



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

IN THIS ISSUE

IN THE NEWS

[Pop Culture Is Changing: The Downfall Of Popular Entertainment](#)
[Natasia Shivers '24](#)

[The Oscars](#)
[Eva Raffaele '25](#)

[The Met Gala](#)
[Melanie Robichaux, '23](#)

D.A. ALL DAY!

[D.A. Intramural Tennis Team](#)
[Julia Cramer '24 and Mariacarla Bettocchi '25](#)

[D.A. Coffeehouse 2022](#)
[Zhiyi "Cindy" Chen '25 and Quynh Nguyen '23](#)

[An Interview With D.A.'s First President](#)
[Victoria Smajlaj '24](#)

[Ash Wednesday](#)
[Anna Genov '25 and Ivanka Beriwala '25](#)

[Spirit Week Jeopardy](#)
[Ivanka Beriwala '25 and Aisling Kelly, '25](#)

[Culture Day Zoom Prayer Service](#)
[Zhiyi "Cindy" Chen '25](#)

[Global Awareness Week](#)
[Julia Sheehan '23](#)

[The Tigers' First Softball Game](#)
[Demetra Chudley '24](#)

ARTS & CULTURE

[Music For The Summertime](#)
[Tara Larson '22](#)

[Opinion: Review Of 'Multiverse Of Madness'](#)
[Sofia Sherer '25](#)

[Moonbroach: A D.A. Original](#)
[Quynh Nguyen '23](#)

[Memories on Omaha Beach](#)
[Ava Filocamo '23](#)

FOR FUN!

[Study Tips From Every Grade](#)
[Quinn Pasmantier '22 and Julia Sheehan '23](#)

[France & England Trip 2022](#)
[Quinn Pasmantier '22, Demetra Chudley '24, and Anna Witek '24](#)

[Man Or Muppet: An Analysis](#)
[Damaris Lindsay '23](#)



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Year In Review

Lily Lawler, '25, Eva Raffaele, '25

Perry Initiative For Young Women In STEM

Keira Muller '24

Summer Book Recommendations

Mariacarla Bettochi '25

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IN THE NEWS

Pop Culture Is Changing: The Downfall Of Popular Entertainment

By Natasia Shivers '24

The entertainment industry has been changing drastically in recent years, mostly due to the rapid rise of social media. While this fact must be acknowledged, let us

recognize this shift as what it is—neither good nor bad—with all of its relative benefits and consequences. The culture is not dying—if anything, it is renewing itself.

As the desires of media consumers rapidly evolve, so must the producers. The average duration of songs has decreased by 20 seconds just over the last 5 years. Now, songs average only about 3 minutes 30 seconds. These numbers, far from insignificant, represent a social shift. Social media has created instantaneous entertainment, and quicker gratification. Meaning, music must adapt to the public's shorter attention span. This spills over into cinema as well. With the rise of streaming services comes a faster paced format of television in order to satisfy viewer's desires. Binge-watching has also become wildly popular. Remember when you had to wait a whole week for another episode of your favorite TV show? Yeah, me neither.

Of course, many are against these transformations. Perhaps the most notable outcry over this change in popular entertainment is celebrated director Martin Scorsese's criticism of the universally popular Marvel movies, an event which infamously sparked outrage amongst Marvel's die-hard fans. "Cinema is an art form that brings you the unexpected. In



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

superhero movies, nothing is at risk,” says Scorsese in a *New York Times* piece. However, others share Scorsese's frustration with what he calls a loss of “real art” in mainstream cinema. Their issue is not with Marvel itself—they are speaking to a larger change in the movie world. But perhaps people are looking in the wrong place. The superhero genre—a category of media originally solely created for and consumed by man-children that is now struggling to adapt itself to a new and broader audience—is not where Scorsese and his sympathizers should search for their entertainment. Instead, they should recognize the step back from mainstream industry that has been taken counter-culturally. As individualism has been embraced, exacerbated by the freedom and opportunities presented by social media, today anyone can, and is, encouraged to cultivate unique tastes and even create their own media.

The most entertaining downfall of a major entertainment industry has been that of the celebrity industry. Social media has made fame and influence accessible to pretty much anyone, and it is traditional celebrities who take the fall. Though we were already far removed from the time of ultra-glamorous old-Hollywood celebrities, the only thing that could truly make the ‘celebrity’ obsolete was the Internet. We see

this most clearly with the recent Oscars—an event that seems to be aware of its faltering popularity. Perhaps no one would have watched it this year had it not been for the notorious slap. If the act itself wasn’t manufactured, the celebrities who insist on voicing their opinion on it are simply begging for cheap publicity. In any case, we mourn the death of celebrity culture, definitively sealed with this pathetic attempt to regain relevance in a world that no longer cares.

Music, movies, and superstars are all ways we have kept ourselves occupied for the past century. Media will never go away, but it is high time for a change. With luck, the future will see a new focus—a focus on self that is arguably necessary. Years of looking up to a class of people with influence for entertainment and inspiration will hopefully conclude in looking to ourselves and to each other. We look forward to seeing a new era of individualism and a culture that all people are invited to create.

The Oscars

By Eva Raffaele ‘25

The world-wide celebration was an epic event, but also had its ups and downs.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Starting off with the red carpet, the actors and actresses get to show off their amazing outfits and pose for hundreds of cameras. More importantly, let's move onto what everyone has been talking about, the whole, very vivid, physical interaction between Chris Rock and Will Smith. It started when Chris Rock was introducing the nominees for best actor of the year. He talks briefly about Will Smith and then switches to Will Smith's wife Jada Pinkett Smith and compares her to G.I. Jane and that's where things take a turn. The reason that Chris Rock made this comparison was because they both have "shaved heads" and Will Smith fought back at this comment that was supposed to be a joke. Even though it was a joke, it wasn't funny to this couple. The reason why Will Smith fought back was because Jada has a health condition. If you play the video again, you can see for a second that Will Smith is smiling and laughing and the next second, he walks on stage and gives Chris Rock a smack in the face. After the incident, Chris Rock reads the winner for best actor, and you will never guess who it is.... Will Smith! Surprise! Will Smith seems to appear in tears as he is saying his acceptance speech. While he is reading, he says that he hopes to be invited back by the Academy even after what he did and some people suspect that he won't. The incident with Chris Rock probably affected

all the audience members present, but also everyone watching on TV trying to enjoy the Oscars.

The person who won Best Actress this year was Jessica Chastain! Jessica Chastain won this title by appearing in the movie, "The Eyes of Tammy Faye." She talks in her acceptance speech about suicide and COVID-19 isolation, and how it has effected her. We are thrilled to see her win! Also, "Coda" won the Oscar for Best Picture! There were a lot of fantastic wins in the Oscars 2022 event as well as the ups and downs this year!

The Met Gala

By Melanie Robichaux '23

The Met Gala: a capital of fashion, culture, and media. The Metropolitan Museum of Art typically hosts one of the biggest events in modern day pop culture once a year, but, like everything these days, there have been some adjustments. Within the span of nine months, the Met has hosted two galas, leaving media moguls foaming at the mouth. This multifaceted event has become an opportunity for fashion designers and celebrities to display their work, establish relevance in pop culture, reinvent themselves, or all of the above.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

With each gala comes new hosts, new guests, and of course, a new theme. These concepts present a challenge for designers, concerning executing the theme, fashionability, and public criticism. This event has become increasingly interesting to the public, coinciding with the rise in celebrity culture's weight on society.

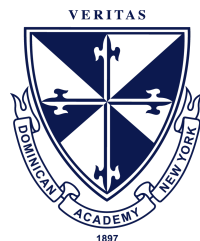
In September 2021, the Met ended its two-year hiatus with the "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion" theme. This was not only exhilarating because of its novelty in such an isolating time, but also because of the A-list hosts; namely Timothee Chalamet, Amanda Gorman, Billie Eilish, and Naomi Osaka. This guest list, though exclusive, controversially included several social media stars. With TikTok moguls', Dixie D'Amelio and Addison Rae, attendances, many people have begun to question the true exclusivity and integrity of the event. Stars like Billie Eilish and Yara Shahidi honored American history through their storytelling outfits.

"Stars like Billie Eilish and Yara Shahidi honored American history through their storytelling outfits."

- *Melanie Robichaux '23*

Paying tribute to Old Hollywood, Billie Eilish rolled up in a glamorous peach colored tulle gown, while Yara Shahidi, in diamond-crested gown and gloves, was inspired by Josephine Baker, a notable black singer, dancer, and actor from St. Louis Missouri. An increasingly significant aspect of this occasion is fashion and celebrity culture's social and ecological impact. The intrigue of this occasion is also the mystery of what happens behind the doors. This time around, the obscurity lessened with the announcement of a vegan meal. Many designers have begun to end their use of animal products in solidarity with the ever-present climate issue.

In a more traditional execution, the Met Gala occurred once again on the first Monday of May 2022. With a continued theme of "In America: An Anthology of Fashion" with an emphasis on "Gilded Glamour." The biggest public takeaway was the vast straying from the theme. In interviews, almost every celebrity either didn't know how their outfit was connected to the Gilded Age, or stretched their explanation so far that it didn't make sense. Despite the overwhelming number of rulebreakers, celebrities like Billie Eilish, Lizzo, Blake Lively, Franklin Leonard, and Riz Ahmed stayed on theme. Billie Eilish and Lizzo wore dresses typical of Gilded



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

fashion, with corset tops and extensive bustles. On the other hand, Blake Lively took on the character of Lady Liberty, a gift to America during the Gilded age, with a copper and teal jewel-studded gown.

Franklin Leonard said he channeled his inner Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman with a bustled coat and suit, while Riz Ahmed sung the praise of the unspoken heroes of the Gilded age: immigrants. He opted out of the glitz and glamour of the Gilded Age and wore a high-class representation of a typical NYC immigrant worker.

In the process of bringing the rich and famous together, the Met Gala also connects all fashion and celebrity obsessed observers. This opportunity for expression and creativity sparks conversation and inspiration in so many people, young and old, all around the world, in a single night.

D.A. ALL DAY!

D.A. Intramural Tennis

By Julia Cramer '24, Mariacarla Bettocchi '25

As D.A. welcomes a new sport to its athletic repertoire - tennis - here's an

interview with Niamh Kiernan '24, a member of the new Tennis Club here to share some insight about what it's like in D.A.'s new and exciting extracurricular! Although the tennis team is only currently an intramural club, as you'll learn in this interview, the club is looking to expand into a varsity level and junior varsity level sport next year. This will be a great benefit to the school by adding more extracurriculars for students to participate in. Hopefully, this interview sparks even more interest in the new club, and inspires some of you to sign up next fall!

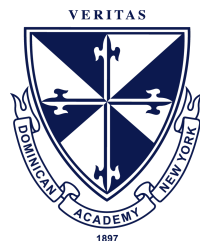
Julia Cramer (interviewer): When did you first hear about the new tennis team?

Niamh Kiernan: It had been on the Dominican Academy website all year but I didn't know they were actually doing it until the end of March when Ms. Sullivan sent an email about it.

Julia Cramer: Had you played tennis before you signed up for the tennis team?

Niamh Kiernan: I had played with family and at summer camps, but I had never taken lessons or played any official games with consistent practice.

Julia Cramer: How many other students are part of the team?



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Niamh Kiernan: I believe that over thirty girls signed up for the team.

Julia Cramer: Are they mostly freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors?

Niamh Kiernan: There are very few seniors. There are a lot of freshmen, however, around fifteen of them. That's half of the team. The rest are sophomores and juniors.

Julia Cramer: How frequently does the team meet?

Niamh Kiernan: It's all dependent on the courts, but, usually freshman practice on Mondays, everyone else on Wednesdays and Fridays, if the courts are available. I practice twice a week.

Julia Cramer: What does a typical meeting look like?

Niamh Kiernan: Practice starts with a prayer, then we stretch. Then we usually feed balls to one group and we rotate people. Then, we practice volleys and Coach Mahovlic usually serves. Then, we play King of the Court and have mini doubles matches.

Julia Cramer: Who does the team compete against?

Niamh Kiernan: Right now, the team is intramural, so it's like a tennis club in that it only plays against itself. However, the plan is for tennis to be a fall sport and, if they are able to secure courts regularly, then we can have both a Varsity and JV team next year.

Julia Cramer: Where does the team practice?

Niamh Kiernan: At the St. John's gym, the Central Park tennis center, and the US Open site in Queens.

Although it's been years since D.A. has offered this sport, many girls have signed up and are hopeful for the continuation of this program. Players came from all sorts of skill levels and backgrounds, and Coaches Mahovlic, Wollard, and Johansen worked closely with them in small groups so that everyone was learning while having fun. D.A.'s athletic faculty is currently working on securing permits for tennis courts in the area, which, if achieved, will establish a competitive tennis team for the fall of 2022. This competitive team will be a fantastic addition to Dominican Academy's repertoire!



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

D.A. Coffeehouse 2022

By Zhiyi “Cindy” Chen ‘25,
Quynh Nguyen ‘23

After two years of inactivity, D.A.’s Coffeehouse made a return. On April 1st after school, students and faculty gathered in the Auditorium to watch the performances. This year’s program highlighted the talents of the D.A. student body in areas such as singing, playing instruments, and dancing.

The Senior Ensemble started off the show by performing “Goldwing” by Billie Eilish and “Cry Your Heart Out” by Adele. They were then followed by Quinn Pasmantier ‘22 who performed “Asymptotic” by Louie Zong and “Call Your Girlfriend” by ERATO accompanied by a plastic cup, and Margaret Schumacher ‘24 who sang “My Immortal” by Evanescence.

Some students chose to incorporate instruments into their performances, including Simon McGann ‘25 who sang “Meteor Shower” by Cavetown accompanied by ukulele, Lauren Mlicko ‘22 who performed “A Case of You” by Joni Mitchell accompanied by piano, Summer LaGattuta ‘23 who sang “Creep” by Radiohead accompanied by guitar and Zhiyi (Cindy) Chen ‘25 who played “Yuri on Ice”

composed by Taro Umebayashi. There were also students who chose to team up including Grace DiMattia ‘23 and Julia Sheehan ‘23 who performed “Nothing New” by Taylor Swift and Quynh Nguyen ‘23 and Tiffany Wu ‘22 who danced to “Tomboy” by Destiny Rogers.

Below Quynh and Zhiyi (Cindy) share their experience performing at the coffeehouse.

Quynh Nguyen ‘23

During my freshman year I attended the 2019 Fall Coffeehouse and felt inspired to perform at one myself. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 my plans were cut short. Therefore, when I heard that there was going to be a Spring Coffeehouse, I immediately signed up.

For this year’s Coffeehouse, I decided to collaborate with Tiffany Wu ‘22 to perform a dance cover of “Tomboy” originally choreographed by Lisa. Due to our short practice time, I was nervous about how our performance was going to turn out. As the Coffeehouse began to draw closer, I became increasingly stressed.

When it was time to perform, it felt less nerve wracking than I thought it was going to be. The support and warmth I received from my peers relaxed my nerves and let me enjoy the experience. Even



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

though I messed up a little, it didn't seem like a big deal to me.

Overall, Coffeehouse felt like a fun vibe session with friends after school. Unlike the more formal and serious events at school, it has a more casual vibe. I'm happy I chose to participate and hope that next year many others will choose to do so too!

Zhiyi (Cindy) Chen '25

For this year's D.A. Coffeehouse, I decided to play one of my favorite piano pieces: "Yuri on Ice," composed by Taro Umebayashi from the Japanese anime *Yuri on Ice*. I first heard this song when I was watching the anime during the summer, and I love it, so I decided to share it with more people. I was very nervous at first, but my friends reassured me, and I did better than I thought.

Overall, I think it was a valuable and memorable experience for me. It was my first D.A. Coffeehouse, and I saw so many different and incredible talents of my schoolmates. It helped me to learn more things in the D.A. community, and I also made some new friends!

An Interview With D.A.'s First President

By Victoria Smajlaj '24

Sr. Margaret Ormond is not only the first President of Dominican Academy, but she is a D.A. alum and a remarkable and dedicated member of the Dominican Sisters Community, with big dreams for the future and a sense of humor.

Sr Margaret is from Brooklyn and an alumnae of Dominican Academy. When she was in high school, she spoke about the ways in which D.A. kept a strong reputation: "Everyone loved it here, even at Saint Vincent's everyone thought Dominican was beautiful, and you could be around and have fun, and you could go on the roof and those kinds of things, and freedom of that interested me." So when she got into D.A., it took her no time to adjust to the new school. "When I got here I was really shy, and I mean really shy. Right before Thanksgiving, we had to make baskets, and I thought, oh what am I going to do, who am I going to make a basket with? The girl right in front of me, from Flushing, tapped my shoulder and said, 'Will you be my partner'? It turned my life around! After that I just felt at home. People were so nice to me, and people were so nice to each other. I think that's what made me relax, and everyone would say 'hi'



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

to each other. All the time I hear that same story from people today, about how everyone is so friendly.”

Sr. Margaret went to Marymount College, but it could not compare to D.A. “At Marymount College, I met people who welcomed me, but it didn’t have the same comfort as at D.A. Some of it is the beauty of the building, but also because of the gesture of welcome at the school.”

Two years after graduating from college, she joined the Dominican Sisters. After that, she went to Ohio and studied to become a sister. She was chosen to study History while there. “And so instead of going to usual classes in the beginning, I would go with this other person from Ohio, whom I never met. She studied History as well, and we didn’t talk, we sat on the roof and studied history as we were told to do. In the end we had to take an exam and we both did well. So guess what? I was sent to Steubenville, Ohio with some of the toughest people I’ve ever seen in my whole life. I was three years older than them. We were told, “Don’t smile until Christmas,” so I wouldn’t smile because they were bigger than I was. It was scary in one way, but because I was prepared, it worked. That’s 1964 or 1965, and I still have yearly reunions with those people. To this day, they

are still some of the greatest men and women I have ever met.”

When Sister Margaret came back to the school, she became the President of D.A. She spent so many years in the school, D.A. became her home. She has a love and passion for benefiting our school’s community and loves to see the happy faces as students walk into the school building every morning. She will miss seeing all the happy faces as students enter the school every morning. She said, “I love to stand in the front hall and say hello to the students. I see happy faces coming in. I see people helping each other. I love it. Some people think that because I’m the President I am really important, I mean I don’t buy that, but sometimes they say, “Sister, I’ll stay here for you. I say, “That’s very kind of you, but I like to be here, because I get to say ‘hi’ to people.”

Sister Margaret also loves that at D.A. has such an inclusive environment. She said, “So I think I just like the hominess of the school. It was comfortable for me.”

There are still several traditions Sr. Margaret hopes will remain in her absence. “I am a great lover of Dominican spirituality. It’s not because I became a Dominican Sister, it’s because when I was in high school I observed what was expected in



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Dominican spirituality. It's not like you had to be perfect, but you were to be polite, you were to do your homework, you were to help someone. It was a little bit like what I had at home, so it just fit. I really appreciated that others were the same. I was in the class with a model from Hollywood, and we became friends. It was easy and relaxed. So I felt at ease to ask questions. After the first three months, I lost my inhibitions. My classmates were welcoming.”

If Sr. Margaret wished for one thing for the school: it would be that we would continue our prayers in the mornings, in homeroom, and before dismissal. She hopes that in the future, D.A. students will “continue to help each other. We can have disagreements about things, but it doesn’t mean that we break the relationship. We can try and listen to the other side.”

“We can continue to help each other. We can have disagreements about things, but it doesn’t mean that we can break the relationship.”

- Sr. Margaret, OP ‘60

She also has exciting plans for her future. She plans to visit some friends, make a long retreat, and think about what she will do next. She has a dream to be able to teach underprivileged women and children in other countries. She wants “to give people - who have the desire, but not the ability to be educated - a chance.”

Sr. Margaret is not only an amazing leader for our school community, but she is also a cool person outside of school! Her ideal weekend would be to meet with her friends and to go see a play. She loves to watch plays. Sr. Margaret is a big fan of rock music and she loves to dance. As a student, she and her classmates would dance during their breaks. She says, “I lived in Italy for, I think 18 years. I went to school there, and I loved it. I enjoy learning about different cultures. Because I lived in Italy for a long time and learned how to speak it, I learned all about a new culture!” Sister Margaret’s legacy will long be remembered and she will be very missed.

Ash Wednesday

By Anna Genov ‘25, Ivanka Beriwala ‘25

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and the first day of Lent. This year, Ash Wednesday was March 2. The day



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

was a shortened schedule, and the school attended the Mass after dismissal at St. Vincent Ferrer Church. During school, we did our regular prayers throughout the day, and the chapel was available for prayer all day. In Freshman Theology, Ms. Daly taught the history and meaning behind Ash Wednesday and Lent. She also went over the procedures for the Mass after school.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Joseph Hagan from the St. Vincent Ferrer Church and students were encouraged to receive ashes. As part of the Ash Wednesday mass tradition of donation, there was a monetary collection for Ukraine in conjunction with the St. Vincent Ferrer parish. Throughout the Mass, the Liturgical Ensemble shared beautiful psalms.

As a part of the Liturgical Ensemble, I left my last period class early to practice the songs one last time with the club. The Christmas Liturgy was canceled due to virtual learning, therefore Ash Wednesday's Liturgy was only our second time performing at the church. We were very excited. As opposed to the Thanksgiving Liturgy, we had less rehearsal time before the mass. However, we sang and played like a "well-oiled machine" according to Ms. Mooney, and the mass went smoothly. It was

a valuable experience for me and I really enjoyed the sense of teamwork.

Dr. Cagney also delivered a very interesting speech about the importance of community and our faith. His words left everyone in awe as we sat in complete silence listening to his every word. Once he had finished, Fr. Hagan stood and beckoned a few people to come and assist him with the distribution of the ashes. One by one we stood up and walked towards the altar. I felt a sense of calm wash over me as I stepped up. His thumb swiped against my forehead in the shape of a cross and I smiled. Returning to my seat I did the sign of the cross, kneeled down, and began to pray.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Spirit Week Jeopardy

By Ivanka Beriwalla '25, Aisling Kelly, '25

The week of March 25 brought about numerous fun activities for the students at Dominican Academy. In honor of Spirit Week, the Student Council organized and prepared a game of Jeopardy for the student body. The competition took place on the Thursday of Spirit Week, so everyone was dressed in their 'Meme Day' attire. All were invited to spectate the competition, but only twenty four spots were available to compete.

The turnout was great and the actual playing part was even better. You had the option to stay and watch the riveting battle between the teams or you could have participated and felt the adrenaline rush. Since there were so many participants, it was decided that there would be 6 teams of 4 and 3 rounds. Round one would have the competition between the first 3 teams, round two would have the competition between the next 3 teams, and round three would have 6 teams of 4 and have 3 rounds. Once you got to your designated table with your team, one member would whip out their phone and log onto a website the Student Council organized. You put in the code provided and your phone turned into an online buzzer. To decide who went first, all the teams would tap the buzzer phone and whichever team

tapped first, started off the game. The rest you can imagine, different categories worth different points and if the team that picked the categories got the answer wrong, it was up for grabs!

The competition was fair and equal, with categories for all to enjoy, although only some rose to the occasion, while others cracked under the pressure. There was a section on D.A. trivia, for anyone wanting to brush up on their school spirit. Participants were asked a diverse array of questions, such as how many floors are in D.A. and how many staff members are D.A. alumni. This category was certainly a learning experience. Another section was music, where competitors were tasked with finishing the lyrics and guessing the song. There was also a celebrity category, where questions ranged from Selena Gomez to Princess Diana. Other sections included movies, TV shows, and pop culture categories. The competition grew heated and intense, but eventually, winners were crowned.

Annie McGraw, Summer LaGatutta, Mireille Adamo, and Angelina Podkalicki won Dunkin Donuts gift cards, as we all know, 'America runs on Dunkin'! Not only was this event entertaining, it was informative and it's safe to say most of us



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

learned something new! A huge thank you to the Student Council for creating this well-organized event, and we look forward to next year!

Culture Day Zoom Prayer Service By Zhiyi “Cindy” Chen ‘25

On April 13, 2022, D.A. held a Prayer Service and Assembly online via Zoom from 8:25 to 9:50 A.M. After Dr. Petit’s introduction and welcome message, Ms. McCann introduced the Dominican Academy Preachers (DAPs). DAPs are D.A. students led by Ms. McCann who supports the school community in many different ways. After the introductions, all students and faculty members were encouraged to type a strong woman’s name in the chat or hold their pictures. A beautiful prayer followed the appreciation of women, and a short message from the Robin 30-Day Resilience Challenge followed after the prayer.

The Robin 30-Day Resilience Challenge showed many positive comments from D.A. students. After participating in the challenge, and winners were also announced- 23 students earned the highest points possible! It really showed D.A.’s school spirit, and it helped us to see many

positive things in everyday life. After announcing the winners, the school split into four groups and had a Kahoot game online. The winners got a shirt from Student Council.

The D.A. Student Council also announced a Walk-A-Thon with our brother school Regis which happened on Friday, May 6. Upon arrival at Regis at 12:30 P.M on May 6, D.A. and Regis Reps performed a musical in the auditorium, showcasing some famous Broadway songs. Following the musical, many activities happened throughout the Regis building. The Freshmen Dance allowed communications between D.A. and Regis freshmen. The Trivia Room, which was run by two Regis boys, posed questions to an audience of both D.A. students and Regis students in various genres. The Just Dance Room allowed students to dance to different songs and was a nice exercise. There were also many other activities, such as the Musical Chairs, Game Room, Movie Room, and more.

Halfway through the activities, the Dunk Tank happened in the Regis quad. Students took turns throwing balls to try to dunk volunteers into ice water. Several D.A. students and staff volunteered, which included Dr. Cagney (Theology Chair), Ella Madden (Co-Pres of Student Council), and



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Damaris Lindsay (Secretary of Student Council).

Following the Walk-A-Thon announcement, Ms. Daly talked about a Women's Empowerment Catholic Worker Project led by the D.A. Women Empowerment Club, which was about giving hygiene donations to women in need of them. Afterward, the school nurse, Ms. Lawler, reminded the D.A. community to always be careful since the COVID-19 pandemic is not fully over yet and she encouraged everyone to take a COVID-19 test before returning to school from the Easter break. Towards the end, Dr. Petit made a closing remark, and La Oración del Ave María was led by Damaris Lindsay '23 from the Student Council Executive Board.

Global Awareness Week

By: Julia Sheehan '23

From April 4th to April 8th, D.A. celebrated its annual Global Awareness Week. The week was organized by DAPs members and led by Ms. McCann. This was the first time since 2019 that GAW had been in person, so it was exciting to see all of the activities in real time. This year's theme was "Refugees: Where They Come From, Where

They Go, How to Help," and focused on the global refugee crisis.

GAW was kicked off with a presentation by two speakers who had worked closely with refugees: Tara Clerkin, Climate Resilience Lead at the International Rescue Committee, and Dana Sleiman, a Senior Communications Officer at UNHCR. All of D.A. went together to St. John's and many were able to ask their own questions to the speakers. Both speakers discussed the differences between refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers and what inspired them to begin their work with refugees.

On Tuesday, students heard from Secretary Arthur E. Dewey, grandfather of Charlotte Ainsworth '22. He spent time coordinating relief efforts during the Nigerian Civil War. In 2004, president George W. Bush appointed him Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration. He worked closely with the Afghan government to ensure that the four million refugees created by the violence in the Middle East were safe. He worked with the Afghan president to create an Afghan Conservation Corps modeled after the U.S.'s Civilian Conservation Corps.

On Wednesday, NHS co-hosted a Blood Drive and created a service project



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

for each homeroom with the Project Linus blankets. DAPs built upon the service aspect and assigned each homeroom a different country to make a poster for. The poster was to explain the country's history, explain the refugee crisis in that country and why people are leaving, and to be creative while still being informative. The homerooms were assigned to either Afghanistan, Yemen, South Sudan, or Ukraine. This activity continued into Thursday.

Friday was a dress down with profits going to Catholic Relief Services in Ukraine. Almost every student in the school dressed down and donated to show their support.

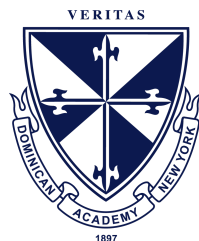
The Tigers' First Softball Game By Demetra Chudley '24

On March 31, our softball team played their first game of the season against Nazareth High School. Before the game, the team had been having some difficulty getting a field permit and many of their practices took place indoors, doing drills and catching practice at St. John's Nepomucene Gym. Thankfully, they have since gotten their permit, but the team had only had one outdoor practice prior to the game against

Nazareth High School, so tensions were high on game day.

After an hour and a half long bus ride, the team arrived to a windy day in Marine Park in Brooklyn. Due to their late arrival, they did not have much time to warm up. Some of the team members were nervous, while others stayed calm, confident because of how well the team had been doing in practice. The one thing they had in common was that everyone was excited for their first game. The lively atmosphere from the bus and the quick practice they managed to get in before the game began managed to get rid of a lot of the nerves that the team was feeling.

As the game progressed, the team's practice paid off. They were doing well, but so were their opponents. The players were still learning how to communicate with each other to really work as a team, which led to some difficult moments during the game. However, when Lauryn Choi '25, hit a homerun, the team was inspired. Rebecca Brady, a sophomore on the softball team, said "when Lauryn Choi (A FRESHMAN!) hit a home run, I knew we were going to win." The Tigers did end up winning the game with a score of 9 to 6, starting the season out on a good note.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

This win allowed the team to grow and improve. Kate Rugai, another sophomore on the team, said “it felt amazing to win since I feel like a lot of us were doubtful about our skills! And after the game we were all cheering and so happy, and I feel like this win really allowed the team to grow as close as we are now!” Since then, the softball team has only continued to improve. In their practices, they have learned how to communicate and work as a team, or, in the words of Keilah Om ‘24, “[make] it less hectic on the field”. They have also been learning some D.A. chants to really show off their school spirit at their games. It’s because of this hard work that the softball team has come so far and pulled off a remarkable athletic season. Go Tigers!

ARTS & CULTURE

Music For The Summertime By Tara Larson ‘22

It’s official: Summer 2022 is the revival of concerts. With COVID-19 putting a damper on many musicians’ plans to tour last year, the coming summer months are planned to be the grand return of incredible live shows. Festivals returned as well: Coachella was held in April, and Governors

Ball Music Festival is scheduled to take place in June. This year, popular artists such as Billie Eilish and Olivia Rodrigo began their respective shows in February and April and will be continuing through the summer. Other highly anticipated tours include 5 Seconds of Summer’s “Take My Hand Tour,” Charlie XCX’s “Crash Tour,” Coldplay’s “Music of the Spheres Tour,” Dua Lipa’s “Future Nostalgia Tour,” HAIM’s “The One More Haim Tour,” Lady Gaga’s “The Chromatica Ball Tour,” Lorde’s “The Solar Power World Tour,” Phoebe Bridgers’s “Reunion Tour,” and The Weeknd’s “After Hours Til Dawn Tour.”

With an exciting variety of artists to see this summer, we are sure to have a fun vacation filled with spectacular live entertainment. Because musicians are able to perform to an audience again, there is a signal of hope to return to normalcy. Get ready to dance and sing along with your favorite artists!



Opinion: Review Of 'Multiverse Of Madness'

By Sofia Sherer '25

The new *Doctor Strange* movie, “Multiverse of Madness” was released on May 6. This is the second of Doctor Strange’s solo movies, and takes place after the events of “Spiderman No Way Home.” Upon watching, I have many thoughts, specifically about the development of some of Marvel’s most well-loved and long-lasting characters. If you have not seen the movie yet, beware of spoilers ahead!

My main issue with the movie was the minimization of Wanda’s experiences and past. Wanda is and always will be my favorite character in the MCU, and seeing her past be completely belittled was absolutely heartbreaking. Wanda’s past trauma was perfectly displayed in episode nine of *WandaVision*, showing us the heart-wrenching details of her childhood and the beginning of her powers. In *Multiverse of Madness*, however, she is instead displayed as a crazy woman obsessed with the notion of a “traditional family,” as shown in the sitcom style of *WandaVision*. This reduces her to the degrading persona of the “hysterical mother,” rather than showing the trauma and hardships that have led her to this mindset.

Additionally, Marvel forgets to remind us that the woman we are seeing on screen is not Wanda Maximoff. At the end of *WandaVision*, Wanda is transformed into the Scarlet Witch, which gives her powers that have only been spoken about in legend. Using the Darkhold, a corrupted book full of dark magic spells, Wanda becomes another being entirely, one with purely evil intent. This factor is completely ignored for most of the movie, which further emphasizes female hysteria rather than showing reasoning or cause behind Wanda’s actions.

While I understand that “madness” is in the title, this movie was entirely too chaotic. Similar to the newly released movie *Licorice Pizza*, there were so many plot lines going on at once. *Licorice Pizza* is a chaotic jumble of different scenes within one overarching “coming-of-age” plot. However, each scene has basically nothing to do with the next and just feels completely random.

In *Doctor Strange*, there is a similar idea of completely unnecessary or uninteresting plotlines. If Marvel had simply stuck with the plotline of Wanda chasing America and Dr. Strange through the different multiverses, the movie would have been more interesting and easier to follow. Overall, too many plot lines ruin movies by



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

creating so much confusion rather than sparking interest in the viewer.

Another overdone feature was the amount of gore within the movie. This is something new for Marvel, and while the “horror” was interesting, I thought it was definitely exaggerated, even to the point of almost being comical. Having a little bit of blood or a few jumpscare is one thing, but watching someone get impaled and seeing Wanda’s face half-covered in blood for 25% of the movie is another. The gore felt completely unnatural and out of character for Marvel, which made it seem almost like a mockery of horror rather than a real part of the movie. This is not to mention how unsettling it was to watch, as a viewer who doesn’t particularly enjoy those elements within a movie.

I have aired a few of my many grievances about *Multiverse of Madness*, so now I feel that it is time to give credit where it is due. Overall, the concept of the multiverse is incredibly complex, but Marvel did a pretty good job of executing it well. The animations were incredible (as always), and the different themes of each universe were very well done. Also, putting Wanda and Doctor Strange in a movie together is a very bold choice, but one that is definitely intriguing. These two characters

complement each other very well, and also display the different ways of using powers that stem from infinity stones. They made very interesting rivals, and definitely created a unique dynamic that we will probably never see again in the Marvel universe.

While I had my issues with this movie, I would recommend it to every Marvel fan. I wouldn’t necessarily advise you to spend \$20 at the movies, but definitely watch it when it comes out on Disney+ because you might perceive the movie differently than I did. For me, however, the overload of plot lines and lack of development within characters was extremely disappointing, which is not a word I often associate with Marvel movies.

Moonbroach: A D.A. Original By Quynh Nguyen ‘23

From March 25- 26, Dominican Academy’s Drama Club performed their annual Playhouse Production, *Moonbroach*. This year’s play was memorable for two reasons. Not only was it the first production since Dominican Academy shut down for COVID-19 two years ago, but it was also written by our very own Allison Chin ‘23!



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Moonbroach tells the story of a young Prince Theodore from the kingdom of Nook. One day, an Alien named Tony's ship crashes in Nook. His strange personality sparks an interest in the sheltered prince. Together, they embark on a journey full of friendship, family and self-discovery.

Allison decided to dedicate the storyline to the D.A. playhouse. "I saw the potential in the theatrical version of it." The group faced many hardships during the process. Due to the fact that it was an original production, the Drama Club was left to arrange their own stage directions, props and costumes. That combined with casting shortages and lack of time, left the club in a sticky situation. "I personally thought that we were running out of time to rehearse and that we wouldn't have enough time," says Cassandra Tom '23, who played King Edward.



Despite the struggles, the cast and crew state that the final product and the love

they received made it all worth it. At their opening show, the cast received a standing ovation from their peers. It was a well deserved reaction for a well performed show. Thank you to Allison Chin, Cassandra Tom, Eva Raffaele, Julia Garcia Lascurain, Julia Cramer, Kate Izzo, Kate Rugai, Lily Sharkey, Maya Gabric, and Tiffany Wu for their hard work, and shout out to Ms. Mooney for overseeing the production. For those of you who missed it, tune in to next year's show. Don't miss another opportunity to see the cast before they get famous!

Memories On Omaha Beach

By Ava Filocamo '23

I knew very little about my great-grandfather's life because he passed away when I was very young. I vaguely knew that he was an immigrant from Naples, Italy, and when he was older, served as a Master Sergeant in World War II. On the D.A. Europe trip itinerary, one of our stops was in Normandy to see the D-Day locations. My family told me that my great-grandfather, Joseph "Bomba" Portanova, was a soldier who landed on Omaha Beach, where D-Day occurred. I had learned about D-Day in school, but never realized I had family who had been on that beach. Before flying to Europe, I briefly asked my mom more about her grandfather. Bomba had



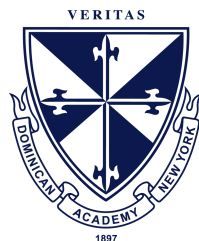
Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

walked among the fallen soldiers only days after D-Day. He crossed the Channel in a very small boat, which made him extremely seasick. At the shore of Omaha Beach, the men jumped out of the boat and followed each other through a safe passageway that had been created by soldiers prior to their arrival. From there, my great-grandfather then marched to Paris, about 125 miles from Normandy.

As we arrived at Omaha Beach, I was filled with emotion. I didn't think I would feel as much of a connection to where we were visiting as I actually did. I barely knew my great-grandfather, so why was this visit so important to me? I discovered it was important to me because it was important to my family. I was the first family member of his to be on that beach. I was the first to see the water, touch the sand, and feel the history that was made on the beach. It was so different from textbook accounts of D-Day; the beach was beautiful and peaceful. The bleak black and white news footage from that day in 1945 contrasted sharply with the bright blue cloudless sky that I enjoyed. Above the beach, up on the cliff, was the Normandy American Cemetery for the fallen soldiers who died on D-Day. Rows and rows of white crosses were engraved with soldiers who had lost their lives that day. The juxtaposition of the

somber cemetery, the endless ocean, and the reality of what occurred there was startling. Before leaving, I gathered a handful of sand and put it in a ziplock bag to bring home with me. It is a small but tangible way to recall my own emotional experience while sharing it with my family.

I later recounted the day with my mom over the phone. She told me that while Bomba had been in Europe during the war, he was writing letters to my future great-grandmother, Anne "Nina" Recchia. The two met in early 1941 at Gimbels Department store, in Herald Square, where he was a carpet salesman and she was working selling war bonds. They had only been courting for a few months before he was drafted and sent to the European front. My mom then shared with me that she had hundreds of V-mail letters Joe had sent to Nina over the course of the 4 years he was overseas. Anne saved every single letter, and my mom was sending me photos of all the letters while I was in Normandy. One letter was dated June 6th, 1944. He wrote, "I imagine the landing in France caused quite a commotion back in the states, but over here we hardly got to think about the news. We're left on the 'go' at all times and that's to be expected." I couldn't fathom that I had first-hand accounts of my great grandfather's experience on D-Day. The



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

content of the letters ranged from casual mentions of motion pictures that were screened for the soldiers, a “swell” bottle of cognac one of the captains shared, or the supper menu on Easter Sunday, to more emotional details of his own Channel crossings, running for cover from buzz bombs and the resilience and hope of the French people. I struggled to grasp the gravity of history as I sat in my hotel room, surrounded by souvenirs and city maps. Being able to sift the sand of Omaha Beach through my fingers, reading my own great-grandfather’s first-hand accounts, and watching the white crosses of the American cemetery fade into the far distance made history come alive for me in a way I could not have replicated through a history book.

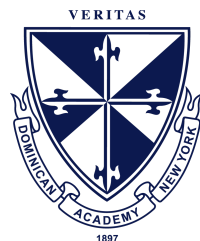


Study Tips From Every Grade

By Quinn Pasmantier ‘22, Julia Sheehan ‘23

The approach of summer vacation always means something different for each student: for some, it’s the promise of a much-needed break, for others, it’s preparing for college — but there is one common experience that spans across all grades: the apprehension, stress, and sleepless nights that come with finals. For this reason, it’s important to remember some ways to keep yourself ready to focus again. So, as the school year draws to a close, take note of some of D.A.’s finest study tips!

Student Prints asked representatives from all four grades to speak a little on three common themes of studying: stress, focus, and confusion. For the first of the three, many students gave a similar answer: remember to put yourself first. “The best way to balance studying and mental health is to make time for both areas of yourself and to recognize when you need to take a break,” says Ella-Rose Hugo ‘23. “Beneficial studying can only be done when someone keeps their mental health in check, so it’s important to talk to your friends, take a walk or watch a good movie when you feel like studying is consuming you. In the end, hard work pays off, but grades do not define you! Good work can only be accomplished



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

when you're motivated and healthy enough to put in the time for it."

Besides monitoring your stress levels, it's also important to keep your personal time and your schoolwork time separate. "To unwind from studying I recommend finding three things that make you happy. These three things could be anything, foods, activities, or even people. Personally my top three are cats, baths, and cookies," says Lorelei Cadorette '23. "Arrange your three things in order of how happy they make you and start from the bottom. For me, I would make myself some cookies, take a bath, and then settle in for the night with my cats. Finding three things that you love makes your brain refocus from a stressful situation to a more positive one. A less stressed brain gets a better night's sleep and retains more information."

Another issue that students often face while studying is losing focus. For some, this stems from an unexplained loss of motivation. Anna Witek '24, suggests a few ways to combat this problem: "Personally for me, motivation either comes from thinking about my future or watching Gilmore Girls. When I started thinking about how I actually have to work hard and not everything will just end up perfectly the way I want it, I realize I actually have to

study to get what I want and that pushes me to work. I think others can help you in keeping you motivated. If you have support from the people you value then you feel like you're capable of anything." While motivation is a common issue, problems focusing may also arise from a lack of planning. "I rewrite my notes with colored pens on flash cards. This way, they're more engaging and fun." says Tara Larson '22. "I also play instrumental versions of my favorite songs to stay focused – if you're confused, and find your plans aren't working, don't be afraid to ask a teacher for help to explain it further!"

Others still find that their issues come from an inability to stay in one spot. There are ways, however, to ensure that you don't wander while you're trying to stay. "To focus while studying, I like to set a zone for myself." says Aurora Alday '25. "I sit at my desk with a blanket wrapped around my legs and my work being the only thing on my desk. This way, I'm forced to stay where I am because my blanket is physically keeping me at my desk."

The most common obstacle that students face when attempting to study, however, is confusion. It's easy to set a comfortable space for yourself, or prepare a plan of action; but if you don't understand



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

the subject, what are you supposed to do? “A big piece of advice I would give is to not be afraid to ask for help” says Lily Lawler ‘25. “Through my experience, I’ve learned that teachers are often happy to respond to emails asking for help and will even meet you outside of school, because it shows that you care about their subject matter and want to learn as best you can. If it’s not possible to ask for help though, you can find YouTube videos/websites on almost anything, so I would suggest using those to your benefit!”

“A big piece of advice I would give is to not be afraid to ask for help.”

- Lily Lawler ‘25

Similarly, some students struggle with retaining information. Knowing the terms is one thing, but recalling the definitions is another. So, what is the best way to recall what you can’t remember? “As finals are approaching, study tips are hugely helpful. One major way to study well is by using other people, which can come in many forms. It can be quizzing each other, teaching one another, or simply motivating each other.” says Cece Kramer ‘24. “By including other people in the process of studying you are both benefited, even if you

are the one teaching somebody else, as you get additional review. Furthermore, studying with others allows you to share your study tips with each other, meaning your tricks for effective studying have been expanded.”

Studying is a ritual that takes different forms for everyone. While no one piece of advice will be applicable to every student, it can inspire new ideas and plans of action for their own methods. But as summer approaches, and a new school year looms high on the horizon, every student should remember that there is a perfect patchwork system out there for everyone. Good luck, D.A.! And remember to get some sleep during finals season!

France & England Trip 2022

By Quinn Pasmantier ‘22, Demetra Chudley ‘24, Anna Witek ‘24

There is no experience more singular than being high up. Whether it is magnificent patchwork of farmland as viewed from a plane, or the spectacular watercolors of the city seen from the top of a cathedral, or the dizzying sensation of ascending a hundredth step – there is no one, accurate, way to compare the encounter with astonishment that is being above the ground.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

On the 2022 France and England trip, we had many chances to explore this sensation. One stop on our tour of London was St. Paul's Cathedral, a famous and historic cathedral in the city. Our tour guide, Sean, explained that a church had stood on that land since the 600s, but the iconic cathedral that is there today was built after the Great Fire of London. It had survived the bombing of London during World War II and became a symbol of English resiliency. Many important services have been held there, such as the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer and the funeral of Winston Churchill.

Stepping inside the cathedral revealed why this was such a famous landmark of London. The cathedral is enormous, with gorgeous gilded ceilings and beautiful windows that filled the huge halls with natural light. We wandered the cathedral in awe of the amazing paintings and the details in every nook and corner. However, the most memorable part of St. Paul's Cathedral was the climb to the top. Anyone who wanted to was able to climb all 528 steps to the top of the cathedral and take in the views of London from the top of the dome. The climb was definitely nerve wracking at some points, with narrow hallways and rickety staircases, but the view was breathtaking and unquestionably worth

it. From our viewpoint on top of the dome, we could see all of London spread out below us. Though the fierce wind made us nervous, we took the risk of holding our phones over the edge to capture as many photos as possible. This was not a view any of us wanted to forget. We visited St. Paul's Cathedral on our second day of the trip, but it is one of the early memories that set the tone for the rest of our time in Europe. The hike to the top allowed us to bond through our pain, and the breathtaking view was one of the first of the many amazing experiences we had.



London was a dream for many of us. You don't need to necessarily be high up to experience that transcendent emotion - sometimes, an event on the ground can produce the same effect. We got to see London's longest running play, *The Mousetrap* at St. Martin's theater. The play was filled with thrills and completely bizarre. Seven strangers get stuck in a



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

country house just outside London. While this happens a murder occurs and the six remaining, as well as a detective, have to figure out who did it. While we can't spoil what happened, we can indeed say it was worth the 2 hour watch. The intermission was abuzz with students whispering and theorizing who may have committed the crime; it was certainly an unforgettable experience. The Queen herself saw the play on its 50th anniversary, and she herself enjoyed it. So if ever you are in London and looking for something to do that is fit for the Queen, make sure to go see "The Mousetrap", you won't regret it.

This article would be incomplete, however, without mentioning our trip to the Eiffel Tower. On our final day of the trip, we were given the opportunity to walk up it: an experience made only more memorable by the cloudless night sky. The stairs of the tower brought us only to the second floor – even that, however, would have been enough. The massive expanse of light and water which sprawled out in front of us that day rivaled even the most quality picture. We could see seemingly forever; the many streets of Paris interlocked and flowed silently like rivers before us. If that was where the experience ended, we would have been satisfied; but there was still one more surprise left in store for us. At the very last

minute, before it closed, we were given the chance to take an elevator to the top. The line was extensive, and circled about itself many times, but we were determined to see the view before the top shut down for the night. Standing in line, we buzzed excitedly. Some of us called our parents or siblings to force them to guess where we were. Others took videos or pictures, calling out to companions further back in the line to move so they could get a better shot. As the time grew nearer, we all stared at the tiny elevator steadily moving down the beams. It opened, allowing only about ten or fifteen people inside. We crowded up against strangers in an almost entirely glass box, simultaneously whispering to each other and praying that we wouldn't fall. The elevator climbed slowly upwards, passing through layers upon layers of light-soaked crossbeams, until finally: the doors opened, and we were at the top. We walked out onto a small circular platform made of polished steel, closed in by a wire-mesh cage. All around us were other tourists, gathered in groups at the edges of the room. We made our way to any open spot we could find, too stunned for a second to even remember to take out our phones. The view was unbelievable: it didn't feel real. The sprawling landscape we had seen at the second floor had grown to an entire universe, the browns and golds of the city glowing faintly in the pale moonlight.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

Cars raced inconsequentially around, looking as large as ants – people were no more than specks of dust on the horizon. The searchlight that constantly spins from the top of the tower swirled quietly in the night, highlighting different portions of the view to us. We had never seen anything as incredible as this. The entire walk back to the hotel was filled with laughing and buzzing conversations as we all recounted our individual experiences; it's safe to say that our visit to the Eiffel Tower was the perfect end to the trip.



Man or Muppet: An Analysis

By Damaris Lindsay '23

Picture this. The year is 2011 and a new movie titled *The Muppets* is released in theaters. The movie's a hit. You see it seven

times and tell all your friends to go and see it. You even buy a copy on Blu-ray and DVD. Why you might ask? Well, it's all because of the hit song, "Man or Muppet."

"Man or Muppet" was written by Bret McKenzie, who has only ever written music for *The Muppets* (2011) and *The Muppets: Most Wanted* (2014). And you might ask me, "Damaris [that's my name], if this was his first time writing music, then how was it so good?" And I would respond, "[insert name], only God knows." Performed by Jason Segel and Walter (the main muppet of the movie), "Man or Muppet" is a revolutionary song that will change the pace of time as we know it. The last time a song was this revolutionary was when "All Star" by Smash Mouth was featured in the *Shrek* soundtrack.

Not only is "Man or Muppet" an amazing song, but the entire soundtrack of *The Muppets* is astounding. There's just banger after banger with no break in between. But honestly, what else could you possibly expect from a soundtrack that features "Me And Julio Down By The Schoolyard"? There is also a cover of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" performed by The Muppets Barbershop Quartet which is surprisingly pretty good.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

“Man or Muppet” also received an Oscar for Best Original Song. Sure there were only two songs nominated, but that’s still an impressive feat. The soundtrack was also recreated in Spanish and somehow it made “Man or Muppet” an even better song. Titled “Hombre o Muppet”, the song remains on every single playlist that I own. My Spanish class was even lucky enough to listen to the song in class. The performance brought a tear to my eye.

In addition to Jason Segel and Walter’s amazing vocals, the song also has a guest appearance from Jim Parsons. This movie kick started his career, leading him to co-star with Rihanna in the hit Dreamworks animation film *Home*. Plus, Rihanna wrote a song for it. I wonder if her new baby will watch the movie sometime in the future. I personally would prefer to watch *The Muppets*, but whatever floats your boat.

A Year in Review

By Lily Lawler, ‘25, Eva Raffaele, ‘25

Between seemingly endless studying for tests, super fun D.A. events, COVID-19 restrictions, making new friends, and more, the 2021-22 school year has definitely been one with many ups and downs. As it comes to a close, students from each grade were

asked to share their favorite memory from the school year.

Spirit Week at D.A. was a favorite of many this year. Spirit Week allowed students to let their personalities shine through in creating outfits based on their favorite Disney characters, memes, and more.



Numerous students enjoyed collaborating with their friends in creating outfits together, including freshmen Maisie Aniello and Emily Mulcahy: “My favorite memory at D.A. this year was Spirit Week because I had a lot of fun dressing up with friends in different fun ways all week. We dressed up as the sway boys on Meme Day and me and my friend went as Meg and Hades on Disney Day,” Emily commented. Maisie especially enjoyed Meme Day: “We planned so long in advance to be the sway boys for Meme Day and we were super



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

excited to do it. I had no clue who Jaden Hossler was but it was fun to dress up as him anyways and to dress up with so many of my friends!”

A great part about going to D.A. is its location in Manhattan, allowing students from all 5 boroughs, Westchester, Long Island, New Jersey, and more, to be able to come together at D.A. and explore all of the amazing entities the city has to offer. An especially remarkable time in New York City is around Christmas, where places such as Rockefeller Center and Bryant Park are intricately decorated to spread the Holiday cheer to New Yorkers all around the city.

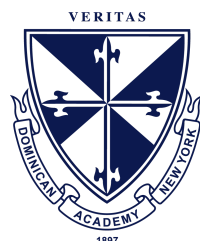
Sophomore Katie McGraw and her friends certainly had the NYC Christmas experience this year: “I’m so excited to be back in the building and out in the city. At Christmas, my friends and I went down to Rockefeller Center and saw the tree. We also saw Chrissy Teigen and John Legend walking down the street!”

Junior Amanda Choi, newly elected treasurer of Student Council, has something to share about her favorite parts of her time here at D.A.! “My teachers are so willing to help. They are intrinsic to my D.A. experience. I feel very close to many of the teachers at D.A. which makes learning

easier. They are passionate about their jobs and it really helps make school more fun.” Also, she has a recent favorite memory of her time here! “Very recent but the D.A. Junior Ring Day and Dance was a very memorable day, and Ms. Rossi did an incredible job to make the day amazing for the juniors. Although we are the smallest class, we had a great time with each other. I will definitely never forget Ring Day!”

Alessia Coluccio is a senior at D.A. and the Class of 2022 salutatorian! Her favorite memory was the Regis/Dominican Academy Walk-A-Thon. The last one she had was in freshman year. The most exciting part she said was seeing her friend Ella get dunked in the dunk tank! Some advice Alessia has to share with us is to not let struggles discourage you whether that’s with friends, grades, etc. She also encourages finding the right group of people at school! Lastly, to take time to enjoy everything, even the little things. “I love the environment and the closeness with the teachers and classmates as well as the tight knit community.”

All the wonderful memories we have made this year has definitely made it one to remember. After such a crazy year, we all deserve a fun-filled and relaxing summer break. See you in the fall, D.A!



Perry Initiative Programs For Young Women In STEM

By Keira Muller '24

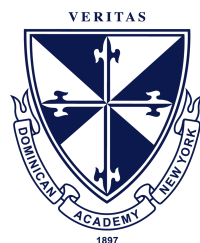
Modern history is filled with countless women both successfully and unsuccessfully prying their way into male-dominated career fields. This can be seen as far back as World War I when women were forced out of the home, into factories, when men were sent off to war. Today, women are widely recognized in many jobs — some of the female-dominated careers being teaching, speech pathology, and administrative office work. However, women are still pushed out of the spotlight in medicinal, engineering, and mathematical positions.

As of 2020, women only held thirty-six percent of physician positions, giving men a nearly two-thirds majority. Not only that, but a shocking mere fourteen percent of engineers in the workforce are women. The reason behind this disturbing lack of women in the STEM field is widely debated, with some spectators describing the difference in educational encouragement leading all the way back to early childcare. While there are some subcategories of physician work that are dominated by women, such as gynecology and nursing, one of the most male-dominated specialties

is orthopedics. This is where programs like The Perry Initiative come in.

The Perry Initiative is a company which provides hands-on medical (specifically orthopedic) and engineering training through mock procedures and lectures. The Perry Initiative offers these free, application-based admission, one-day programs to individuals that identify as female or non-binary. Their mission is to inspire young women to conquer the orthopedic physician stereotype of a 'strong male.'

In the Perry Outreach program which I attended, six different mock procedures were offered along with a Q & A session with doctors and engineers and a lecture on biomedical, chemical, and mechanical engineering. Some of these procedures included a partial knee replacement, an ex-lap, among several other bone repairs (all performed on synthetic material). Participants worked together with power tools and suture materials. Everyone actively participated with enthusiasm and determination. When difficulty was encountered, the volunteer doctors and med-students worked patiently with the participants until they could do it with ease.



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

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One of the most special things about this program was learning about why each of us is interested in engineering or orthopedic surgery. Everyone has such a unique story that led them to participation in a program like the Perry Initiative. With such different motivations, we all have such similar goals and aspirations. And thanks to this special experience, I and countless others have made life-long friends and had the privilege of learning a great deal from women who were once in the same position as me.

Programs like the Perry Initiative Outreach Program are incredibly important due to the harsh reality of being a woman in STEM. It may be overstated and often mocked in the media, but that does not change the reaction non-males face when they choose to take on the obstacles of a career in science or engineering.

Summer Book Recommendations

By Mariacarla Bettocchi '25

Compiled by Freshmen

1. Classics!

- a. *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis
- b. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger
- c. *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen
- d. *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- e. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- f. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- g. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- h. *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco
- i. *Mephisto* by Klaus Mann
- j. *Empire of the Sun* by J. G. Ballard
- k. *Reunion* by Fred Uhlman

2. Fiction

- a. *Memories of the Geisha* by Arthur Golden
- b. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- c. *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
- d. *Beach Read* by Emily Henry



Student Prints | Summer 2022 | Vol. 80 | No. 4

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">e. <i>Anna and the French Kiss</i> by Stephanie Perkinsf. <i>Griffin and Sabine</i> by Nick Bantockg. <i>Kafka on the Shore</i> by Haruki Murakamih. <i>The Secret History</i> by Donna Tartti. <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Parkj. <i>The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue</i> by V.E. Schwabk. <i>Firekeeper's Daughter</i> by Angeline Boulleyl. <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusakm. <i>The House in the Cerulean Sea</i> by T.J. Klunen. <i>Wrath Goddess Sing</i> by Maya Deaneo. <i>Cloud Atlas</i> by David Mitchellp. <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> by Philip K. Dickq. <i>Where I End and You Begin</i> by Preston Nortonr. <i>Jane, Unlimited</i> by Kristin Cashores. <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kiddt. <i>It All Comes Back to You</i> by Farah Naz Rishi | <ul style="list-style-type: none">u. <i>The Girl in the Blue Coat</i> by Monica Hesse <p>3. Non-Fiction and Travelogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. <i>Unbroken</i> by Laura Hillenbrandb. <i>A Russian Journal</i> by John Steinbeckc. <i>Travels With Charley: In Search of America</i> by John Steinbeckd. <i>Blue Highways</i> by William Least Heat-Moone. <i>The Colossus of Maroussi</i> by Henry Miller |
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