



FOX TALES

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Fox Chapel Area High School, Pittsburgh, PA

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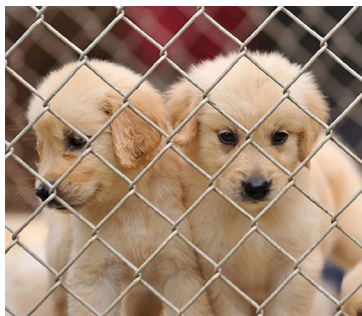


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Pittsburgh is Dying. Can Anything be Done to Save it?

An opinion piece by Russell Fenton



Photo: madeinpgh.com

Perhaps the most quintessential encapsulation of Pittsburgh is the view from the top of Mount Washington. The skyline, the iconic yellow bridges, and the confluence of the three rivers help to form a breathtaking sight of my hometown. For Pittsburghers, the city's skyline inspires an intense feeling of pride. Our city makes up such a significant part of our collective identity that we even associate its immutable objects with our own sense of self. While this uniquely fierce passion benefits the city when it comes to cheering on the Steelers or Penguins, it also foments stubbornness when criticisms are levied against the city. Even the most brilliant doctor cannot treat a patient who refuses to acknowledge their illness, and therein lies Pittsburgh's fatal flaw. The same pride that distinguishes it from its peer cities primarily contributes to its ongoing downfall.

In the late 1800s, the Second Industrial Revolution took hold in the United States. Mass manufacturing became a focal point of the American economy, with demand soaring for coal, steel, and automobiles. As a result, metropolitan areas throughout the Midwest and Great Lakes region thrived, but none as greatly as Pittsburgh. In the half-

century following the steel industry's boom, the city's population grew by more than one thousand percent, but macroeconomic conditions were ripe for a disastrous collapse. Within these cities, a select few firms dominated each industry. This allowed each firm to act as a monopoly in the labor market, hiring workers at a wage far less than what would be acceptable in a competitive market. Thus, when the recessions of the 1970s took hold and free trade policies were adopted, American manufacturing was left in shambles, leaving Rust Belt cities in a dismal state. From there, it only got worse, and over the following decades, the area would lose vast swaths of its working-age population. Detroit and Cleveland are famously known for their respective falls from grace, but the damage was far more pronounced in smaller cities; for example, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, experienced a 71% decline in its population, and Youngstown, Ohio, has lost more than 60% of its residents. As such, Rust Belt metropolitan areas, large and small, have been plagued by crime, urban decay, and drug addiction.

In comparison, Pittsburgh looks like a model example of mitigating these negative consequences. Though the

Pittsburgh, continued...

region has fallen from its peak population, it has been remarkably resilient. Between 1970 and 1990, the area lost 158,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector, a devastating blow to a city of any size, and even moreso for a mid-sized one like Pittsburgh. However, it has added nearly 50,000 new jobs in the novel tech sector since companies like Google, Uber, and Duolingo have established themselves in the city. Meanwhile, as the cost of living has soared in many other urban areas, Pittsburgh has remained among the most affordable cities in the United States. Under this facade, though, lies the uncomfortable truth; the city is, and has been, in the midst of a long, painful decline.

effort to clean up its environment, and it is true that conditions have vastly improved over the course of the past half century. Still, Pittsburgh has some of the poorest air quality ratings in the United States. The Pittsburgh MSA is ranked 6th worst for year-round soot pollution, and American Lung Association graded Allegheny County an F for its overall air quality. One look at the brown Monongahela River will demonstrate that Pittsburgh's water is no cleaner than its air.

Other factors are problematic as well, including the city's notoriously long and cold winters. These are all, to varying degrees, contributing to the exodus of young people from Pittsburgh. And because the average age in the city is



Allegheny County got a stark reminder of that recently, as the American Lung Association released its 2021 "State of the Air" report cards, and the county received F grades for ozone and particle pollution over a 24-hour test, and failed its annual particle pollution test.

Photo: pghcitypaper.com

The first and most telling sign is found the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) demographic trends. After reaching a peak population of about 2.8 million in the 1960s, the MSA has consistently lost residents. Even as some suburban areas in Allegheny County have thrived, the collar counties are facing existential crises. With the exception of Washington, Butler, and Allegheny Counties, which all saw small growth, every county in the Pittsburgh area saw a population decline. This is indicative of an unhealthy city; in comparable Midwestern cities like Indianapolis and Columbus, both their city proper and MSA populations have experienced substantial growth. In Indianapolis, its collar counties have actually outpaced the city itself in growth in recent years. The same can not be said for Pittsburgh, putting it in poor company; of the largest Midwestern cities, only one other city has experienced negative population growth in at least three of its primary collar counties: Detroit. Even Cleveland, notorious for its state of economic malaise, has only one collar county with negative growth; Pittsburgh has six.

Pittsburgh's problems go beyond demographic trends, however. Much has been made of the city's decades-long

higher than most, Pittsburgh is experiencing a significant (and growing) number of yearly deaths. These two trends have resulted in Pittsburgh losing thousands of residents each year. The city is slowly dying, and Pittsburgh's youth are exacerbating the decline by leaving the city and an alarming rate.

Can the city be saved? The answer is nuanced and complex, but there is reason for optimism. Pittsburgh is home to multiple elite universities, which draws college-aged people into the city and creates jobs in research and development. Also, the aforementioned growing tech sector offers an excellent opportunity for Pittsburgh to modernize and be well-poised to lead for the rest of the century. Pittsburgh's greatest asset is not a physical trait, however — it is the yinzing, Terrible-Towel-waving city spirit that permeates throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. If there is a town that can endure these problems and emerge on the other side as a better version of itself, it is Pittsburgh. Only time will tell whether the city will survive and thrive, but if it is to do so, it will be not in spite of, but because of Pittsburghers.

Something to Bark About



Photo: aspc.org

By Annalese Bartolacci

Anyone looking for a puppy right now may have trouble finding one depending on the breed and state. There are plenty of dogs available to be rescued in shelters, but puppies from a breeder, such as those that are AKC registered, are in short supply. Part of the reason for this is the influx of puppies that come from puppy mills that are sold at a cheaper price than those from a respected breeder. These large-scale breeders operate to make profit off of their dogs, not necessarily for the contribution of well-cared-for animals to the market. Often, these dogs are inbred, develop health issues, and end up in pet stores or animal shelters. The mothers are used until they cannot carry another litter, then are either killed or abandoned.

While pictures on the internet may show cute puppies, further research into the websites selling them will reveal no information about the parents and no trace of health tests and certificates. These are signs that a puppy mill may have bred the dog. Puppy mills are not held to high standards under the direction of the US Department of Agriculture: the USDA has established these standards in the Animal Welfare Act, but the rules set a very low bar for living conditions for the animals and

furthermore, the USDA is too overburdened to enforce it properly. For example, some of the rules in the AWA allow that, "Dogs may be kept in stacked cages. Mesh or

wire flooring is allowed. Dogs may be forced to relieve themselves in their cages. Dogs may be confined in spaces only six inches larger than their bodies, not including the tail. A dog may be caged 24 hours a day for his or her entire life, only removed from the cage to be bred." (ThePuppyMillProject.org) Such deplorable conditions should not be permitted under the law as a way to treat dogs and puppies.

Buying a dog will always be expensive for the consumer. Either someone can buy a healthy dog from a respected breeder and pay when they buy it, or they can buy a dog from a puppy mill and pay later in medical bills as the puppy may have breed-related diseases or cancer. Another side of the issue lies in the fact that many puppies are available in shelters constantly. It would be better for those looking into buying a dog to spend the money up front, knowing that their puppy has a better chance

of a healthier life. Refusing to support puppy mills by not buying directly from them or from a pet store will help to stop the cycle that abuses dogs.



Photo: aspc.org



Students Selected for PMEA All-State Ensembles

Seven Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the prestigious 2022 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Orchestra, Concert Band, and Chorus. The PMEA All-State ensembles are comprised of the best high school musicians from across Pennsylvania.

Senior Samuel Slember (double bass) was selected to play in the All-State Orchestra. Based on audition, Sam was named as principal bass, the first chair. The orchestra was conducted by Jason Seber, associate conductor of the Kansas City Symphony.

Juniors Elijah Conklin (French horn) and Lawrence Liu (flute), and sophomore Chloe Kim (clarinet) were selected to play in All-State Concert Band. The band was conducted by Dr. Jonathan Helmick, director of bands and associate professor of music at Slippery Rock University.

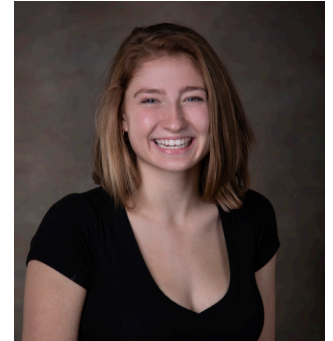
Seniors Gabrielle Bell (Soprano 2) and Simeon Owens (Tenor 1), and sophomore Micah Shelley (Tenor 2), were selected to sing in All-State Chorus. Based on audition, Gabrielle placed second out of all of the second sopranos across Pennsylvania. The All-State Chorus was conducted by Dr. Amelia Garbisch, director of music education and assistant professor at choral music Bloomsburg University.

The All-State Festival was held in conjunction with the PMEA Annual In-Service Conference April 6-9 in Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania.



FCAHS PMEA All-State 2022: The Fox Chapel Area High School students chosen to perform with PMEA All-State ensembles were front row, left to right, Chloe Kim, Gabrielle Bell, and Lawrence Liu, and back row, left to right, Micah Shelley, Elijah Conklin, Simeon Owens, and Samuel Slember.

Dering and Turnquist Named All-American Strength and Conditioning Athletes of the Year



Fox Chapel Area High School seniors David Dering and Lydia Turnquist were named 2022 All-American Athlete Strength and Conditioning Athlete of the Year Award recipients in swimming. The honor, given by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), recognizes high school and collegiate athletes whose athletic accomplishments reflect their dedication to strength and conditioning. The athletes are also recognized for their academic accomplishments, as well as their integrity as student-athletes. Both students are swimmers on the Fox Chapel Area High School swimming and diving team.

David and Lydia were nominated by Fox Chapel Area High School social studies teacher and interscholastic strength and conditioning head coach Brandon Peifer. According to Peifer, David and Lydia are both team leaders.

"David is dedicated to his sport and improving his performance through strength and conditioning. His leadership and work ethic are noticed by his teammates and coaches," Peifer says. "Lydia leads by example through her consistency and willingness to always give her best. She is respected by her teammates and coaches alike."

Founded in 1978, the NSCA is a nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the strength and conditioning and related sport science professions around the world. The NSCA exists to empower a community of professionals to maximize their impact through disseminating evidence-based knowledge and its practical application by offering industry-leading certifications, research journals, career development services, networking opportunities, and continuing education. The NSCA community is composed of more than 60,000 members and certified professionals throughout the world.



Conquering the Great Allegheny Passage

By Leah Kenyon

On April 29th, ten students, including myself, and four faculty members embarked on a challenging 150-mile bike ride from Cumberland, Maryland to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While we took only around two hours to drive to Cumberland from FCAHS, we took three days to bike back.

The Great Allegheny Passage (known as the GAP trail) connects Cumberland to Pittsburgh by a 150-mile path which takes the riders alongside railways, rivers, over rolling hills and bridges, and even through tunnels. In 1978, a deed was granted by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to build the first section of the trail between the towns of Confluence and Ohiopyle. Over the years, volunteers helped to build, extend, and maintain the trail. The C&O Canal trail connects 200 miles between Cumberland and Washington D.C. for an even bigger challenge. Physical Education teacher, Mr. Battista led the first GAP bike trip in 2003, although at the time, the trail was still incomplete so it was a shorter version of what now exists. Later, in 2014, he led a group along the C&O Canal trail. Then, in 2015 and 2018, groups of students completed the finished GAP trail. A ride was going to be held in 2020, but was postponed for two years due to the pandemic. Now, in 2022, the trip was able to successfully take place.



This sign marked the starting point of our journey and the distance to be traveled.

The group met outside the school on a chilly Friday morning to load up bikes and gear, and board the bus to Cumberland, Maryland. The first 20 miles or so of this trail are uphill. Eager to start, we biked 16 tough miles to Frostburg, MD where Mr. Norberg supplied us with materials to have a nice picnic lunch. Once finished, we kept climbing up, with the motivation of downhills and flat trails close in sight. We crossed the Mason Dixon Line into Pennsylvania and finally reached the Eastern Continental Divide. There, the continuous incline ended and the pace picked up. The rest of the day consisted of smooth riding along scenic views. Once everyone reached camp, dinners were enjoyed in silence after biking 44 miles. Then, camp was set up at the Husky Haven Campgrounds near Rockville, Pennsylvania.

A little sore from the day before, the group began the second day with purpose. We stopped to take a nice break beside the river and to avoid the crowds at the popular Ohiopyle, lunch was eaten in the small town of Confluence, but we did buy ice cream in



Gap Trail, continued...

Ohiopyle and enjoyed a hike down to view the powerful waterfall. Through that morning into the afternoon, the scenery changed from mountains and valleys to flowing rivers to tall woods. After lunch, we still had 21 more miles to bike until we reached our campsite. Everyone, going at their own pace, could ride peacefully, enjoying their surroundings. Finally reaching the campsite for the second night after completing 50 miles, we set up our tents, ate dinner, and prepared for rain.

The start of the third day was not as friendly as the previous two days and it was to be our longest day – 60 miles to get home. Thunder and rain greeted us as we got out of our tents and prepared for the final day of riding. Pushing through the muddy trails and avoiding a fallen tree, the group was motivated by the thought of reaching the finish. We avoided some rain storms after waiting for our lunch in a trailside cafe. Personally, I was tired when we reached our lunch stop



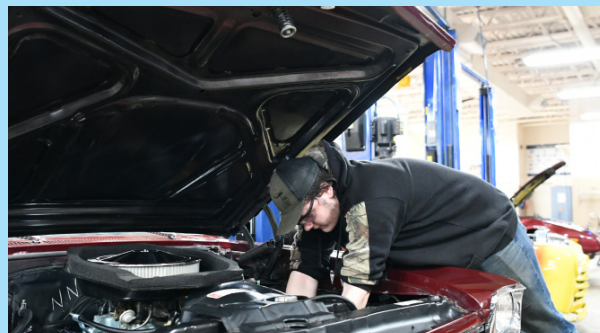
and was feeling discouraged, but when we walked outside, the sun came out, giving me new energy. With about 40 miles left, we got back on our muddy bikes and continued onward.

Reaching familiar landmarks further motivated us and the last 20 miles felt like a race to the finish. Biking up to the Point in downtown Pittsburgh after a total of 150 miles created a great sense of accomplishment. We biked the final three miles to Millvale, tired and muddy, but happy. Even though the trip was over, there was one more obstacle. A train derailment blocked the exit for the park in Millvale. Some of us escaped, but others were trapped until the train was finally removed almost two hours later. If I have the chance to do the trip again, I would. I learned what I could do if I just pushed myself and it was a great escape from stressful end-of-year exams.

Congratulations, Colin and Andrew!

Congratulations to Fox Chapel Area School District senior Colin Stephens who earned a \$10,000 scholarship by placing in the Greater Pittsburgh Automotive Dealers Association/Pennsylvania Automotive Association competition at CCAC West Hills!

Colin also won a variety of tools and vouchers for tools in the automotive field.



"I didn't expect to win anything and I didn't know they were giving out any scholarships that day, so it was a big surprise," Colin said. "That took the pressure off, and I honestly didn't expect to ever do anything like this and be so good at it that I could win a scholarship from a competition. So, again, I was really surprised and really happy."

Participants in the competition took a written test and also completed hands-on skills like measuring bearing clearances, brakes and electrical work.

Colin is a second-year student in A.W. Beattie's Automotive Technology program.

"I've always enjoyed learning how things like cars work and tinkering with them, so this program caters to that curiosity," Colin said. "I also know I can make a good career in a field that I love."

Colin plans to be an automotive technician.



Congratulations to Andrew Risinger, who was named a Student of the Month for March/April at the A.W. Beattie Career Center. Andrew is enrolled in A.W. Beattie's Emergency Response Technology program.



Students Win Awards at Regional Science & Engineering Fair One Qualifies for International Fair



Six Fox Chapel Area School District students recently won awards at the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) and one student qualified for an international science and engineering fair.

Junior Arvind Seshan was one of four overall winners and qualified to participate in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (Regeneron ISEF), where hundreds of students from nations across the world compete for prizes worth millions of dollars. Additionally, Arvind won a sponsor award from Facebook/Meta and affiliated sponsor awards from the Office of Naval Research U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. and the Yale Science and Engineering Association. He also won an associate scientist perseverance award. The name of Arvind's project is "Using Machine Learning to Augment Dynamic Time Warping (DTW) Based Signal Classification."

Freshman Rohit Velankar was named the first-place winner in the senior physics and astronomy category and also won a junior scientist perseverance award. Junior Lawrence Liu won second place in the senior division computer science and math category. Sophomore Lakshanya Rajaganapathi was named a fourth-place winner in the senior medicine, health, and microbiology category. Sophomore Adhitya Thirumala won the senior division Carnegie Science Award and an honorary scientist perseverance award.

The PRSEF is open to students in grades 6-12 from 21 counties in Western Pennsylvania and Garrett County in Maryland. Each year, approximately 1,000 students from more than 100 schools compete for more than \$1 million in cash, scholarships, and trips. All of the students who participated in the fair conducted individual science research and presented their projects to a committee of judges. The judging took place March 22 and 23 at the Carnegie Science Center. An awards ceremony was livestreamed March 25.

HOSA Club Competes in State Conference

The Health Occupational Students of America club (HOSA), the club for future health professionals, recently took a trip to King of Prussia to compete at the Pennsylvania HOSA State Conference. For three days, the students experienced speakers, symposiums, and competitions. Some were multiple choice tests, and others were project-based events. Two Fox Chapel students placed in their events. Junior, Jonathan Li won second place in the Research Poster event and sophomore, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi won second place in the Nutrition Objective test. Congratulations! HOSA is a club for anyone interested in learning more about health-related professions. Competing at the state conference gives students the chance to explore an aspect of healthcare that interests them, and provides a unique opportunity to learn about that topic. If you would like to join HOSA next year, contact Suzanne_Miller@fcasd.edu.



Sophomore Lakshanya Rajaganapathi (left) and junior Jonathan Li each won second-place silver awards at the 2022 PENN HOSA conference and qualified for the international competition.



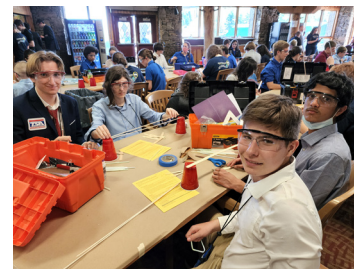
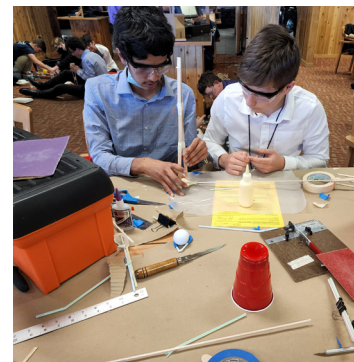
Above: Members of the Health Occupations Students of America club break for a group photo with their club sponsor, science teacher Suzanne Miller, during the PA State Conference in King of Prussia.

State TSA Conference Success



Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference which was held April 20-22, 2022, at Seven Springs. The Fox Chapel Area second-place winners were junior Ananth Kashyap and freshman Swati Mylarappa in the debating technological issues category. Ananth and Swati have both qualified for the 2022 National TSA Conference that will be held in June in Dallas, Texas. Additionally, in the state competition, senior Dylan Berman and junior Jonathan Li won fourth places, Swati also won a sixth place, juniors James Harris and Talis Jacob won ninth place, and freshmen Sangyon Park, Samuel Ummer, and Rohit Velankar won tenth places.

The TSA is a national organization of students engaged in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The group supports STEM-education goals through high school and middle school competitions, leadership, and teamwork activities for students. The Fox Chapel Area High School TSA advisors are teachers Joseph Gass, Mitch Palucis, and Justin Papariello.



FC Students Place at County Envirothon Competition



A team of Fox Chapel Area High School seniors recently won first place in the 2022 Allegheny County Envirothon competition. The team members qualified for the state competition and they are Maia Gravina, Sydney Inglis, Aurora Sauereisen, Kaylee Uribe, and Anushka Vis. Each member of the winning team will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The FC members of the winning Allegheny County Envirothon are, first row, left to right, Anushka Vis and Aurora Sauereisen, and back row, left to right, Sydney Inglis, Kaylee Uribe, and Maia Gravina.

For the Allegheny County Envirothon, teams of high school students compete in field testing using their

knowledge in five topic areas – soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and environmental issues. A total of 18 teams of students in grades nine-twelve from high schools across Allegheny County participated in the competition which was held April 29 at Boyce Park and was sponsored by the Allegheny County Conservation District. The state competition testing event will be held in late May onsite at Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, and a virtual question and answer component will be held in mid-May. Teams of high school students from across the state will participate.



Pictured above: Freshman Samuel Ummer, junior Will Rice, freshman Kyle Ong, junior Talis Jacob, and junior James Harris collaborate on an on-demand video shoot that was part of the TSA competition.

Celebrating Five Years of Success



By Katie Voigt

The Foxes Den was initiated in fall of 2017 as a business practicum course offered only to junior and senior students. Five years ago, this course originated from an idea to give students interested in business an opportunity to undergo an experience much like an internship. Students have the option to join three “teams” within the business: marketing, finance, and operations. Each sect has an important impact in helping to sell products, manage finances, and generate new product designs. This semester, in honor of the Den’s five-year anniversary, we interviewed three members of the class’s original team.



Amanda Nord

Amanda Nord, the first alum we interviewed, currently attends James Madison University and majors in media arts and design. Later this year, she plans on taking on an internship program in Los Angeles where she will be working for a company in the entertainment industry. When asked how working in the Foxes Den has been beneficial to her throughout college she

replied, “This course has definitely secured my love for a career in social media and content creating.” From taking the course, Amanda also mentioned that she learned how to appeal to a target audience and discover what medium of information will come across to an audience most effectively.

Brianna Smith attends Slippery Rock University and majors in Healthcare Administration and Management, concentrating in long-term care with a license in Personal Care Home Administration. Her favorite memory from the class was working with her classmates to figure out how she wanted to design the Foxes Den. She also enjoyed working in the store. Advice Smith would give to current students taking the class is, “Take advantage of it. If you’re genuinely interested in pursuing any sort of business-related degree, you have an amazing opportunity to get hands-on experience in running a business. Obviously it’s not 100% exact, but the foundation is being



Brianna Smith (right)

Foxes Den, continued...

built. You will dig deeper into the specifics during your college education, but this class looks great on resumes!”

The last student we interviewed was Paul Reiber, a senior at University of Pittsburgh. Majoring in finance and accounting with a minor in economics, Reiber also worked as a private equity analyst at GT Entrepreneurs and a financial services advisory intern at KPMG. When asked how the course has benefited him in college he said, “The course really confirmed to me that I wanted to study and pursue a career within finance. In addition, the work that we completed for the finances of the Foxes Den helped to provide me with a strong background for some of the initial courses I took in college. It also exposed me to other departments of running a business that I had less experience in, like marketing and operations.” A few life lessons he learned in the class included, “the importance



Paul Reiber



Brooke Bowman and Ryan Zatman were two of the friendly Foxes Den staff members of 2022.

of teamwork and playing to the strengths of every team member. Running a business oftentimes requires many different people and many different departments in order to be successful. It is essential to work together and weigh the opinions/ideas of the whole team in order to produce the best possible product/service.”

Congratulations to Mr. Yanizeski and everyone else who had a hand in developing the Foxes Den and making it what it is today. Surely this is just the first milestone for a program that will have longevity in our school community. If you are interested in working for the Foxes Den before graduation, talk with your guidance counselor. You won't be disappointed!

Students Place in State FBLA Competition/ Six Qualify for Nationals

Ten Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the 2022 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference. Junior Stephen Santilli and sophomore Joshua Brown won first places, junior Helia Hamidi and sophomore Ava McCaffrey won third places, and senior Paris Wohlgemuth and sophomore Maria Costantino won fourth places. All six of these students qualified to participate in the FBLA National Leadership Conference that will be held June 29-July 2 in Chicago, Illinois. Other state place-winners were senior Sydney Kennedy, junior Zachary Sullivan, sophomore Harry Littwin, and freshman Swati Mylarappa.

Additionally, as part of the state leadership conference, six Fox Chapel Area High School students were inducted into the National Business Honor Society. Those students are seniors Katherine Voigt and Paris Wohlgemuth, and juniors Aisling Beresford, Helia Hamidi, Diya Reddy, and Zachary Sullivan.

The FBLA State Leadership Conference was held April 11-13 both virtually and in person. Approximately 4,000 students from high schools across the state participated in the competition. The Fox Chapel Area High School FBLA sponsor is business education teacher Christina Congalton.

Essey Named Student of the Year by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society



Fox Chapel Area High School senior Hanna Essey has been named a 2022 Student of the Year by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Hanna and her team, Kick Out Cancer, raised a total of \$50,522.

Students of the Year is a seven-week fundraising challenge where high school student leaders raise money and awareness for the fight against blood cancers. The funds raised benefit the LLS mission: to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and Myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

This year, 18 high school candidate teams came together to raise more than \$830,000 toward the mission of the LLS.

A Choir Trip for the History Books



By Alex Navas

On April 1st, Fox Chapel's Choir Ensemble set off on two Coach buses for their spring trip. After extensive efforts from Mr. Murray and many others, the choir was able to take their first overnight trip since the pandemic hit. This year's choir was headed to Williamsburg, Virginia. First on the trip schedule was a stop at Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Colonial Williamsburg is the world's largest living history museum, as you enter, historical interpreters greet you, and horse-drawn carriages pass by. Filled with fine dining, historical buildings, and several shops, everyone had something to enjoy in Colonial Williamsburg. After a fun-filled day immersed in history, the choir headed to Bruton Parish Episcopal Church to perform in a candlelit church.. Bruton Parish Episcopal Church has been around since 1674 and to commemorate their past worshipers, people such as George Washington and James Madison are engraved on the box-pews of the church. The ensemble sang beautifully in what is one of the nation's most historic churches.

Saturday morning, the group got up to head over to the local farmers' market. The area had boutiques and gift shops lining the streets along with tents selling flowers, produce, and more. It was a calm morning to start the day and buy some souvenirs. Afterward, the bus drove over to Busch Gardens and the choir headed off to their favorite rides and attractions. Busch Gardens is known for its different country-themed sections and failed to disappoint. Everyone was either enjoying a ride, a carnival game, or even dinner with live music in the Italy section. Perhaps the best part of the trip was being able to just have time to bond with the choir and make some memories and the sunny weather didn't hurt. From sun up to sun down the group spent almost all day at Busch Gardens and came back with smiles and prizes. Speaking for most, I believe everyone went to bed that night pretty tired from all of the day's activities and got recharged for the next day.

Washington D.C. was the last stop for the choir. The group got to do a self-guided tour of the Smithsonian Museums and enjoyed lunch from the several food trucks lining the sidewalks. Everyone got to pick from a variety of museums to learn from and experience. Some personal favorites were the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Smithsonian Castle. Dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe concluded 2022's choir trip. This was one last final time to connect with peers and friends and everyone took advantage of the time. Eating, laughing and talking, the group finally headed onto the buses for the ride home. Thanks to Ben Bliss, the groups got to watch a couple of movies on the way home and there was never a dull moment. Although the trip was over, the bonds and memories the choir created will go on to make a more convivial ensemble to be a part of.



Student members of the FC choir ensembles gave a candlelit performance in at the Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg.

Students Selected for PMEA Chorus Festival and Honors Orchestras



Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region I Chorus. The students are seniors Gabrielle Bell, Andrew Byersdorfer, Jacob McWilliams, and Simeon Owens; juniors Lawrence Liu (accompanist), Ryder Smith, and Sam Smith; and sophomores Kristopher

Pizzella and Micah Shelley.

The choral group included 168 of the best singers from school districts throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The Region I Chorus concert was held March 25 at Butler Area Intermediate High School. The group was conducted by Michael Semancik, the visiting director of choral activities at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, where he conducts the chamber singers, the Goucher choral society, and the orchestra.

Twelve Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) honors orchestras.

•PMEA District 1 Honors Orchestra – Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students were chosen to participate in the 2021 PMEA District 1 Honors Orchestra. The students are seniors Nathaniel Mueller (violin), Samuel Slember (bass), and Ann Yonas (violin); juniors Aleksander Kirby (cello) and Daniel Wang (violin); sophomores Amelia Costello

(violin), Gloria Wen (violin), and Bridget Yun (cello); and freshman Anna Delale-O'Connor (violin).

Approximately 225 students from across the greater Pittsburgh area auditioned for the PMEA District 1 Honors Orchestra and only 60 were chosen to participate. The students rehearsed November 20 and 21 with a concert on November 21 at Fox Chapel Area High School. The orchestra was conducted by Mr. Douglas Droste, director of orchestras at Ball State University.

•PMEA District 1 Orchestra – Six Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by application to perform with the 2022 PMEA District 1 Orchestra. The orchestra was comprised of a select group of student-musicians from across the Pittsburgh area. The students chosen are seniors Andrew Byersdorfer (cello), Jonah Hertzman (oboe), Nathaniel Mueller (violin), and Samuel Slember (bass); junior Aleksander Kirby (cello); and sophomore Jacob Milgrub (cello). Additionally, based on audition, Sam was selected as the principal bass, first chair.



A total of 150 students were selected for the District 1 Orchestra Festival which was held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in January. The conductor was Ms. Desiree Overree, orchestra director at Seven Lakes High School in Texas.

•PMEA Western Region Orchestra – Fox Chapel Area High School senior Samuel Slember was selected by audition to perform with the 2022 PMEA Western Region State Orchestra. Samuel (double bass) was also selected as the principal bass, first chair.

Approximately 120 students were selected from the western half of Pennsylvania for the Western Region State Orchestra. The festival was scheduled to be held at DuBois High in February, but was canceled due to inclement weather.

National Art & Writing Award Winners

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students were named national winners in the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. In the art portion of the national contest, sophomore Nicholas Goodman won a Gold Medal for his photograph titled "Memory of Quebec." In the writing portion of the national contest, senior Anna Ferris won a Silver Medal for her short story, "The Last Line of Defense."

This year, more than 260,000 works of art and writing were submitted by students in grades 7-12 through regional contests. Prior to being named national winners, Nicholas and Anna were named Gold Key winners in the 2022 Pittsburgh Region of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. At the national level, the works of art and writing were judged by a panel of creative-industry experts, and less than 2,000 received national Gold or Silver Medals. Only the top 1% of all entries earn national recognition.

For being named a national Gold Key winner, Nicholas and his teacher, Amy Wickman, have been invited to attend



Sophomore Nicholas Goodman's Gold Medal winning photograph titled "Memory of Quebec."

a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 9. Additionally, Nicholas' photograph will be published in the Online Galleries at artandwriting.org in June. His name will also be listed in Yearbook 2022, a companion to the annual publications Best Teen Art and Best Teen Writing, which feature selections of works by national medalists.

According to Chris Wisniewski, the executive director of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the nonprofit organization that presents the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, "Each year we are continually impressed by the level of creativity demonstrated by our nation's teens. Even more impressive are the individuality, vulnerability, sensitivity, and passion reflected in their work. Teens and their teachers have been living through truly unprecedented times, enduring unbelievably challenging circumstances."

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards continues to be the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the U.S.



After three long years, DESI night finally returned on May 24th. The show featured various dances and styles from Indian culture. The D.E.S.I. (Designated Ethnic Society of India) club was formed in order to spread an understanding of Indian culture through dance and music. Congratulations to all involved; we are so happy DESI night was able to return this year after extensive preparation from the whole club. I'm extremely proud of all of our members who were dancing on stage for the first time; it takes courage to step out of your comfort zone to try something new and perform in front of an audience.

DESI hosts this event annually to share Indian culture with the rest of our community. This year the program consisted of one classical dance solo, a teacher dance, and three group dances. This year, the dance styles included Bharatanatyam, Bollywood, and Bhangra. We ended with a dinner that consisted of delicious food from Spice Affair.

When asked for feedback on our event, one student

DESI Night

By Swati Mylarappa

said, "Desi Night was amazing. Having to coordinate everyone to dance in sync is really hard, and it was pulled off perfectly. Massive congrats to Sid Yende and the rest of the Desi Club for doing this. I am also really really proud of everyone for doing a justice to the school. Participating in these types of events allows more people to be exposed to different cultures. Overall, I was really glad to be a part of Desi Night!"

The production of this event allowed for our club members to bond with their peers while learning choreography and feel connected through music. The practices we hosted allowed for a fun end to the school day. Most of us didn't know the words being said in the music, due to not knowing how to speak Hindi or Punjabi. But as we learned the choreography, we learned the meaning of our dance moves

as it lined up with the lyrics. It was awesome to see the product of everyone's hard work, and we hope to have more productions like this in the future! Join Desi Club if you haven't already! DESI welcomes all! We would be so happy to have you as part of next year's production!



Mrs. Butkovic, Mrs. Montgomery, Sra. Finley, Mr. Rios and Mrs. Polesiak performed in the teacher dance, a favorite part of DESI night.

Serving Up the WPIAL Championship

Photo: wavemag.ca

By Russell Fenton

Few outside observers expected Fox Chapel to defeat Shady Side Academy in the WPIAL boys' tennis title on May 11. Shady Side had defeated the Foxes 4-1 in section play, so they were undoubtedly expected to win again. However, the Foxes upset Shady Side in a 5-0 victory to win the WPIAL Championship. Making the win even more impressive: two of Shady Side's players had won a WPIAL doubles championship just a week prior. Sophomore Will Siegel beat Shady Side's David Mnuskin, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, and junior Cooper Friday knocked off Sam Bitzer, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6.

"It's great to have a rivalry with Shady Side," Fox Chapel

Coach Alex Slezak said. "I know many of the Shady Side kids from teaching tennis at the Fox Chapel Golf Club, and I know many of the kids who belong to the golf club. We compete seriously against each other, but we root for each other as well. Having such a rival pushes you to be better." Despite being seeded sixth in the playoffs, the Foxes were not intimidated. "We all knew that our seeding didn't mean anything," Siegel said. "Our coach told us that seeds are what other people think of you, but the results are what you think of yourself."

The victory gave Fox Chapel its fifth boys' team tennis title in six years.

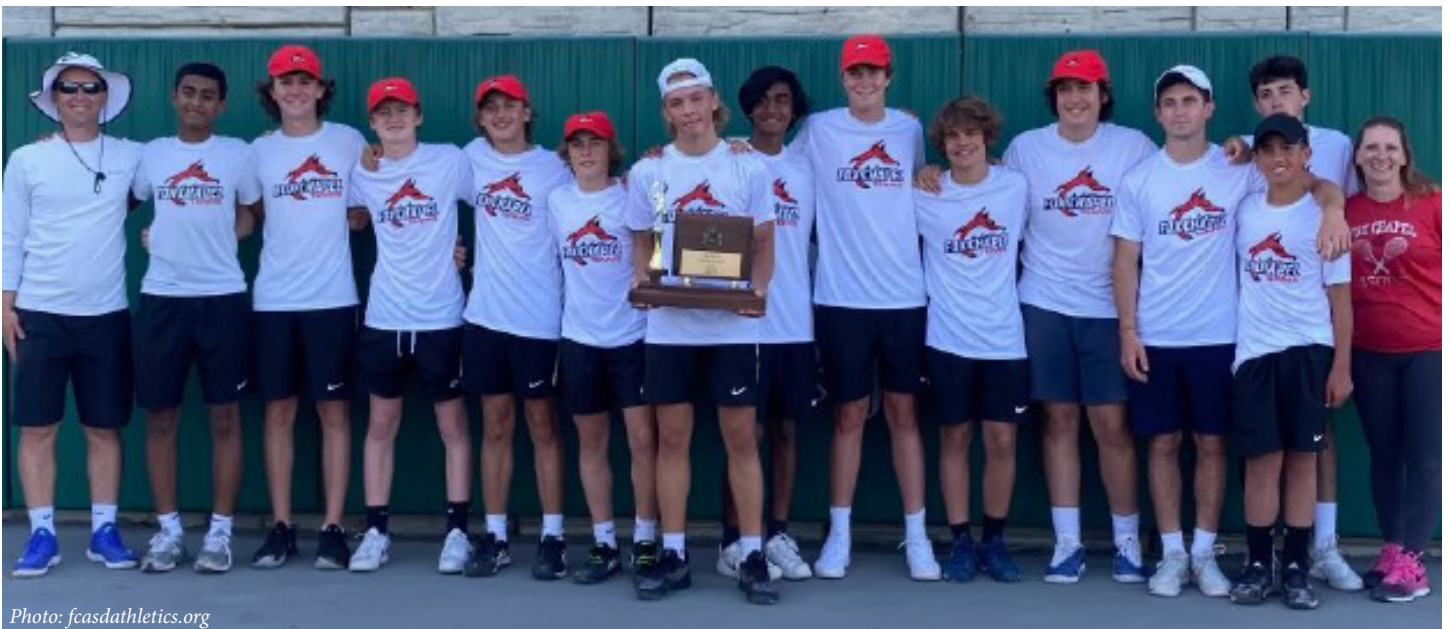
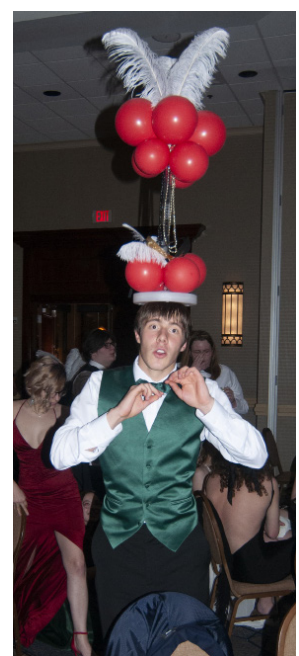


Photo: fcasdathletics.org







King of PA Battle Bots

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the PA BotsIQ 2022 Finals Competition. Core team members are seniors Dino Iasella and Shrivardhan Thada, junior Adam Zimmerman, and sophomore Eduardo Phelan-Vidal. The Fox Chapel Area students placed first as the “King of the Ring” for their dominating performance during the multi-opponent “Royal Rumble.” The team also tied for 13th in the battle bracket and won fourth place for engineering documentation, placing them eighth in the overall grand champion standings. The team’s 15-pound



Colin Murphy, Dino Iasella, Shri Thada, Eduardo Phelan-Vidal and Selin Geylani frantically repair the front plate of their robot between battles.

Byersdorfer, Zachary Miller, Collin Murphy, and Miguel Quemado; juniors Tatiana Free, Samuel Kuhns, Ramadani Mada, and Nathaniel Merriman; sophomores Ava McCaffrey, Keya Patro, and Lucy Rygelski; and freshmen Benjamin Fiedler, Selin Geylani, Swati Mylarappa, Shreyas Rhotagi, Keegan Scanlon, and Holden Starz.

The state competition was held at California University of Pennsylvania April 29 & 30. A total of 58 teams across Pennsylvania participated. The next level of contests, the 2022 National Robotics League National Competition, will be held May 20 & 21, at Robert Morris University. At the national competition, the Fox Chapel Area students will compete against the best teams in the nation.



The Battle Bot ring.

BotsIQ is a manufacturing workforce development program whose goal is to provide a pathway for high school students to learn about rewarding career options in manufacturing. This is accomplished by inviting students to participate in exciting, hands-on high school robotics competitions.

One Team, One Dream



By Alina Stiger

Coming out of a successful, record-breaking season, the Fox Chapel Area High School softball team showed no signs of slowing down. With returning pitcher Mackenzie Borkovich back on the mound and the rest of her supporting infield, the Foxes continued to train and work hard. “I think we have another great chance of going to states and even further,” said assistant coach Jim Muir at the start of the season. With passionate coaching, and a new addition to the coaching staff, Calle Zmenkowski, the team had all the support they need to push each other to their best.

It is safe to say all team members had hopes for another successful season and many personal goals as well. “I know that this will be another good season, especially in our section,” said catcher Amelia Herzer. With returning seniors: Mackenzie Borkovich, Riley Culleiton, Amelia Herzer, Kate Kinst, Brynn Palmer, and Macayla Weiner, the team had more than enough experience to help train and guide the young and aspiring JV players. “I’m really excited to be a part of a well-experienced team, and a team that is so close to each other,” said freshman Melissa Peitz. Melissa and many other freshmen were excited to learn new skills this season.

Every player contributed to the overall continuous success of this year’s season. Whether it was Kate Kinst’s or Brianna Hnatow’s base running, DH Catie Troutman, or the rest of the team supporting their teammates in the dugout, the Foxes had support in every corner of the field. Team

members such as Riley Culleiton and Macayla Weiner agreed, “This team is a second family to me”. Their official season has come to an end but each of them created bonds with each other that will only continue to strengthen the team for years to come. They

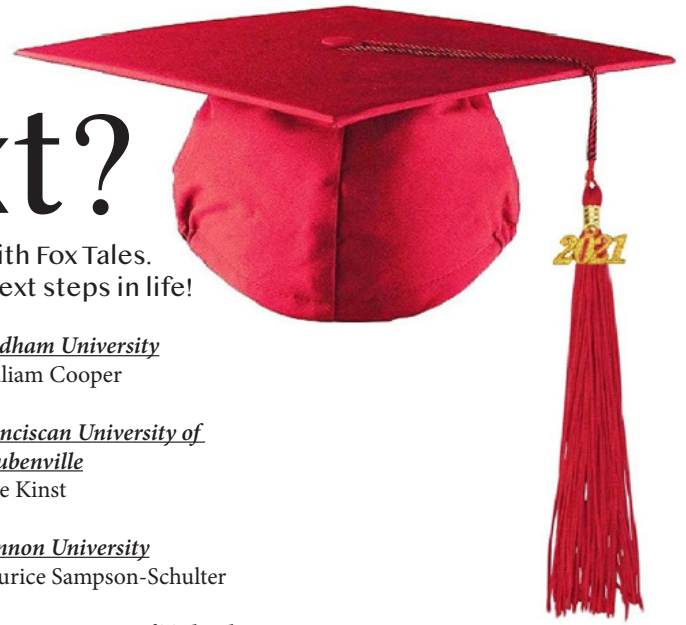


The FC Girls Softball team ended their 2022 season with the title of "Section Champs" for the first time since 2015.

created a family dynamic on the team that has each other's backs, on and off the field.

The Foxes’ intensity and cohesive efforts carried them into the playoff season. Unfortunately, the season ended sooner than many of the girls had hoped. After an excruciating game filled with upsetting calls and decisions made by the umpires, the Foxes (ranked 6), lost their game against Chartiers Valley (ranked 11). However, their season was far from unsuccessful. “They’re making history as we are sitting here speaking,” Coach Jim Muir explained. The Fox Chapel Girls Softball team ended their 2022 season with the title of “Section Champs” for the first time since 2015.

Class of 2022... What's Next?



Thank you to all who took the time to share their plans with Fox Tales.
We wish all of the graduates nothing but happiness in their next steps in life!

American University

Patrick Alexander
Alexa Berman
Griffin Kerstetter

Belmont University

Gabrielle Kline

Berklee College of Music

Olivia Pelcher

Brown University

Siddharth Yende

Bucknell University

Erin Drahnak

Carlow University

Amelia Herzer
Emilia Flanagan

Carnegie Mellon University

Gabrielle Bell
Owen Hershey
Janise Kim
Ashton Schutzman
Nathaniel Mueller

Case Western University

Ann Yonas

Catholic University of America

Kaitlyn Legge

Chatham University

Hunter Wyman
Oden Due

Clemson University

Bridget Kilmer

Cleveland Institute of Art

Owen Carter

College of Charleston

Rachel Grimsley

Community College of

Allegheny County

Abigail Bliss
Alex Carlini
Bobby Chacko
Meghan DeLuca
Katelyn Dieckmann
Ethan Hunt

Community College of Allegheny County, continued...

Angelica Koval
Grace Leventry
Ian McDonald
Mannix McKaveney
Rooney McManus
Jacob McWilliams
Luke Murray
Bryn Palmer
Adeline Piper
Hannah Shepherd
Christina Tran

Concordia University

Hugo Leboulanger

Cornell University

Westin Carnevale
Justine Eng

Depauw University

Lauren Childs

Drexel University

Gabrielle Uku

Duquesne University

Nicholas Contento
Kara DiNatale
Dino Iasella
Natalie Kohler
Evan Kotchey
Alex Staud
Lucy Valkanas
Troy Welty

Eastern Kentucky University

Jonah Compton
Aidan Squire

Edinboro University

Jake Stahl
Zidane Thomas

Emory University

Claire Hamilton

Endicott University

Simeon Owens

Florida Atlantic University

Thomas Fravel

Fordham University

William Cooper

Franciscan University of Steubenville

Kate Kinst

Gannon University

Maurice Sampson-Schulter

Georgia Institute of Technology

Russell Fenton
Shrivardhan Thada

George Mason University

Vasileios Benos

George Washington University

Marissa Cupps

Grove City College

David Dering

Hamilton College

Thomas Healy

Heidleberg University

Wilson Runnette

Indiana University - Bloomington

Brooke Bowman
Olivia Hager
Aiden March
Alex Zatman
Ryan Zatman

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Amber Lee
Hannah Poole

John Carroll University

Kathryn Sipe
Sam Rockwell

Kent State University

Fania Parlour

LaRoche University

Jacob Shelestak

Lebanon Valley College

Ashley Good-Lang

Lehigh University

Hanna Essey

Loyola Marymount University

Rei Sperry

Loyola University of Chicago

Elia Gillespie

Loyola University of Maryland

Beata Turnquist

Mercyhurst University

Jason Williams - Anderson

Miami University

Owen Delaney
Max Johnson
Riley Johnson
Anna Nury
John Tramontina
Mira Tramontina
Eli Yofan

New York University

Shea Davison
Omar Shalaby

North Carolina State University

Jessica Balk

North Hills Beauty Academy

Elizabeth Kauper

Northeastern University

Nabeela Islam

Northwestern University

Lance Wilhelm

Ohio State University

Miguel Quemado

Ohio University

Collin Murphy

Pace University

Luca Pistella

Pennsylvania College of Technology

John Filo

Ivan Rapp

Penn State University

Eric Baker

Salim Bastress

Baylin Bitar

Andrew Byersdorfer

Ian Chamberlain

Jacob Donovan

Grace Flanagan

Olivia Guerrieri

Jack Hourvitz

Brett Kauffman

Alex Krist

Ian Mackey-Piccolo

Delaney Miller

Joshua Poznick

Carter Rowe

Maddox Rutkowski

Grace Rygelski

Oliver Smith

James Trageser

Nicole Trasatti

Penn State University – Behrend

Ian Akhand

*Penn State University – New**Kensington*

Tristan Sacco

Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics

Noah Snider

Pittsburgh Technical College

Anthony DePasquale

Haylie McKinley

Point Park University

Julia Stutzman

Princeton University

Anna Ferris

Rhode Island School of Design

Emily Hook

Ringling College of Art and Design

Braden McCormick

Robert Morris University

Sadie Terrick

Jordan White

Rochester Institute of Technology

Sophie Pilarski

Samuel Slember

Saint Bonaventure University

Brendan Kost

Saint Francis University

Emma Szymanski

Saint Joseph's University

Holden Smith

Saint Lawrence University

Aurora Sauerisen

Saint Louis University

Calla Truschel Jacobs

Saint Olaf College

Quentin Cook

Esther Nawrocki

Saint Vincent College

Ryan Browell

Jacob DeMotte

Olivia Poli

Santa Clara University

Katherine Voigt

Seton Hill University

Carissa Shepard

Slippery Rock University

Mackenzie Borkovich

Mackenzie Hartman

Stanford University

Zoe Lakkis

Syracuse University

Nolan Adams

Alaina Kaselwicz

Benjamin Vesper

Temple University

Justine Bennertt

Iona Clark

Zeidon Davis Bismil

Ellen Gray

Allison Monroe

Alyson Ngo

Lydia Turnquist

The College of New Jersey

Nathaniel Ross

Union College

Eleanor Peterson

University of California Irvine

Christina Lee

University of Cincinnati

Jonah Hertzman

University of Colorado – Boulder

Mia Krushansky

Isabella Stern

Mackayla Weiner

University of Florida

Nicholas Mascilli

University of Georgia

Sydney Kennidy

University of Kentucky

Sarah Giuffre

*University of Massachusetts**Amherst*

Julia DeMarco

University of Miami

Hope Matthis

Lauren Rabbitt

University of Michigan

Nina Busch

Madeline Dick

Isabella Geraci

Esther Ko

University of Pittsburgh

Jahmire Butler

Zhiyi Chen

Maia Gravina

Jordan Gwin

Sydney Inglis

William Kwiatkowski

Margo Levenson

John Lorence

Uma Muzumdar

Ethan Napolitan

Sangmin Park

Vincent Reiber

Finnbar Ruff

Kaylee Uribe

Anushka Vis

Ava Vita

Eduardo Weissmann

Paris Wohlgemuth

*University of Pittsburgh –**Greensburg*

Ashish Subedi

Jonathan Traub

*University of Pittsburgh –**Johnstown*

Ava Marsico

University of Pittsburgh – Bradford

Danielle Lorch

Raymond Worsen

University of Rochester

Laura Klamut

Ariana Pasquella

Daniel Thomas

University of South Carolina

Louise Coleman

University of Tennessee – Knoxville

Clayton Sauereisen

University of Valley Forge

Danielle Horne

University of Vermont

Grace Heary

University of Virginia

Zoe Skirboll

University of Washington

Annabel Siddons

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Charlie Barnett

Madeline Muller

Vanderbilt University

Mona Gerges

Virginia Tech

Aidan Gleason

Washington and Jefferson

Colin Kwiatkowski

Waynesburg University

Tyler Drum

West Virginia University

Sean Ahia

Henry Byrne

Collin Dietz

Riley McIntyre

William McNamara

Zachary Miller

Whittenberg University

Francesca Heidinger

Gap Year

Elizabeth Crookston

Max Germanos

Sasha Hainan

Jarred Helgert

Abigail Kusluch

Mia Martier

Finn Munroe

Leonardo Roc Martinez

Ian Shelvey

Olivia Tull

Cullen Sunday

Anna Szymanski

Chloe Rongier

Military

Nooruldeen Ghazi

Yousuf Ghazi

Andrew Reisinger



The best thing about Memories ...is making them



Politics in the New Frontier

By Abraham White

As Russia's war in Ukraine continues to prompt horror and global condemnation, the United States has been forced to re-evaluate its relationship with the country. Currently, the state of diplomatic relations between Russia and the US is at levels unseen since the Cold War. But how does this relationship affect their partnership aboard one of humanity's most expensive and important creations of all time, the International Space Station?

Answer: it doesn't, for now. Due to the hazardous and expensive nature of space travel, countries tend to stick together. The ISS was designed with cooperation in mind. Its individual components are highly modular, with a Russian segment to aid in navigation and an American segment providing electricity and power. After the discontinuation of America's space shuttle program in 2012, most astronauts and cosmonauts hitched a ride to the ISS aboard the Russian Soyuz. Constructed in the 1960s, it was originally designed for the Russian lunar program. However, its versatility and reliability made it an ideal choice for transportation to the edge of space. This codependence is a pillar of the ISS program.

That's not to say there haven't been close calls. During Russia's 2014 Annexation of Crimea, the United States levied heavy sanctions against the country. NASA effectively cut ties with Russia, with one exception: the ISS. This sentiment was not reciprocated on the Russian side, with Dmitry Rogozin, director of Roscosmos, tweeting, "After analyzing the sanctions against our space industry, I suggest to the USA to bring their astronauts to the International Space Station using a trampoline." He followed up this tweet with a video simulation of the Russian component of the ISS detaching and stranding an American astronaut on board. While this never came to pass, the tweets highlight the strained relationship between Russia and the US. More recently, Rogozin published even more inflammatory tweets in response to the United States' continued sanctions on Russia regarding the Ukraine invasion. In these tweets, he threatened to allow the ISS to fall out of orbit onto European and American territory. Again, this wouldn't happen. But the message, especially

from someone in a position of power in the Russian space agency, is concerning.

Russian and American crew members of the ISS tell a very different story. Astronauts have repeatedly gone on record to state their commitment to unity and unified exploration of space. Not much has changed aboard the ISS in the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea and their invasion of Ukraine. Astronauts and cosmonauts still work side by side on scientific experiments that advance our understanding of the world around us and what lies beyond our perception. Recently, despite threats from Roscosmos, three astronauts returned to Earth aboard a Soyuz spacecraft: two Russians, and one American. Notably, before departing the ISS, the men exchanged friendly hugs during their remaining time in a neutral zone.

While this seems like it bodes well for the future of space exploration, there is a catch. The ISS is old. NASA recently confirmed that the station will be retired in 2031. What will take its place? Commercial space companies have been quick to step up, offering cheaper, reliable transportation into orbit. Many companies, such as Axiom and Lockheed Martin, have put forward space station concepts that could serve as a follow-up to the ISS. While these programs are incredibly promising, they leave someone out: Russia. The United States has turned its focus to not only orbit but to the moon with the Artemis program. In collaboration with European partners, NASA will establish a presence on the moon. China has also stated intentions for a lunar program and is on track to finish its own space station by the end of this year. Russia, however, has been largely left out of major international partnerships. The country is currently developing another orbital station strictly for Russian use. Once the ISS is retired, a continued Russian-United States partnership seems unlikely.

Space exploration is something uniquely human. It's dangerous, expensive, and extremely difficult. However, the payoff, the scientific knowledge we gain about our existence, is priceless. But as the world grows more and more divided, so too does space. What was once something to unite the world has become an extension of its issues.

A word cloud illustrating concepts related to diversity and inclusion. The central words are "celebration", "diversity", and "inclusion". Other prominent words include "support", "pride", "gender", "cultural", "equality", "labour", "migrants", "positive", "empowerment", "occupation", "rural", "caste", "refugees", "invisible", "children", "demographic", "isolation", "background", "perception", "violence", "marginalised", "research", "community", "beliefs", "youth", "age", "roles", "norms", "poverty", "division", "approach", "clan", "tribe", "access", "same", "negative", "security", "literacy", "barriers", "social", "education", "health", "urban", "prevalence", "context", "discrimination", "allies", "safety", "practices", "approach", "religion", "safeguarding", and "stigma".

The end of this school year marked an amazing period for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council of Fox Chapel. Created two years ago, DEI strived to put the focus back on its students, fostering initiatives and conversations meant to create more equitable spaces on campus. For a while, COVID-19 introduced many setbacks for us, but as things have started to shift into normalcy, DEI has been able to make major strides on and off campus.

“DEI has taken major steps in the direction of unifying people with in-person events,” says DEI co-founder Kaylee Ubric. “It was hard last school year because so many of our events were online, but some of our most successful events this year, like the Ceiling Tile Unity Event, were successful because we were able to gather and talk face-to-face!”

One of our first events of this school year was the Ceiling Tile Event, which was last semester. During this event, clubs were given the opportunity to showcase their activities/members and paint a tile for their club. They were also able to compete for a monetary prize for the funding of their club if they had the most votes on their tile. This was a fun event which we hope to have more of next year.

questions relating to their experiences and their careers.

Recently, we had a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new DEI Room. The room is going to be available as a safe place for everyone who needs a break from the busy school, as well as provide a good place for studying.

Though DEI has made significant progress over the past year, our work isn't done yet. Many active members are anticipating future events and collaborations that will, hopefully, continue to promote diversity within Fox Chapel.

"I'm definitely excited to see what we can do with the new DEI room," says rising senior Ishaan Acharya. "We can host a lot more educational and other

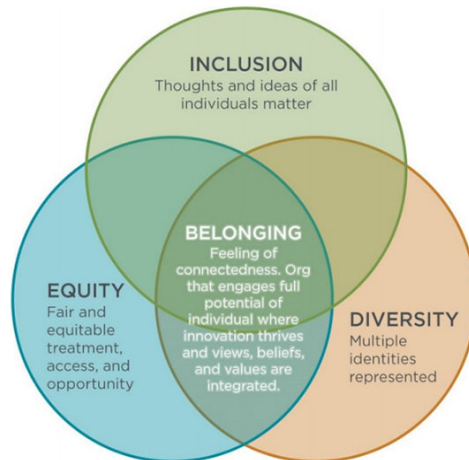
community events. I'd love to see what we can accomplish."

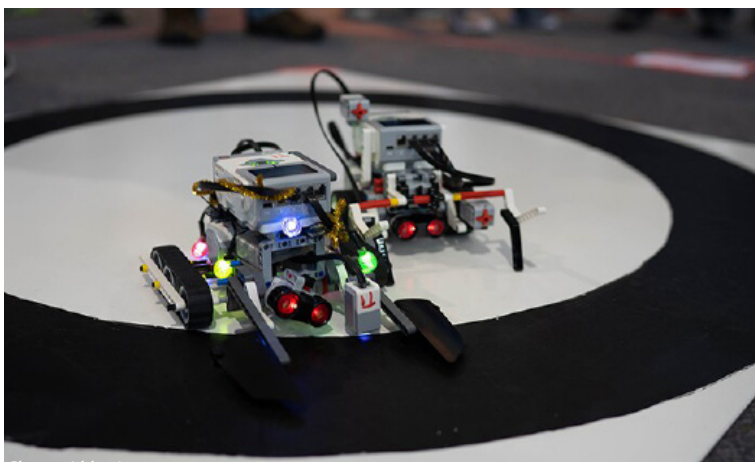
Beyond what DEI can directly contribute to Fox Chapel, the organization itself is always looking for ways to improve in order to fulfill our mission statement.

“Having more people take initiative would help for sure, but if more students came to our events or meetings just to listen, that would be amazing as well!” affirms Kaylee.

Ultimately, DEI set out to foster an environment of compassion, empathy, and inclusivity for Fox Chapel. Yet, the aspirations of the organization's co-founders quickly grew and led to the formation of one of the school's most exciting organizations.

"I'm so grateful to be leaving high school knowing that this council has so much kindness to spread," finishes Kaylee. "I can't wait to see what's in the works!"





FC's Unified Robotics Program Expands Inclusion Efforts

Building on its recognition as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, Fox Chapel Area High School recently added a Unified Robotics program, the first of its kind in the eastern United States.

The goal of Unified Robotics is twofold: to expose students with and without disabilities to engineering, programming, and robotics, as well as to foster social inclusion, equity, understanding, and belonging.

Meeting every Thursday after school during the six-week season, students without disabilities who are members of the high school's Best Buddies organization work alongside peers with disabilities to build robots using Lego Mindstorms and Lego Spike Prime robots donated by the Lego Foundation, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), and The Walt Disney Co. Each small team designs, builds, and programs its own robot. On the final competition day, each team presented their robot and its features to judges then competed in a tournament-style event. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams.

Junior Hyunsu Ro says he enjoys coding the robot, making it move, and engaging it in battle.

"I want to keep coming because this is different than what you learn during the school day," he says.

Junior Arvind Seshan is leading the program in its inaugural year, along with faculty sponsor Dr. Stacie Dojonovic, the district's transition coordinator. Arvind says he became involved with Unified Robotics through his own involvement in similar activities.

"Robotics competitions and STEM events taught me the value of collaboration," he says. "I wanted to bring this

opportunity to students of all abilities at Fox Chapel Area. I felt that Special Olympics Unified Robotics was a perfect program because it brings together robotics, teamwork, and communication skills."

Arvind says he doesn't plan to stop with Unified Robotics.

"Plans are also underway for a Unified Hackathon at Fox Chapel Area," he says. "Our goal is to pilot these programs at Fox Chapel this year and then help other schools in Western Pennsylvania start the programs as well. As a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, we can play the role of helping initiate new programs like these in our region that foster inclusion in social, athletic, and academic events."

Dr. Dojonovic, who also helps to oversee the

Unified Track and Field and Unified Bocce teams at the high school, as well as the Unified Soccer team at Dorseyville Middle School, credits Arvind and his peers for their work

in expanding Special Olympics Unified programs into the academic realm.

"Unified Robotics is truly driven by the students who wanted additional outlets offered for all students to build upon the already existing monthly social inclusion and athletic opportunities," she says.

"From selecting their team name to designing and programming their robots, everyone works together and celebrates together," Arvind adds.



Unified Robotics

A Little Literature:

A quarterly blurb about books you might not have heard of...YET!

By Shriya Krishnamurthy

TODAY'S TOPIC:

Let's Take to the Skies with Giant Magic Birds!

I know that most people have heard of the phoenix. Yes, I mean the enormous flying bird the color of fire, that has healing properties and other magical powers. The one that bursts into flame and is reborn as another phoenix. Now here's a question: have you ever heard about giant magical CROWS?

I didn't think so. Here are some pretty great books about both of these magical birds!

Crown of Feathers by Nicki Pau Preto



Photo: amazon.com

time, but to no avail. When only one of the two phoenix eggs hatches, it bonds to Veronyka. This makes Val extremely jealous, compelling her to try and kill the baby bird, and more or less succeeds. Veronyka is heartbroken at her sister's betrayal, so she decides to go and try to find the Phoenix Riders in hiding. Of course, she first gets turned down, as the Riders only accept males into their training program. So Veronyka does the only rational thing she can think of - she cuts her hair and disguises herself as a boy. Being raised with tales about the kind, legendary warriors who protected the once- prosperous empire (before it turned evil), she doesn't expect to be turned down when she asks to train with the Phoenix Riders. Veronyka, disguised as Nyx, needs to survive her probationary period to even be considered for selection. Will she be able to do it, all while hiding her animal magic and the feared and forbidden *shadow magic*?

Storm Crow by Kalyn Josephson

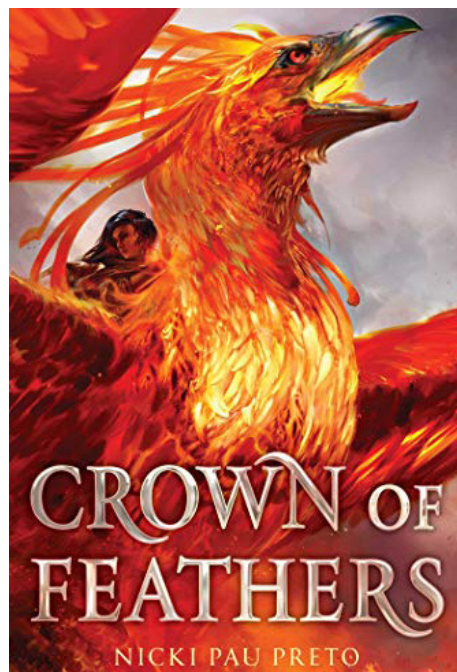


Photo: amazon.com

Always second to her sister, the heir to the throne, Thia has accepted her future as becoming her sister's most trusted warrior, the head crow rider of the royal guard. Having been training for this her whole life, she does not expect her life to be turned upside down in just one day. The neighboring kingdom of Illucia, sworn enemies to Thia's home kingdom of Rhodaire, somehow finds a way to invade and burn all of the dormant crow eggs, the future of Rhodaire's army, along with the Queen and her second. Now Thia's sister, Caliza, the new queen of Rhodaire, is forced to make a decision. She arranges a marriage between Thia and the crown prince of Illucia, Prince Ericen. Depressed and still grieving for her mother, Thia refuses to accept the marriage, almost dooming her entire kingdom to the wrath of the Illucians. But when Thia finds an unhatched crow egg in the ruins of the nursery, she agrees to the marriage, if only to find a way to tear apart Illucia from the inside. With an unhatched egg (that shows no sign of hatching any time soon) and a devilish prince to handle, not to mention his psychotic mother, will Thia be able to save her kingdom before all hope is lost?

Florida's "Don't Say Gay" Bill Should Matter to You – Here's Why

By Mahitha Ramachandran

In February, Florida's House of Representatives passed the "Parental Rights in Education" Bill, now widely known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill. Almost immediately, educators, parents, and students across the state condemned the bill, which bans the "classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity." Students across Florida organized walkouts, signed petitions, and took to social media to criticize the bill's attempt to silence LGBTQ+ identities and protest its passing, noting the harmful effects it will have on the already marginalized LGBTQ+ community. Despite these efforts, the Florida Senate passed the bill in early March, and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed it just a few weeks later. Now, the Don't Say Gay bill is set to go into effect in Florida next month.

But we aren't in Florida. Nearly 1,000 miles away and governed by a different state government, the Pittsburgh area is far from the jurisdiction of Tallahassee lawmakers. So, why should we care? Florida's Don't Say Gay bill has nothing to do with Pennsylvania, much less students in Fox Chapel, right?

While this mindset may be the easier option, it is a harmful one. The danger of the Don't Say Gay bill lies in the bigotry it is built on and therefore validates, which extends far beyond Florida's borders. In fact, bills similar to the one passed in Florida are being written up and introduced in state legislatures across the country. Moreover, though,

Florida's Don't Say Gay bill does not stand in isolation; rather, it is part of a recent onslaught of legislation targeting the LGBTQ+ community. From restricting transgender youth's participation in sports and depriving them of gender affirming care to legalizing discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in the name of religious freedom, lawmakers across the country are finding any way to ostracize and silence LGBTQ+ identities. Writing

this kind of overt hate into law, even in one state, emboldens and rewards homophobia and transphobia everywhere, regardless of the physical scope of the legislation. Pennsylvania is not exempt from this trend. Only communities taking an active stand against bigoted policymakers and legislation everywhere will be able to preserve safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community.

It is vital that we stand in solidarity with those

directly suffering under recent anti-LGBTQ+ laws, not despite but especially because we are physically distanced from them. When they are silenced, we must advocate even louder. Rather than writing off states where these laws are being enacted, now is the time to recognize and stand with the LGBTQ+ people fighting daily for their rights. Regardless of where you live and whether or not you are part of the LGBTQ+ community, Florida's Don't Say Gay bill and others which mimic its intention should matter to you. There is no true justice if it does not extend to everyone, so the fight continues.



Critics of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill protest in St. Petersburg.
nbcnews.com

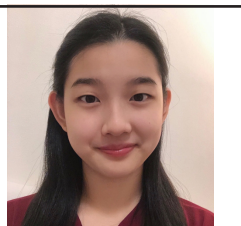
MEET THE STAFF



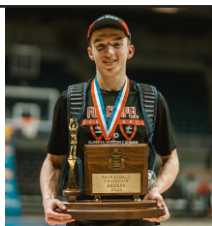
Annalese
Bartolacci



Andrew
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Justine
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Russell
Fenton



Josie
Giguere



Katie
Haas



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Hamidi



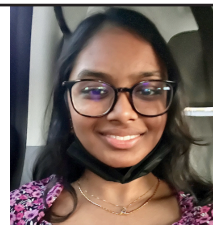
Trevor
Katz



Leah
Kenyon



Shriya
Krishnamurthy



Nia
Lingam



Mahitha
Ramachandran



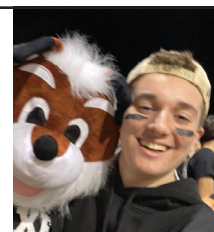
Paris
Ricketts



Safiya
Stewart



Kaylee
Uribe



Abraham
White



Ann
Yonas

SPECIAL THANKS TO HILLS STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY, GORDON SNYDER PHOTOGRAPHY, BONNIE BERZONSKI, AND JILL LEONARD FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

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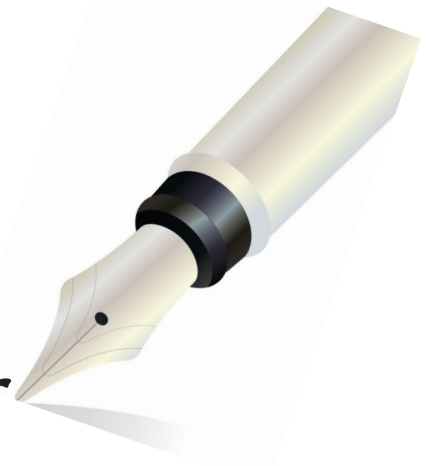
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Fox Tales is a quarterly news publication created by the students of Fox Chapel Area High School. The mission of this publication is to showcase the many positive happenings in the Fox Chapel Area School District and surrounding community. Fox Chapel Area School District is comprised of six municipalities: Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel and Sharpsburg boroughs, and Indiana and O'Hara townships. To contribute articles, photographs, or letters, please contact the Fox Tales faculty sponsor, Lisa Gibson, at Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu or 412-967-2479. Letters should not exceed 350 words.



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