VS. CHADWICK VOLLEYBALL
Where: Poly's Gym
When: September 27
Poly Record: 6-1
Chadwick Record: 2-1
Last Meeting: Chadwick victory at CIF Quarterfinals (0-3)
Poly-Chadwick Record in the last five years: 3-9