

Mid-Peninsula High School

# CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE :: WINTER 2022



Dragons Peek Into the Future, Page 7

RESPECT :: KINDNESS :: ACCEPTANCE :: RESPONSIBILITY





# LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Mid-Pen Community,

The return from Winter Break is usually a lovely time of year in schools. Students and staff (a term I like to use for staff and faculty) are significantly recharged, and we look forward to the possibilities of a fresh start in our classes and around campus. While all of that is certainly the case for us as we begin the new year, we also find ourselves in the midst of the Omicron surge and the too-familiar stresses of the pandemic.

We are ready to face those challenges because the daily work of building connections with each other gives us the strength to continue forward together. We are a school born from the belief that all students deserve the opportunity to learn in an environment where they will be known, understood, supported, and celebrated. The key ingredient in our special sauce, as it were, has always been our faculty—their skills, energy, and deep commitment to serving every student.

The literal and metaphorical distance the pandemic created between us, especially during lockdown, was more intense for us than other communities precisely because of our ethos. I am so grateful to have joined the school just as we were preparing to welcome all of our students back to campus last summer, and to have been a part of our return from COVID-19 hibernation that has allowed us to rediscover our relationship “muscle memory” again.

During my first few days on campus as summer school was in full swing, I saw students and teachers reconnecting in person, rebuilding relationships, and

figuring out how to be in community together again. The energy around campus was visible and palpable, and I was struck by the joy, the focus, and the humor.



Around the same time, I read a fascinating guest essay in the *The New York Times* by Adam Grant called “There’s a Certain Kind of Joy We’ve Been Missing,” which reintroduced me to sociologist Émile Durkheim’s concept known as “collective effervescence”—that sense of energy and harmony that people feel when they come together in a group around a shared purpose. (Ed. The article appeared in the July 10, 2021 issue.) Happiness, in Durkheim’s view, is not a solitary pursuit or state of being; rather, it is created

when people share experiences that awaken their emotions. If you’ve ever been to a concert and sang together with the crowd, or a sports game when you find yourself hugging a stranger next to you as your team scores, you’ve experienced collective effervescence.

It was easy to recognize that collective effervescence on our campus during summer school—right there on the patio during lunch and in our outdoor classrooms. It gained momentum when we kicked off the school year with a fully-enrolled student body, sharing our opening days with each other, engaging in learning and activities.

The collective effervescence that flows from our strong, trusting, authentic relationships is what this edition of *Connections* celebrates. Enjoy a look into our fabulous school! 🍷

  
Karen Eshoo

## CONNECTIONS

*CONNECTIONS* is published twice yearly, in January and July, for the parents, alumni, faculty, and friends of Mid-Peninsula High School.

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Cover: Henry Gale '22 makes a play as Will Cook '23 backs him up against Kehillah Jewish High School.

Page 12: Cross Country Photo by Emily Chow P'23

The views expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors.

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When the Mid-Pen community of students, faculty, and staff jumped into the 2021-2022 academic year, it was filled with many firsts—as in “the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic started that we...” With everyone donning masks on campus and weekly COVID-19 testing, it’s impossible to pretend that life has returned to “normal.” Even so, from welcoming new Dragons in person on the first day of school to honoring school traditions, we hold these many “firsts” in gratitude as a reminder of the strength of our community and the joy of being together.

1. Mid-Pen students applaud in ASL during an all-school community gathering on the first day of school while Head of School Karen Eshoo captures it on video. This was the first time the entire student body and staff were on campus since March 2020.
2. Alex Magaña '23, left, Julia Oram '23, Mayrin Ceja '23, and Addie Stone '22 pose sporting their team uniforms after a pep rally on the field.
3. Ethan Reyes '25, left, and Lily Ortiz '25 are mirror images on Twin Day during Spirit Week.
4. Ninth-grader Andy Hoffman shows off their skateboard during a club meeting in the art room. Andy designed the Dragon prior to becoming a student at Mid-Pen.
5. Mid-Pen loves pets! A bulletin board near the first-floor lobby started with a handful of photos of dogs and cats owned by faculty and staff, and quickly exploded into a full-school wall of pets. From snakes and rats to horses, students can see their furry friends every day at school.
6. Dane Burkhard '25, left, Jeff Chang '23, and Logan Shaw '24 strike a fierce pose in the school lobby before a Halloween celebration. In a wonderful twist of fate, Mid-Pen held picture day while students, faculty, and staff were in costume. We can't wait to see the school yearbook!
7. History teacher Alan Cameron gets mummified in toilet paper during a Mid-Pen Halloween tradition, which pits Core classes against each other to see who can wrap up their teacher the fastest.
8. In a Mid-Pen tradition, Dragons enjoy a Thanksgiving feast. 🍁





*Marian McKay Sousa (left) and Marian Wynn sit in the front row as Tara Theobald-Anderson and their Gender Studies students pose with them after a question and answer session at the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front Museum.*

## Gender Studies Classes Meet Rosie the Riveters

"All the day long, whether rain or shine,  
She's a part of the assembly line.  
She's making history,  
Working for victory,  
Rosie (Brrr) the Riveter."

So go the lyrics to the famous song "Rosie the Riveter," a homage to the women who were instrumental in the US victory of World War II. Dubbed "The Rosies," more than 19 million women were recruited to work the home front as men were drafted into the military to fight the war abroad.

Each fall during pre-pandemic times, students in Tara Theobald-Anderson's Gender Studies class visited the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front Museum at the edge of Richmond Marina Bay. This year, visiting the museum took on a new sense of urgency—one of the few remaining Rosies died over the summer at the age of 98. When the museum reopened in October, Tara worked quickly to see if students could visit, given COVID-19 restrictions.

On Friday, November 12, Tara's Gender Studies students went on the school's first field trip since January 2020. Leading up to the trip, the class learned about the first wave of feminism in the 19th and early 20th centuries. "We talk about what happens afterward," said Tara. "I frame this as rising feminism that happens during this

time, but it doesn't really get counted in the waves. We talk about women in the war effort, propaganda to get women involved, and the ramifications after the war."

A highlight of the field trip was when students heard from two Rosies. In the museum's small auditorium, the students listened intently as Marian McKay Sousa and Marian Wynn, both 95, shared what led them to support the war effort. The two Marians worked at Shipyard #3—Sousa as a draftsman, Wynn as a pipe welder—and contributed to the construction and completion of nearly 750 vessels built in the Richmond shipyard during WWII. Both loved their jobs and continued working after the war ended.

"The background knowledge that Tara taught us in class brought into my perspective how women contributed to the war effort," said Alex Magaña '23. He'd often seen the famous Rosie the Riveter poster, but never knew what it represented. "I found it inspiring how they were able to quickly adapt to going from high school to work as riveters. They could produce as much and do as well, if not better, than men could do."

Karina Sanchez, a senior Dragon, agreed. "I've never met World War II veterans. Hearing the Rosies—with that much history—was so inspiring. "I don't think I would have enjoyed it as much without taking Tara's Gender Studies class and understanding the history of the Rosies." 🐉



## Dragons Learning and Earning Through Art

A new youth program in East Palo Alto is empowering two Mid-Pen students to leave their mark on the community through art. And they're getting paid for it, too!

EPACENTER, a non-profit community hub located in neighboring East Palo Alto, recently opened a brand new state-of-the-art community space that serves youths in the area through art, wellness, and job training programs. Mid-Pen students Victoria Carlsson '25 and Tonantzi Nava '24 are involved in the job training program, which provides local teens with opportunities to explore the arts via paid internships.

This winter, Victoria will help paint a mural on EPACENTER's new building, a first for the organization. Working with artist Richard Muro Salazar, Victoria will learn about color theory, pitching ideas to a "client," budgeting a project, and scaling the concept to the size of the building. The masterpiece will be unveiled to the community in the spring.

"I wanted to learn more about working with different materials and get more experience making art," said Victoria, "I also wanted to make something that a lot of people will see and appreciate."

The job training program is like an apprenticeship. Students who are accepted into the program are paid \$15.65 an hour and work an average of three

hours per week for up to four months.

"We believe in paying artists for their work. We believe it's always worth it to pay them for their worth," said Trishia DeLuna, Opportunity Coordinator for EPACENTER. "It's a learning and earning experience."

Tonantzi is in EPACENTER's documentary film program led by photographer Frank Paul Perez. She will study the history of film, storyboarding, how to write film treatments, and then move on to production and editing.

The project begins with story development and ends with screening the movie for the community. "To start, everyone comes up with a documentary topic and writes a script," said Tonantzi, who is working on a team with seven other high school students from the area. "At the end of the four weeks, we choose which topic to focus on."

Tonantzi hopes the film is about East Palo Alto. "I want to film my perspective of the community, how it could be better."

"I would have done it even if I weren't paid," added Tonantzi. "It's nice to get paid, but I really want to learn more about how to use a camera and study how to make films with cameras that are used for top-rated films." 🐉

## New Trustees Join Board

The Mid-Peninsula High School Board of Trustees is comprised of current parents, parents of alumni, alumni, and community members who bring together a diverse range of professional expertise and life experiences. The Board welcomed three new members in July.



**Shari Del Carlo** is an experienced corporate attorney and human resources professional. She currently works at LinkedIn, where she leads their global HR M&A function.



**Mike Gordon** recently retired after a 33-year career in the financial field. He and his wife, Loren, have two children, Nicholas and Anna NG '22, and live in Palo Alto.



**Andrea Potischman** is the parent of Eli '23, and his younger brother, Noah. She also is currently completing her two-year term as President of the Mid-Pen Parents Association.



## Mid-Pen Adds to Learning Support Team

Mid-Pen's Enrichment Center (EC) sits in the center of our building. It buzzes with activity throughout the school day as students take classes or meet one-on-one with Mid-Pen's learning specialists. The EC's location and its activities perfectly capture the school's mission to put students first.

To further enhance the school's educational support for students, Mid-Pen welcomed Learning Specialist Angélica Camacho, Math Advancement Teacher Annmarie Papp, and Literacy Advancement Teacher Naiesha Luckey to our Learning Support Team (LST). They joined Executive Functions Coach Edward Stern, who has been at Mid-Pen for three years.

"I'm excited to connect with our students and be in a smaller community that allows for collaboration and partnership with our families and my colleagues," said Angélica, who leads the LST in coordinating support for students with learning challenges. Angélica comes to Mid-Pen with more than a decade of experience working with K-12 students. She holds a bachelor of science degree in psychology and a master of arts degree in counseling.

With degrees in computer science and mathematics, Annmarie was one of the first female computer

science graduates from Princeton University. She has been teaching math since 2001, following a 25-year career in the high-tech industry. She was drawn to Mid-Pen because of its student-centered focus.

Annmarie is excited to bring some best practices in mathematics teaching to the Mid-Pen math department, and is specifically interested in advancing equity in mathematics education. "Math has a reputation as a gatekeeper for student learning, meaning if a student struggles in learning math, there is a negative connotation to their learning ability," she said. "We're looking at how we can develop as math educators to create an equitable opportunity for all students. That's my passion."

As Mid-Pen's Literacy Advancement Teacher, Naiesha provides reading and writing support to students. "I'm looking forward to helping students define their voice and build confidence in themselves," she said. Naiesha is a Bay Area native who attended schools along the Peninsula and South Bay. She attended California State University, Sacramento, and obtained a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies, with minors in child development and psychology. She's worked in various educational roles, from teaching to serving as an education specialist and academic liaison. 🌸

*From left to right, Math Advancement Teacher Annmarie Papp, Literacy Advancement Teacher Naiesha Luckey, and Learning Specialist Angélica Camacho join Mid-Pen's Learning Support team.*





## Welcome Mid-Pen's Newest Staffulty Members!

This year, seven new Dragons joined Mid-Pen's faculty and staff. Join us in welcoming them to the community!



*Head of School Karen Eshoo dressed as Rosie the Riveter for Halloween, which also happened to be the school's picture day. Best yearbook photo ever!*

### Karen Eshoo Named Head of School

The Board of Trustees named Karen Eshoo, Ed.D., as Head of School in October 2021. A veteran and experienced educator with nearly 30 years of experience in independent schools, Karen already was serving as the school's Interim Head of School since July.

"Karen has proven to be a dynamic educational leader, an advocate for students, and a highly effective manager," said Debbie Vielbaum, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "We are excited to continue the Mid-Pen journey with Karen as our permanent Head."

Read Karen's welcome letter to Mid-Pen's community and learn more about our Head of School Search.



### Stacie Foreman '15

is Mid-Pen's new office manager. As a Mid-Pen alum, she brings an inside perspective to the job. Stacie recently graduated from California State University, East Bay, with a bachelors of science degree in kinesiology. She has a strong passion for breaking barriers and helping others. When she's not at Mid-Pen, Stacie enjoys traveling, trying new food, spending time with loved ones, and enjoying precious moments with her nieces and nephews.



### Eleazar Madrid

joined Mid-Pen in June as the Director of Operations. He took over from Bob Yapp, who retired at the end of the school year. Before joining Mid-Pen, Eleazar oversaw the daily operations in a public charter school in Oakland, and was instrumental in launching a new school site and construction of a new high school building. He has held business development and finance positions, and earned his bachelor of arts degree in Communication Studies. Eleazar grew up in Southern California and has called the Bay Area home for eight years.



### Luna Vu

joined Mid-Pen as the school's Director of Finance in December. She took over from Teresa Gomez, who managed the school's finances and human resources for nearly 20 years. Luna grew up in Vietnam. She traces her passion for education back to her early childhood days when she would ask her mom to put her in preschool at the age of four. She continues to learn through reading books and experiencing life itself. She values self-improvement and hopes to become a better version of herself every day. Luna holds a bachelors of science in biological science, with a minor in statistics from UC Davis. Her career background includes small retail, non-profits, and private corporations. Before joining Mid-Pen, she was a finance director at an environmental non-profit organization. 🐉





# DRAGONS PEEK IN

Internships and outreach programs for high school students are more than college application accessories. These much-sought-after opportunities are eye-opening impressions of what could be. Four Dragons explain how their experiences during the summer of 2021 helped them learn more about themselves—and their futures.

## TRIPP LYONS '22

I was a data science intern at Unanimous AI. Unanimous gathers people [online] who are interested in sports betting and combines their opinions to create sports betting picks for horse racing. I worked for eight weeks on one project, and I had a lot of freedom to add my own ideas and present models I came up with, which were ways to predict how good a sports betting prediction would be, like "How likely is this prediction to be correct?"

I realized what I was capable of doing, and that I was capable of having a real job. It gave me more confidence. I'm more willing to work and have already done some paid jobs—online project work related to cryptocurrency. It pays pretty well!

I've been interested in cryptocurrency for a while now, since eighth grade, and it's always been something I'm passionate about. I'm writing code that would run on cryptocurrency blockchain, which means that the code can be trusted and run without anyone's control. It uses different programming languages and uses

a lot of specific things that are different from regular programming. It's its own ecosystem.



## JENNIFER SANCHEZ '22

I attended SPINWIP—The Stanford Program for Inspiring the Next Generation of Women in Physics—for minority groups who don't get enough access or representation in science. It was a three-week program online and run by Stanford graduate students who were studying in STEM fields. Each week was centered around a different topic, like Intro to Code and Python, and how they are used in astrophysics and the very beginning of quantum physics.

We were all young women in high school and the majority were people of color. We had lectures from scientists who worked at Stanford or elsewhere—mostly about astrophysics and cosmology—but first, we started with coding and engineering to learn how it was applied to astrophysics. We met in small groups and dissected the lecture into kid-friendly language. We would get assigned homework, and everyone was doing it by choice, even though it wasn't graded.

It was a space where everyone who attended wanted to be there for a specific reason—to learn more about physics, science, and math. I don't consider myself very good at them, but I'm passionate about learning more about them. I'm glad to experience it with such diversity. In the future, that's what I'd want to experience too. It's a glimpse into a dream.







# NTO THE FUTURE

When we were learning about the formation of the universe and someone presented a scale of all the different galaxies and where we [earth] were in comparison...I had no words. There is so much that we still don't know. I had always thought the world is big, but when I saw the image of the galaxy and the stars and planets, I realized we aren't so big after all.

## NYLA BYERS '22

I've been with the Street Code program for the past two years—they offer free tech classes to the community—and that's where I got an internship opportunity with Reach Capital. They're a venture capital firm that invests mainly in education companies.

I worked in a virtual group and we had assignments. I had to research education companies that pitched us. My group looked at where the companies were from and their causes. After a pitch meeting, where we would learn about the company, we would talk about how they did in the meeting. There was one company providing educational classes that were animated for kids. I thought they were worth funding...and Reach Capital did!

I always wanted a look inside the business world. This internship felt like I was getting a full business experience and what every day was like for a VC. Mostly, I'll remember being inspired and wowed by their hard work and dedication.

I also learned I can take a skill and really progress it; I know I can do anything!



## MAYRIN CEJA '23

I was an intern for five weeks at the Pediatric Internship Program at Stanford University. It was over Zoom because of COVID-19, but it would have been at the medical school. I was partnered with a high school student from San Francisco and two doctors—an assistant professor of pediatrics in hematology and oncology at Stanford, and another doctor—who are part of the children's hospital CAR-T cell therapy unit for kids who have leukemia. They gave us data from past patients, and we created new data and a graph that showed the overall process of how treatment impacted the immune system of each patient.

There were a lot of guest speakers, like the dean of the medical school and different pediatricians at Stanford. They talked about the different roles and paths in pediatrics, and how they worked in clinics to provide diversity, equity, and inclusion resources for low-income families.

As a first-generation college-bound student, it helped me make different connections; I found three mentors—a medical student, a graduate student, and an undergrad. The connections that we made with the students and mentors were memorable, along with the workshops at Stanford. Doing this internship, the projects and working with a doctor furthered my interest in pediatric medicine. 🐉



# ALAN CAMERON

## Living the Dream

*In a photo from fall 2019, Alan's Core class applauds as he strikes a pose on a desk.*

Ask Mid-Pen history teacher Alan Cameron how he's doing on any given day, and he'll tell you that he's living the dream. While it might sound like he's saying it in jest, Alan's response is every bit as genuine as his passion for Notre Dame football—unwavering and unquestionable.

"I always joke with my students that I'm not a good person to talk to about ambition because I accomplished all my life goals in about four months," Alan says with a laugh. Born into a family of educators, including his grandfather, mom, dad, and later, his sister and cousins, Alan wanted to be a teacher from a very young age. As a student, though, he struggled academically.

"School was hard," said Alan. "I would lose my homework—it would always be crumpled at the bottom of my backpack." Even with his challenges, Alan still loved learning and was especially interested in history. While in high school at Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, a teacher named Patrick McCrystal became Alan's inspiration.

"He's a great man—a cross country coach and a history

teacher," he said with a knowing laugh as Alan is also Mid-Pen's cross country coach. "He was my idol. I was like, 'I want to do that.'"

Alan studied history and secondary education at Marquette University in Milwaukee. "History is a story, and I've always liked stories," he explained, adding that it allows students to learn about the past and connect it to the present. After graduating, he moved back to San Jose and worked as a substitute teacher in Bay Area private schools, leading to a semester-long stint at Mid-Pen.

The rest is Mid-Pen history.

"This job was the gateway to a dream," said Alan, who became the school's cross country coach a year later (see sidebar on page 10). Now in his eleventh year at Mid-Pen, he's developed a curriculum that helps students explore cultural history using art, architecture, religion, and music in his lessons.

"I want students to really understand the people that they're learning about because I think that in a vacuum, when people do things in history, they often don't







make sense," Alan explained. "The big argument that I asked is, 'Can we judge people in the past based on modern morals?' We have to be able to understand the morals of the time. I want them to know the culture, vocabulary, and trends, so they can put it together to build this puzzle."

And then there's Notre Dame football. Alan adopted the college team as his favorite when his sister went to the university. A diehard fan, he has the school's flag and motto, "Play like a champion today" above his classroom door. Every weekend matchup becomes fodder for classroom discussion, and contributes to the dynamic and rich connections with his students.

Alan's senior elective course has become a staple of the school and one that students look forward to each year. The program started in 2016 because Alan wanted his British history class to culminate in a trip abroad, where his students could link what they'd learned about in his class to where that history was made. The first group of 10 Dragons and their adult chaperones traveled across the pond to Ireland. The class evolved into a senior elective, and since the inaugural trip, Alan's classes have visited Scotland and London.

"I want them to see things they've learned. It's one thing to hear me tell stories like 'This is what Bonnie Prince Charlie did in 1745. And these are mistakes he made,'" Alan said with the energy and animation his students see in the classroom. "That's nothing compared to standing at the spot that marked where British soldiers killed 1,200 Scots. It's a heartbreaking



*Alan (center) and the 2016 British History class take on Ireland.*

historical event, and my students physically see what we discussed in class. Those connections are priceless."

While the pandemic paused travel for two years, Alan hopes this year's students will visit Ireland this April. In the meantime, life at Mid-Pen keeps him on his toes. He's added government to his course list, track and field to his coaching roster, and activities director to his title.

When he's not teaching at Mid-Pen, Alan spends time with his wife, Kristin, and dog, Wally. He's an avid writer and pens short stories about science, fantasy, and historical fiction, and sometimes a combination of all three.

"I have a great life because I'm doing what I want to do." 🐉



***In his tenth year coaching Mid-Pen's cross country and track and field teams, Alan recently received the Cross Country Honor Coach award by the Private School Athletic League. "I love cross country," said Alan. "It's the best sport."***

*Alan stands with junior Jonathan Wu after the CCS Cross Country Championship in November 2021.*

## A Full Season of Dragon Sports

By Kurt Lange, Athletic Director

Whether they were running on trails, on the pitch, or on the volleyball court, Mid-Pen Dragons were back in the game competing in all fall sports.

### Soccer Builds Foundation for Years Ahead

**Coaches:** Raul Salazar assisted by Francis Phiri

**Highlights:** The fall season focused on rebuilding our co-ed team since several of our talented players graduated last spring. We were thrilled to have a roster of 22 players, our largest team in the history of the school! Although we finished our league season with a 2-8 record, we were very competitive against champion Pacific Bay High School and runner-up San Francisco Christian High School, losing by two goals in each match.

Senior and team captain **Stefan Minkowski** was named to the All League First Team. Fellow seniors **Henry Gale** and **Alex Cai**, along with juniors **Uly Cruz** and **Will Cook**, made the All League Second Team. **Alex Magana '23** received an Honorable Mention.

*Junior Will Cook (center) is on the attack as Rishi Kapoor '23 and Quin Birkeland '23 assist.*







## DRAGON VOLLEYBALL WOWS IN EXCITING MATCHES

**Coaches:** Franc Salazar assisted by Alec Salazar

**Highlights:** We were excited to have both JV and varsity volleyball teams thanks to high interest amongst our students. Our junior varsity team ended the season 8-3-3. The tied matches kept our spectators on edge, while our JV Dragons battled on the court, losing 2-1 each time.

Our varsity volleyball team was a pleasant surprise finishing the season in third place in our division with a league record of 7-5. We also came very close to qualifying for our post-season league tournament.

**Evelyn Gottfried '24** was named to the First Team All League, and **Addi Stone '22** made the Second Team All League. Junior **Jocelyn Godinez** received an Honorable Mention.

With all but two players returning next year, the future looks bright for girls volleyball!

*Senior Addi Stone finishes her last volleyball season at Mid-Pen playing a strong offense.*



## CROSS COUNTRY FINISHES STRONG

**Coach:** Alan Cameron

**Highlights:** The team participated in five cross country meets led by 2021 Honor Coach Award winner Alan Cameron. The first three were division meets held at Pacific Bay High School in Pacifica—the course was short with a very challenging steep terrain. **Jonathan Wu '23** won all three races in the boys varsity competition. He finished 12th overall among 80 runners in the Private School Athletic League (PSAL) and received Second Team All League honors!

The PSAL all-league meet was held at Crystal Springs in Belmont, home of the USA Cross Country Championships in 1975. The Dragons finished the tough course, and they look forward to doing it again in 2022. 🐉

*Ronan Furlong '23 crosses the finish line at Crystal Springs Cross Country Course.*

**RYAN BURTON '18****A DRAGON READY TO STRIKE**

Ryan Burton '18 was a consummate Mid-Pen Dragon. He spent all four years experiencing every school opportunity, including music, sports, school clubs, and travel abroad.

"I really got to do everything possible," he recalled.

Like many Dragons, Ryan also pursued his true passion: competitive bowling. Almost every weekend in high school, he could be found in a tournament around the Bay Area. He earned a coveted spot on Junior Team USA during his senior year, ranking fifth out of 1,500 bowlers in the under-20 division. His dream? To go pro.

Now in his fourth year at Purdue University in Indiana, Ryan is still throwing strikes on the school's bowling team while pursuing a degree in the arts. We caught up with him as he was driving to Las Vegas for the Glenn Carlson Invitational and College Shootout bowling tournaments.

**What happens if Purdue's team wins the tournaments in Las Vegas?**

We're a little behind the times. It's a fun experience to play sports in college and enjoy the people you play with. But if we win, we get one trophy...that none of us can keep at home (laughs).

**When did you start bowling?**

My parents and grandparents took my two brothers and me bowling whenever it was raining just to get us out of the house. I probably went once a month in my toddler years, and begged to go back. They eventually enrolled me in a league. I bowled two-to-three



weekends a month throughout high school.

I've been on Purdue's team for two years. We practice four days a week and have two tournaments a month, all day, over one weekend. During the week, I bowl to make money in competitions. If you're in the top 20

**Jill Fisher (Sweifach) '95** is a "vocalist, dancer, and political hack" living in Reno, Nev. She is a facilitator for the local chapter of her college sorority, Omega Phi Alpha, and says she is "getting ready to run for the Nevada State Assembly."

**Paige Pozos '98** is a tattoo artist living in Sheridan, Wyo. Early in the pandemic, she was profiled in the local newspaper, *The Sheridan Press*, about the effect the nationwide shutdown was having on her business, Forever Flawless. Unlike the stereotypical tattoo parlor, her studio resembles a spa, and Paige uses minimally-invasive tattooing techniques to create permanent makeup for women, including long-lasting eye liner, artificial eyebrows, and other cosmetic features. She says the most rewarding aspect of her job is working with breast cancer survivors,

providing scar blending and areola pigmentation for women who have had mastectomies.

Here's the news from **Julia Gold '17**, who is now living in Santa Rosa, Calif., with her boyfriend and her dog, Violet: "Before graduating from Sonoma State in May 2021, I worked for an agency using Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy. I conducted one-on-one ABA therapy sessions with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder in their homes. I was responsible for working with a total of 10 kids over the course of a year. Towards the end of college, I decided that I wanted to take a year off before applying to graduate school and get experience in a more clinical setting geared towards adolescents and other mental health issues. I currently work as a care coordinator at Muir Wood Adolescent





percent...you can make \$600 to \$800 per tournament. I don't make money at every tournament, but that's the goal when you're trying to support yourself and not yet a professional.

I hope to go pro right after I graduate from Purdue.

### What are you studying?

For the first few years, I studied public relations and strategic communications. Purdue added a music major and now I'm in that program, so I'll graduate after a fifth year.

I've always enjoyed music. With the degree, you can play, produce, or manufacture musical instruments. I don't plan on using my degree right out of college. If I don't become a pro bowler, I want to produce music.

### Is there a musical genre that you'd like to work with?

No. One of the things that Mid-Pen music teacher Jameson [Swanagon] made me appreciate is how to take elements of different genres and put them together to make something pretty cool.

### What's it like going to a large college after Mid-Pen?

There's a lot of things about Mid-Pen that track to a small college where you're cared for like you were at Mid-Pen. After four years at a small school, I was ready for something bigger. I wondered how my experiences at Mid-Pen would translate [to a large campus].

When I first got to college, I thought it was so different. And then I realized the wisdom that [Athletics Director] Kurt Lange and Jameson imparted on me was applicable in life, not just at Mid-Pen. They set you up to be confident in yourself. The message that you don't have to be nervous..."We accept you." That's a great thing to have. 🐉

and Family Services, a residential treatment facility working with adolescents ages 12-17 who struggle with mental health and addiction. I am currently in the process of searching for graduate programs in order to earn a Masters in Social Work and become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker to become a therapist." Aside from school and work, Julia says she loves spending weekends along the Sonoma Coast in Bodega Bay or on the Russian River. She enjoys exploring and travel, and "is constantly doing day trips to cool places like Yosemite or Monterey."

Congratulations to **Malcolm Willig '17**, who was awarded a Fulbright to spend this year teaching English in Taiwan. Malcolm is a 2021 graduate of the University of Puget Sound, from which he received a degree in Chinese and a minor in education.

## IN MEMORIAM: Dominic Vogel '20



*Dominic Vogel '20 performing in Almost, Maine.*

Our hearts go out to the family of Dominic Vogel '20, who died on August 21 by suicide. He was 20 years old.

Dominic attended Mid-Pen starting in 9th grade and was deeply loved and appreciated by students and teachers alike. He was passionate about music; a talented guitarist, he performed in music ensembles during all four of his years at the school. Dominic took to the stage in productions

of *Almost, Maine* and *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play*, and showed himself to be a fine actor. After graduation he attended Willamette University, where he was scheduled to begin his sophomore year this past fall.

"Not only did Dominic love music," said music teacher Jameson Swanagon, "but it was the forum in which he could be himself, express his creativity, and connect with his peers. He was also, in a way, a very powerful performer and gained the awe and respect of his classmates. He would just go all out, even in rehearsal. It was very impressive, and everyone always loved being in an ensemble with Dominic for that reason. He was a passionate performer."

In memory of Dominic, generous donors have established a fund at the school to bring musicians, actors, directors, and other teaching artists to the school to lead master classes for Mid-Pen students in music and drama. Dominic's parents, Phil and Anne, ask that anyone wishing to honor Dominic's life consider making a donation in his memory.

**Rebecca Newman '19** stopped by the school at Thanksgiving. She is in her third year at Mills College, which recently announced that it is merging with Northeastern University. A member of the college's undergraduate senate, she was able to enjoy college life last year, despite the pandemic, by living in a dorm on campus while attending classes online. She expects to graduate in December 2023 with a degree in psychology and a minor in sociology.

**Tasha Epstein '21** writes that she spent the fall studying abroad in London, and will be starting as a freshman at Brandeis University in Boston in Spring 2022.

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