



# StudentPrints

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## Italia! *Isabella Q.*

This sophomore took a trip to Italy during Easter Break which was something she will surely remember for the rest of her life.

The realization that I was actually going on the trip hit me as I rushed out the door of DA on the last school day to run home and pack for my take-off the next day. Spring Break was finally here. With great anticipation I was going to spend ten days in Italy with my DA sisters.

The journey started in the departure lounge at JFK on Holy Thursday where many hugs (and tears) were shared between girls and their families. After saying our goodbyes, it was time to brace ourselves for an eight-hour flight to Rome that put us in a position to take another plane ride to Venice where our organized tour would begin. As soon as I stepped outside of the Marco Polo Airport and was able to take a deep breath of Italian air, I knew I was going to love it in this country.

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Isabella Q. at the Vatican

## Editorial Farewell

*Veronica L., Kayla T., Anna W.*

Editing Student Prints is like driving a bumper car. You spend small amounts of time chilling out in the car, waiting for the action to come and suddenly, the time comes out of nowhere for an issue and hits you like a t-bone collision. Learning how to coax our classmates for an article and get them all on a flash drive the night before the deadline was truly the embodiment of teamwork and stress management. Not to mention, the time we realized that the new MacBook Air's no longer have USB ports, oh joy!

Moving on to college is a huge step for us and is both exciting and bittersweet. While we are heartbroken to leave our DA sisters and the opportunities for leadership and flourishing that has been offered to us, we know that we are ready to face this next chapter. Student Prints has reminded us that we have the skill set and knowledge to write and refine work in a way that is "clear and cogent" as Dr. Cagney would say. All of the amazing articles submitted to us in the last year inspired us to look out for new perspectives and voices in our communities.

The three of us agree that working on Student Prints has also been an immense privilege. It has been an experience we will never forget. We would not have been able to do this without Mr. McDermott and all of our fabulous writers. We are so excited to see what the future holds for the paper and for the new members of the editorial board. Your new editors are blessings for the club and the school community. We know that they will make us proud and tell the stories that need to be read. We always remind them that we will be DA girls far after graduation, so never be afraid to reach out and ask for some guidance from those who have been in your shoes before.

## Yale University

*Veronica L.*

"Bulldog! Bulldog! Bow, wow, wow. Eli Yale!" As Yale's famous fight song blared through my computer speakers, I stared at the acceptance video in shock. My heart was pounding out of my chest...a couple seconds ago out of fear, but now out of pure joy. Here was the screen that I had only seen in those viral college acceptance videos on Youtube, the one that I had only dreamed about for the past few years. With tears in my eyes, I ran to hug my family and frantically text my classmates the good news. A couple of days later, when the news actually settled in, I couldn't help but wonder how I got into one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Was it all luck? Or had all the hard work finally paid off?

With an acceptance rate of less than 6% this year, I don't really know what made me stand out from the over 35,000 students that applied to Yale this year. I'm not a D1 athlete or Olympian, my parents didn't attend Yale, I wasn't the face of a social movement, and my family didn't donate a library or auditorium. The recent university scandal should point to the difficulty that even extremely wealthy applicants have in the game of college admissions.

Given the sheer amount of stellar students that apply to prestigious universities, it cannot merely be grades and SAT scores that get you in. The copious amounts of work, the late nights studying, the dozens of practice exams... those only get you so far. The thing that gets you over the gates and into college is your personality that shines through your essays...that ever-elusive aspect of the "holistic" admissions process. But what makes you a "good" applicant in this regard? A recent VICE News piece interviewed admissions officers about their biases when reading applications and advocating for certain students. One admissions officer always roots for the

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## Italia! *continued from page 1*

A short ride with our friendly bus driver Salvatore and a shorter boat ride to Venice with our tour guide Linda was all it took to arrive at Piazza di San Marco. I quickly fell in love with Venice after seeing the beautiful blue water on the Canal Grande, hearing the language being spoken amongst natives and eating the delicious pizza. For the next two days, my group and I would walk around the piazza eating way too much gelato and taking too many pictures near the water. We even got the chance to enjoy a gondola ride that travelled through the small channels and eventually made its way to the Canal Grande.

Sadly, we left Venice and moved on to Florence on what was not only Easter Sunday but also my 16th birthday. Florence was unlike any city I have ever been to. It was amazing to be standing amid some of the most prestigious Renaissance architecture and art. We even had the chance to attend Easter Mass at Il Duomo. One of my favorite parts of Florence was the Academia, where the famous marble David by Michelangelo stands. After hearing so much about the masterpiece in history class, it was breathtaking to actually see it in real life. During our time in Florence, we also took a day trip to Siena, where we saw Saint Catherine of Siena's head and thumb, which are preserved in the Basilica di San Domenico.

It was sad to leave Florence but, as the saying goes: "All roads lead to Rome."

On our bus trip to Rome, we took an excursion to Assisi, where we had a guided tour of the Basilica di San Francesco. Pictures were not allowed. But I know I will remember the heavenly artwork inside the church forever.

When we finally arrived in Rome, it quickly became my favorite city. It was amazing to see ruins among the urban setting. During our time in Rome, we had the once in a lifetime experience of attending a Papal Audience where I saw the real-life Papa Francesco. Being present and hearing the prayers in so many languages is truly an experience I will never forget. We also had the opportunity to visit the Pantheon, with its famous oculus, visit the Colosseum, which was astoundingly and architecturally beautiful and even walk where ancient Romans once trotted in the Roman ruins. We also learned that the term "All roads lead to Rome" referred to the fact that all roads, in fact, *start* in Rome.

My favorite day in the streets of Rome was when we got a guided tour of Vatican City. It is impossible to put into words just how beautiful everything was. From the artwork in the Vatican museum to the paintings in the Sistine Chapel to the magnificent St. Peter's Basilica including the Pieta; the only word I have to describe what I saw is breathtaking.

Piazza Navona and the restored Trevi Fountain were also on the top of my list for locations to visit. If you think these

places are beautiful during the day, try visiting them at night. Nightlife in Italy is very different from here in New York. As I walked through the narrow streets, occasionally almost getting hit by a car, music echoed off the buildings filling the air with soft tunes. The smell of delicious food surrounded me and the lights shone perfectly, lighting the pathways. Walking in the streets at night in Italy is like walking in a dream. It was moments like these that made me fall more in love with Italy, the country of my parents.

On the last day in Italy, we visited Pompeii. We walked where ancient men and women took holiday strolls until the nearby Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, preserving them in a volcanic embalmment. Today, most of the ancient town has been uncovered so that in some ways we actually know ancient Pompeii better than ancient Rome.

After ten incredible days, it was time to say "Arrivederci" to my motherland and come back home to tell of my experience to everyone and anyone who asked (or did not ask) about it.

Italy was one experience in my life that I will always remember and hold close to my heart. If you ever visit Italy in the future and see someone that looks like me, it probably is me. I moved there. Don't be afraid to say "Ciao".

Or, as Italians are accustomed to say, "Non fai paura per dire 'Ciao'."

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## Jesuit Excellence Tour *Monica S.*

College applications are a very stressful time for high school students. The search for the right college usually begins in junior year. So, when the juniors received the opportunity to attend the Jesuit Excellence Tour (JET) at DA, this junior was thrilled!

When I walked into the auditorium, I was amazed at how many college representatives wanted to talk to the DA girls. I enjoyed looking at the colorful college pamphlets, talking with the college representatives, and learning about each

university at the fair. I actually had no idea that some of the colleges at the fair were Jesuit. Some of the schools in attendance were Fordham University, Loyola University Maryland, Scranton University, Marquette University, and College of the Holy Cross.

I was impressed with the way all the college ambassadors spoke because they made me excited to go to their college. It also helped students realize what kind of college they wanted to go to - whether

it be big or small, Division 1 or Division 3, urban or more rural. Having these ambassadors present gave us a chance to learn how to talk to admissions directors and professionals directly, which is a truly priceless opportunity to have.

I am grateful to Dr. Petit for establishing this exquisite fair and giving us a first-hand look at our futures. When we ultimately leave DA, we will have the benefit of knowing what prospects are available for us.

# Yale University *continued from page 1*

public school kid who doesn't have a lot of resources. Another admits that she has a soft spot for students who would be first in their family to attend college. In my essays, I wrote about my love for science research, playing the violin in my county orchestra, and doing volunteer work in my community. Perhaps one of these struck a chord with my admissions officer and inspired her to advocate for me. But at the end of the day, I didn't write what I thought the admissions committee wanted to read (after thousands of applications, I thought they would easily see through that). Instead, I tried my best to capture who I am in the limited number of words that the Common App provides. It wasn't easy, but by the end of the process, I

was confident that if I was rejected, at least it was the real me that had been rejected. In my opinion, that's better than getting accepted for a fabricated version of yourself.

So could I tell you how I got in? Not really. If I had to say right now, I think it was a blend of grades, SAT scores, essays, recommendations, and yeah...a little bit of luck. If I could give any piece of advice to underclassmen (especially juniors) who are beginning to embark on the long and difficult process of college applications, it would be to remain open-minded and true to yourself.

What I've noticed in my class is that everyone ends up where they belong, whether that be nearby (like NYU) or

a plane ride away (like Marquette). A couple of weeks ago, I attended Bulldog Days, Yale's admitted students weekend, and to be honest, it already felt like home. It may be a little naive of me to look at the admissions process this way (albeit through rose-colored glasses), but I think it's the best way to look at what others consider a scary and doomed process. Even if it may not seem like it, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and looking back, it was all worth it. So stay strong, be inspired by your own story and those around you, and look forward to the day when you can proudly wear your college sweatshirt.

From one DA girl to another, you got this!

# Georgetown University *Lea F.*

Hoya Saxa! The week of May 25th was my most stressful time of the year. I was waiting to hear from Georgetown University, the college of my dreams, the school I had been dying to go to since I was seven years old. I could not imagine what I would do if I got rejected. It seems extreme, I know, but when you fall in love with a school with your whole heart, you're all in.

The Georgetown application process was hard, tedious, and included tons of drafts of essays that helped me practice for my interview.

Georgetown mails their decisions.

Previously, I read something online that said if your postage stamp was \$0.50, it was a rejection, and if it was about \$0.68, it meant an acceptance.

As I was walking to lunch I checked my phone and I saw a notification of a text from my mom. She sent me a picture of the letter with the text "Look what came!!" I looked right at the postage,

and it said.....\$0.64. I dropped to the floor, let go of all my stuff, and felt like I could not breathe. I ran into the bathroom and called my mom because I simply could not wait until I got home to find out. Some of my friends had come into the bathroom with me, supporting me by holding my hand and hugging me so I would stop jumping up and down hysterically. My hands were shaking and my heart was beating incredibly fast as I heard my mom say she was about to open the letter.

Before I knew it, my mom started to read it out to me. "Dear Ms. Lea F., It is with great pleasure.." and before she even got to finish the sentence, I was sobbing, my friends were screaming, and all of the seniors had come into the bathroom to celebrate. I could not believe it, I got into my dream school. I then walked out of the bathroom and everything felt surreal: I was hugging everyone, started crying in

Ms. Adlow's arms, and came into the cafeteria to be welcomed by applause from all the seniors.

It was everything I could ever ask for, and it truly exemplifies the idea that everything happens for a reason and it's all truly meant to be.

## Credits:

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# New York University *Teresa B.*

Senior year has been my best year at Dominican Academy even though it also has been the time of the college admissions process.

My experience was different than that of others. In my junior year, I was nominated by Ms. Louis for the College Prep Scholars program of QuestBridge, an organization that connects high-achieving, low-income students with Ivy League schools or schools of equal merit. I filled out a detailed application, much like the Common App. Then I officially became a QuestBridge College Prep Scholar.

QuestBridge helped me with my college application, specifically editing a potential college essay. I used the essay for their Match Program that provide students the opportunity at a full scholarship and early admission to one of their 40 partner schools. At the time I was set on one Ivy school so I refined my application and was accepted as a College Match Finalist. This meant that I was approved to apply early! I put down the school I so wanted. But I did not get matched.

Not getting into a school is not the end of the world, even though it may feel like it. Everything happens for a reason. Only,

I wasn't rejected necessarily. I just didn't get accepted early with the free education. I cried for days. I was really hard on myself. I asked why I wasn't good enough and compared myself constantly to my classmates. It was so difficult to be happy for those who received early acceptances. After a lot of self-care and reflection, I slowly pulled myself out of my rut. I took time to reassess my options. On the one hand, I was put into the regular decision pool so I had a shot at getting in with "generous financial aid," as they put it. On the other hand, maybe this was a sign that I was meant to go somewhere else.

I really started researching the schools and took another look at New York University. I did more research and found out how much I loved the curriculum, community, and culture at NYU. NYU was different from the Ivy of my dreams but I realized that its system was more tailored to me. I was so hung up about the other school and its location that I wasn't seeing the school that was truly right for me. I spent days working on my Common App and applied early decision to NYU. I crossed my fingers. On Valentine's Day, I got an email. I got

in! And with a scholarship! I was so happy!

I learned to not compare myself to others. Figure out if you are better at the SAT/ACT and get the best score you can, or opt for schools that don't want those scores. Manage your workload and time well as a junior. Try to make time for self-care even if it is only for a few minutes a day. If your junior year was rough, get back on track senior year. Don't take APs just for the sake of being in an AP because at the end of the day colleges care about performance, not labels. Your grades are not the only important factor. They want to see well-rounded and adaptable students, ones who do sports, clubs, have jobs, volunteer, etc.

If you don't get into your first choice, that is okay. Accept it for what it is with dignity and look at your options again. I know college is expensive and it is okay to get worried about that when applying. Do your research because there are opportunities and scholarships out there for you. You don't have to go to a big name school. Go to the school that fits with who you are as a student and will make you happy (and will not leave you in too much debt).

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## College List

Sosie Marie Akian	Clemson University	Veronica Mimi Lee	Yale University
Lucia Alleca	St. John's University	Yiling Liu	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Megan Elizabeth Armas	CUNY Baruch College	Kristen Marie Livia	Sacred Heart University
Atiana Rolissa Baptiste	New York University	Kylie McEaney	University of California San Diego
Francesca Mari Bernhardt	Manhattan College	Amanda Michelle Norris	Trinity College Dublin
Teresa Elizabeth Brown	New York University	Megan F. O'Donnell	University of Notre Dame
Jia Nan (Jennifer) Cai	Fordham University	Kasey Park	Carnegie Mellon University
Christina Alexia Deodatis	Columbia University	Sally Veronica Enea Petit	Marquette University
Lea Helen Frawley	Georgetown University	Sophia Shea Pinter	Fairfield University
Caroline Marie Gerety	Nazareth College	Catherine Brady Prediger	Miami University
Anna Clara Bandeira de Mello Gerlach	Fordham University	Kaylyne Nicole Rodriguez	College of the Holy Cross
Kumari Khanna Gonzalez	Boston College	Le Shen	University of Toronto
Frances Marie Grochowski	University of Rhode Island	Miranda Gabrielle Stern	University of Pennsylvania
Kaitlyn Hagy	Pennsylvania State University	Kayla Ellena Thomsen	Loyola University Maryland
Yasmine Khalil	San Diego State University	Elisa Noelle Sharri Tilley	Spelman College
Beyonce Kayla King	Marquette University	Sophie Nicole Wong	Marist College
Priyanka Koshy	State University of New York Binghamton	Anna Sofia Woods	Manhattan College

## Marist College *Sophie W.*

The college process for me was nerve-wracking, yet rewarding. I was terrified of messing up or making a mistake on a small aspect of the application that would have a large impact on my future. I kept thinking that if I messed up the slightest thing, it would affect my acceptance into college. If this is your fear my best advice is to take a deep breath and do not do everything at once. Plan out your college deadlines and make sure you work in intervals each day. This will reduce stress and hopefully improve your mental health. There is a lot of information you have to send to colleges and it is not something you can do at the last minute.

What I did to help me stay on track with college deadlines was make a plan A and a plan B. Plan A was the first list of colleges I wanted to attend. Think of it as the colleges you will give more priority to. The colleges in Plan A were also the colleges that had sooner deadlines. Plan B was the rest of the colleges I planned to apply to. Luckily I never had to apply to any of my plan B schools because I was accepted from all the colleges I applied to from my plan A. Now, deadlines are really important and it is not good or professional if you miss it or send your application in late. Colleges will not give you a second chance.

I applied to the fashion program and other art programs at my college. I had worked on my portfolio for Marist College in the summer going into senior year. It took me two and half months to complete this portfolio which is basically the whole summer and the beginning of senior year. I had to complete two other portfolios for Texas Tech University and Lesley University. I was accepted to both of these colleges and to their art programs.

Portfolios are a big project which is something you cannot do at the last second either. You need enough time to put a lot of thought into them in order for them to really reflect your skill. One tip I can offer to anyone interested in fashion design and/or is thinking of majoring in that field is to show your thought process. Your thought process can be reflected in various ways, from rough sketches to notes you took on the side of your drawings.

These notes and images show the person judging your portfolio how you think and if you are putting effort into your collection. I had shown my Marist portfolio to friends and family that worked in the fashion industry to view before I submitted them to Marist. I was able to get feedback and changes that made my portfolio more perfect.

I remember asking my step-dad to make PDF copies of what seemed like thousands of sketches and how he spent hours helping me.

In the end I was able to bring it onto the Adobe program to make any last changes and tie the whole collection together.

Although DA does not have a very strong visual arts department, my passion for fashion was not relinquished. I decided to take classes outside of DA at various museums like the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Museum, and the Cooper Hewitt.

Getting advice and feedback from the people that worked in the industry was very eye-opening.

For the girls that are looking at applying to any art programs or thinking of majoring in Fashion Design, make sure to check the portfolio requirements for that specific program in that college because every program or college has different requirements. It is imperative that you check it and make sure you don't send the wrong portfolio!

I wish everyone the best of luck in their own college process! Everything will fall into place and you will end up where you're meant to be!

## Happy Ever After *Francesca B.*

This senior has heard "DA" uttered ever since 2008. In the third grade, the city tale like a fairy tale. My eldest sister, Katrina would come home and tell me about the castle with a red carpet like a Hollywood event, the bad guys on the trains starting fights, and the ball where she got dressed up and danced the night away. A couple of years later, when Katrina was a senior, my older sister, Claudia joined in on the fairytale. She told me about her prince who went to Regis, the rush to leave at 6:20 to make it to her carriage (unfortunately just the Staten Island ferry) on time, and her picnics in the magical forest of Central Park. It all sounded surreal, and I knew that one day, I, too, would take part in the storyline.

A few years passed, and as Claudia was to enter her final year at Dominican Academy, I joined her as a freshman. She introduced me to everyone else who got the 6:40 carriage to Manhattan with her, showed me how to deal with the bad guys on the trains, and helped me get ready for my very first school ball. Although the first few months of freshman year I was nervous about it all, I grew accustomed to the fast-paced, mad dash life of the city and the fairytale was finally becoming my own.

As my time at DA is coming to a close and I'm finally reaching "The End" of this story, I'm amazed at all the things this story has taught me and allowed me to experience. I've been truly blessed

to go to school in the city at DA, make memories I will treasure for a lifetime, and meet people who have changed my life for the better. My family has spent its past ten years at Dominican Academy, and I cannot think of a better place to have been. We are sad that our time at DA is ending, but we are grateful for the blessing of DA, the opportunities it has provided us, the lessons that can't be taught by textbook, and a place we can call a second home. My sisters and I would not be the girls we are today without DA, and it has become an integral part of our life and growth. So, from my family to this school, thank you for everything you've done for us and for giving me my happy ever after.

# Loyola University Maryland *Kayla T.*

The college process begins so much earlier than August of your junior year (that's when the Common App opens for those of you trying to plan ahead). It begins when someone in your family or community heads to college and you see how excited they are. It begins when you take your first College Board administered exam and start receiving emails from universities all over the country making you feel like the only student they have ever wanted to admit. For that reason, this senior will describe her college application process in stages.

Stage one was inspiration. My first inspiration was my older sister, who left for Union College in Schenectady, NY when I was only seven. That was the day I set my goals high and laid out my own Maying orders. I didn't always realize it, but dropping her off at school was the day my academic life went into high gear. From then on, I took notes on where my family and friends were headed and why. At night I dreamed about study abroad, football games, and joining a sorority.

Stage two was the work it took to get me to this place. Work meant figuring out what classes I needed to take, what activities I was passionate about and what I could add to my resume. For me, that was Student Council, Campus Ministry, Student Prints, Student Ambassadors, National Honor Society, softball, volleyball, and my internship at

an investment firm. Stage two didn't leave me with much time to spare or full nights of sleep, but it did leave me fulfilled and content with my choices.

I will throw in here that this process is not possible without the backbone of family and friends. These communities held me up when I thought I might fall over after throwing one more pitch or balancing one more equation. They reminded me that everything I ever wanted was just within my grasp if I only worked hard enough. So, that was my goal: work hard enough.

Stage three, the final stage was certainly the hardest for me. This is what most people sum up as "the college process." It is the part where I took the SAT, submitted my Common App, awaited the results, and made my decision. Oh, what a rollercoaster of a time that was. The SAT is potentially the worst exam ever. It is hours of sitting in a strange school, reading strange articles, and receiving a score with an ambiguous meaning. Luckily, I only sat through that torture twice. But then there were the SAT II exams (thanks Georgetown). Biology, Chemistry, and US History were my pick of poison and while my scores were sufficient for my application, I do wish I had given myself more time to study. The Common App is both high-stakes and rewarding. I did my best to make each response personal and thorough by writing stories about my

life that connected to the person I am and continue to become.

Now, I have to admit that I applied to 15 schools. Let me say this: 15 is too many! Please do not do that to yourself! Refine your choices based on what you need and want; whether that is location, academic reputation, or scholarship opportunities. If a school were to give you a full ride and you still wouldn't go there: do not apply! Trust me on that one.

Every admission from a school was incredibly stressful until the email landed in my inbox. Not only was the potential of being rejected or deferred ever-present, but the question of scholarship money and honors programs always lingered in the forefront of my mind.

At the end of stage three, making the decision was the most difficult thing I have ever done. My heart and soul wanted to cheer wahoowa or hoyaxaxa, but my brain knew that the expenses of those cheers were too much for my family and me. Knowing that my academic journey will likely continue on to medical or graduate school, I followed the money and chose Loyola University Maryland. Their generous scholarship offer and honors program invitation ultimately turned the table for me. I am proud to call myself a future Greyhound and can't wait to cheer on my school at every lacrosse game, even though I have yet to understand the sport.

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## Student Council Elections *Sophie S.*

Easter is notably a season of renewal and change, and for DA, the beginning of May was exactly that. From April 29th to May 2nd, eight students campaigned for a seat on the Student Council Executive Board, which serves as a bridge for students and faculty alike. The ballots have been cast, and the votes are in! It is with delight that this junior announces that she and Kiara O. are co-presidents of Student Council for the 2019-2020 school year.

The election was for two co-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer/event-coordinator.

Eight students entered the running for a position on the Executive Board. Unmatched, Kiara O. and I ran for co-president. Angel-Rose L., Lauren M., and Cameron S. campaigned for the secretary position while Emily B., Isabella M., and Bianca V. vied for treasurer/event-coordinator. Following speeches in homeroom and promotion around the school, an anonymous ballot was sent to generate the outcome of the election.

All of those who ran possess courage that does not go unnoticed, as campaigning

for any leadership position requires careful consideration and planning. Despite this, the Student Council Executive Board only holds four positions.

It is with great pleasure that I extend congratulations to Cameron S. and Bianca V., who were selected as secretary and treasurer/event coordinator, respectively.

Kiara O. and I look forward to working with them in bringing innovative perspectives to the Dominican Academy community.

## Beijing Summit *Kiara O.*

After 19 hours of flying across the world, this junior was sitting in a room with six other individuals who were also seasoned delegates from the same Youth Leadership events from Boston and Argentina. During the past February break I had the great privilege to help lead a Youth Leadership conference in Beijing, China.

My first experience at one of these conferences was at Boston in the winter of my sophomore year. I represented the minister of energy of Canada and led my team to victory. Because of my performance at the mock summit, I was invited to participate in the real Y20 conference in Argentina this past August and propose suggestions for international policy change to G20 leaders. After being involved with these conferences six other students and myself were invited to be the first ever lead ambassadors at the Beijing Summit.

The Beijing Summit provided an outlet for highly motivated students to enhance their leadership skills through the study of global politics and international relations. Not only were these students inspired to be leaders in the future, but they were equipped with skills to be leaders now. From figuring out how to survive in freezing winter to negotiating deals to sustain smart cities, the smiles

never left the faces of the students as they worked as a team and learned about different cultures. This was more than just experiencing Beijing. The diverse setting offered the opportunity to strengthen the cross-cultural lenses that are much needed in our world today.

As a lead ambassador, my role was to act as an advisor to the delegates and assist with speech writing, negotiations, and persuasive bids. To sum up, that means to make sure the students do not wage war with one another. After long days of meetings, workshops, teaching, and editing what seemed like a thousand speeches, we were able to choose the next winners of the summit.

Since the nature of the summit was political and educational, I assumed that my greatest source of knowledge would come from the keynote speeches conducted by Harvard professors or the workshops led by renowned lawyers. Instead, it was from interacting with teenagers from across the globe and just having one tête-



*Kiara O.*

à-tête. One conversation can influence your worldview. One conversation can put you closer to figuring out how you can change the world.

It is imperative that at this day and age, individuals learn to refine their global lenses. The new insights and perspectives on different topics is truly eye-opening. The stories and laughs that I shared with the 300 students at the summit will remain with me and guide me as I soon begin my independent path in the world. I am excited to be a lead ambassador at the next summit at Cambridge University this August and cannot wait to see what the future holds.

## Jewish Museum *Alessia C.*

The freshmen visited the Jewish Museum on Fifth Avenue and East 92nd Street and saw items related to the Holocaust, something they knew about since they had read *Night* by Elie Wiesel, which discusses the author's experience of living and surviving through the Holocaust. The book especially focuses on his experience of living in Auschwitz, one of the deadliest concentration camps in Poland.

The 'school in the city' day started with a Holocaust survivor visiting DA and speaking about her experience during the Holocaust. Her name is Gabriella Major. She lived in Hungary, the last country to be taken over by the Nazis. She was only two years old when deportations began. Her

father was sent to work in the labor army for the Nazis. Gabriella, her mother, and her grandmother were put in cattle cars and were taken to Strachhof near Vienna. Her mother worked in construction, and Gabriella became very protective of her food and belongings, and in general, lost her trust in everyone. They stayed in the camp for a little under a year. When the Russians liberated the camp, Gabriella and her mother traveled to Budapest where they met up with their surviving family members, including her father. In 1946, the Russians took over Hungary and established a communist government. In 1956, Gabriella and her family left Hungary because anti-semitism arose again during the Hungarian Revolution.

Gabriella then was a refugee in Austria until her family got a visa to go to the United States. As she spoke, one could hear the profound sadness of looking back on these emotional moments in her life.

After the speech, the freshmen went to the museum where they saw artifacts related to the Holocaust; and discussed their connections to the roots of Jewish heritage. Some students were very interested in learning about the Holocaust and would have liked to have spent even more time exploring the museum.

Overall, the day was successful. The freshmen class was able to experience and learn about both the Holocaust and Jewish heritage in a very meaningful way.

# Persuasion: Television & Advertising *Gabriella M.*

It's not every day that one attends a workshop on advertising techniques and their development over time. However, we see advertisements in almost every aspect of our daily lives. The sophomore trip to the Paley Center for Media in mid-Manhattan explored just how intricate and encompassing ads can be.

Seated in a theater room, the sophomores were shocked to see just how accustomed they had grown to ads. Whether plastered on the walls of train stations, popping up on websites or playing in between songs, ads, both commercial and political, have a habit of making an impression. When shown artist Heidi Cody's *American Alphabet*, which uses the first letters of popular brand logos to complete the alphabet, students named the brands displayed with ease. Our familiarity with and even affinity to such symbols belies the commercial oversaturation in our lives. A Paley representative noted that a recent study found that the average American is exposed to 4,000 to 10,000 advertisements a day. With such frequent exposure comes not only an acquaintance with but a learned ignorance of these ads. Thus, it is our responsibility as consumers to look beyond the surface and truly discern the messages we knowingly or unknowingly face each day, a point driven at the forefront of the presentation given.

The 1930s–1950s bore witness to the average American's first experience of radio and television, and so the world of advertising found a new platform in broadcast media. As both a museum and archive of media, the Paley Center has preserved years of advertisements and therefore has documented the ebb

and flow of advertisers' responses to the consumer over time. Some sophomores observed such developments by watching a series of ads for the same product, sneakers, from 1951, 1989, and 2015. Features as simple as music choice, actors present, and setting of the advertisements shown were indicative of the target demographic for the product. For example, the repetitive jingle and suburban actors depicted in a 1951 Keds ad implied that the shoes were made for middle school-aged boys that were of socioeconomic backgrounds stable enough to afford television and live in the suburbs. Though the ads from 1989 and 2015 vastly differed from that in 1951 in their aim to appeal to more diverse audiences, the ads shown shared a common denominator: each was effective in making ambassadors out of its viewers. From the blue label on a Keds shoe to Nike's "Just Do It," the jingles, catchphrases, or plots of each ad managed to impress an association with the brand upon its viewers. These associations, whether emblazoned across T-shirts or spoken aloud, are quickly relayed by the consumer to fellow consumers.

Inundated with advertisements in almost every detail of our lives, we as consumers must be equipped with the ability to detect the techniques used by brands to make the most profit. This ability enables us to understand the underlying intentions of the messages displayed in product placements and promotions. In discerning and understanding the exaggeration, stereotypes, and bandwagoning encouraged by ads, one can truly take ownership and control of the part they play in consumerism.

# Museum Club Trip *Sally P.*

In mid-April the Museum Club ventured to see the famous Frida Kahlo's works at the Brooklyn Museum which are attracting people from all boroughs, and the world. Frida is an inspirational female artist born in 1907 in Mexico City. The vibrant colors throughout the exhibit reflected the lively colors of the environment during her life.

Entering the exhibit, we immediately saw a large color photograph of Frida. Ms. Salfeld was right in suggesting we watch the film about Frida to prep for our museum visit. The life that Frida lived was fast-paced and ever-changing. Since the Museum Club had seen a screening of the film, we were well versed on the artist's life. This knowledge allowed us to analyze how her life experiences affected the changes in her wardrobe and painting style.

The most breathtaking moment in the exhibit was Frida's many body casts and medicine bottles. A tragic trolley accident as a teenager left her nearly paralyzed and required her to take intense medications and wear body braces at all times. The many body casts that were on display screamed out to the viewer of how she was truly physically struggling. Her physical ailments showed in her paintings. The doodles drawn on her casts just showed



Museum Club

her coping mechanisms of dealing with her physical hardships. Art was present her entire life, and it was not limited to conventional paintings on canvas. It was evident that through creating art, Frida was free of physical pain.

In the exhibit, many clothing pieces of Frida's were on display. She had quite the collection and would always dress the part of a strong woman. She used vibrant colors in both her paintings and her iconic outfits. Frida Kahlo's *Vogue Magazine* cover was on display, along with her outfit set up adjacent to the photographs. Her elevation as an artist and a celebrity

lead her to eventually being on that cover of *Vogue*. This brought up an interesting conversation between students on how the public treats artists as huge celebrities. It is not often that we hear of many contemporary painters that have gained the following and popularity to reach the level of being featured on the cover of *Vogue*. We saw the influence of Frida during her lifetime. She was renowned beyond Mexico as an accomplished artist and powerful woman. As females, we felt especially inspired to follow the Frida's footsteps and become influential and powerful women.