

**FOX TALES**

*Quarterly*

A STUDENT PUBLICATION

**A Batch of Good Will 10**

**Sugary-Sweet Prom 11**

**The Big List 22**





# PRSEF 2017

BY BRIDGET WANG

The Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF), much like PJAS, is an annual science fair where students in grades 6-12 can compete for over \$1 million in awards and scholarships. Students are asked to conduct a fair and controlled experiment, but instead of giving a formal presentation, they put together a trifold amidst the hundreds of other trifolds of other participants. Then as judges approach their trifold, the students will do their best to provide a brief synopsis of their project as the judges ask questions. Students who competed in both PRSEF and PJAS are allowed to use the same project for both competitions. The fair was held in Heinz Field in Pittsburgh March 31 and April 1.

Eighteen students from both the high school and the middle school won awards this year. The following students from

Fox Chapel Area High School won the following awards: Ameya Velankar (freshman) - first place winner in Behavioral and Social Science; Zachary Lakkis (sophomore) - second place in Senior Biology and the Society for In-Vitro Biology affiliate award; Sanjana Harish (sophomore) - Sponsor award from the Arconic Foundation; Moira McCormick (senior) - Sponsor award from the Duquesne University Department of Biological Sciences; and Shania Khatri (junior) received the Mu Alpha Theta affiliate award for her project "Using Bayesian Network Modeling to Locate Breast Cancer Genes" as well as the opportunity to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) on May 14-19. In ISEF, students can compete for even larger awards, scholarships, and scientific field trips. Congratulations to these students as well as all participants!

A special congratulations to the following people for receiving perseverance awards: Seniors Moira McCormick and Ayan Sinha (Honorary Scientists); sophomores Zachary Lakkis and Ji-Yool Moon (Associate Scientists); and sophomore Gina Wang and Freshman Jasmine Eng and Ameya Velankar (Junior Scientists)! All interested in competing in PRSEF next year should contact Mr. Gregory Schubert at the start of the upcoming school year.



# PJAS STATES 2017

BY BRIDGET WANG

Students from Fox Chapel Area High School participated in the 83rd regional competition for the Pennsylvania Junior Science Academy. Those who earned a first place award in the regional competition qualified to compete in the state competition that took place May 14-16. This year, 11 students from Fox Chapel Area High School attended, accompanied by Mr. Schubert, as well as additional students from Dorseyville Middle School.

Students in grades 7-12 can conduct an experiment and use their knowledge of science and the scientific method to come up with a solution to their hypothesis. Many students focus on real world issues and use PJAS as a platform to spread ideas and to present innovative solutions. On the first Saturday of February, students gave a formal presentation on their experiment in front of a panel of judges.

These students won the following awards in their categories at the state competition this year: Austin Fisher (senior) - First Award, Computer Science; Albert Liu (junior) - First Award with Perfect Score,

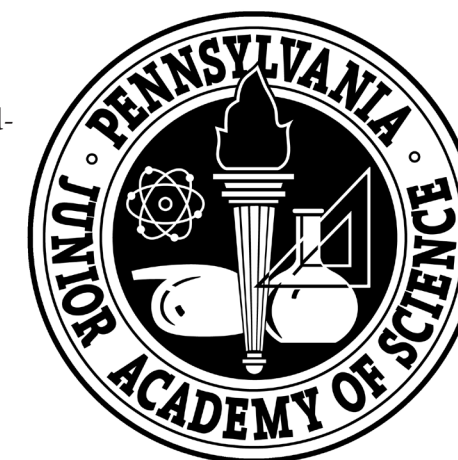
Computer Science and Directors

Award for Excellence in Computer Science; Zachary Lakkis (sophomore) - First Award, Biology; Ji-Yool Moon (sophomore) - First Award, Computer

Science; Theresa Heidenreich (sophomore) - Second Award, Biochemistry; Arnav Gupta (sophomore) - Second Award, Engineering; Ziya Xu (sophomore) - Second Award, Computer Science; Ameya Velankar (freshman) - First Award with Perfect Score, Behavioral Science; Hanna Chen (freshman) - First Award, Engineering; Rageev Godse (freshman) - First Award, Mathematics; and Anzu Sekikawa (freshman) - First Award, Chemistry.

Congratulations to all students who participated this year! Special congratulations to all seniors in their last PJAS competition!

Sponsors for PJAS are Justin Patterson, Annette Sparrow, Suzanne Miller, and Greg Schubert. Interested in competing in PJAS? Contact one of these four teachers at the start of the upcoming school year.



## STUDENTS EARN HIGH SCORES ON NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students recently earned high marks on the 2017 National Latin Exam. Gold Medal/Summa Cum Laude awards were earned by senior Suvir Mirchandani and freshman Claire Fenton. A Silver Medal/Maxima Cum Laude award was given to sophomore Marissa Hardiman. Certificates/Magna Cum Laude awards were earned by junior Karissa Becer, sophomores Jayanth Kashyap and Ziya Xu, and freshman Hazel Cline. Cum Laude recognition and a certificate was earned by senior David Han.

The National Latin Exam was taken in March 2017. Approximately 149,000 students from 50 states and 16 foreign countries participated.





# FC GIRLS DOMINATE COMBAT BOTS COMPETITION



Five Fox Chapel Area High School robotics teams competed at the 7th Annual Combat Bots Competition on April 26, 2017. The competition was hosted by Pine Richland Area High School. 38 Battle Bot teams from six school districts spent the day team building as they maintained, problem solved, tested, and formulated their game plans.

The Fox Chapel Area High School all-girl combat team “Elphaba” won The King of the Ring rumble. They battled against seven other bots and were the only robot still functional at the end of the three-minute round. “The crowd went wild when Elphaba was declared the winner of the rumble,” said Combat Bots coach Kenneth Grimm. “I’m proud of all the teams from FCAHS, their dedication to quality work and many hours spent working after school preparing for the competitions is to be commended.” Fox Chapel’s team of girls were the crowd favorite as they had to completely rebuild their bot after their second match. The team spent all of their lunch break rewiring the control system and fixing the bot’s damaged chassis. They completed all of the needed repairs to compete in the rumble and ended up dominating the competition.

Fox Chapel Area High School robot “Baconator” finished fifth and advanced to the final four in the winners bracket. “Thunder” finished seventh

and also competed in the rumble. The teams and student members include:  
 “Elphaba” - Amanda Trusiak, Juliette Naugle, Alaina Kotchey and Emily Franks.  
 “Baconator” - Sofia Porter-Bacon, Travis Kobert and Thomas McFadden.  
 “Kill-A-Ram” - Skylor Wright, Brian King, and Riley Perchinsky.  
 “Lightning” - Tyler Rapp, and Andrew Sobek  
 “Thunder” - Max Wolfendale, and Mark Lees.

Combat Bots is STEM education at its best. Students design, test and engineer the entire robot, including the weapon, wiring harness, and control system.



# TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION STATE CONFERENCE



28 Fox Chapel Area High School students participated in the Pennsylvania State Leadership Conference of the Technology Student Association (TSA) at Seven Springs Conference Center on April 19-22, 2017.

Founded in 1978, TSA is the only student organization devoted exclusively to the needs of students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). TSA supports STEM education goals through more than 60 high school and middle school competitions, leadership activities and teamwork for students.

The State Leadership Conference of TSA is the second of three levels of competitive conferences. The first was the Region 1 & 6 Leadership Conference, which was held at California University of PA on February 17, 2017 where Fox Chapel Area High School students qualified for the state level conference. The next level of competition is on June 21 - June 25, 2017 at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida.

## Second Place

Debating Technological Issues - Jonathan Monroe, Jeremy Rodrigues

## Third Place

Extemporaneous Speech - Austin Fisher  
 PA - Computer Systems Troubleshooting - Erik Bothe, Adam Cook  
 Webmaster - Anita Bargaje, Karissa Becer, and Nishika Mohnot

## Fifth Place

PA - Robotics - Aaron Wu, Jorgen Wu and Nathan VanDemark

## Sixth Place

Music Production - Aaron Wu, Jorgen Wu

## Seventh Place

System Control Technology - Nathan VanDemark, Aaron Wu, and Jorgen Wu

## Eighth Place

Biotechnology Design - Anita Bargaje, Nikita Bargaje, and Nishika Mohnot

## Ninth Place

Coding - Erik Bothe, Adam Cook, and Donovan Gorgas  
 Extemporaneous Speech - Jeremy Rodrigues

# SENIOR NAMED TO GUARDIAN TEEN POWER LIST

Fox Chapel Area High School senior Mihir Garimella was named to the 2016 Guardian Teen Power List. The list, that says, “It’s not about your age, it’s about your ideas,” featured 25 young activists, scientists, artists, athletes, entrepreneurs, and big thinkers shaping the future from around the world.

Mihir was chosen for his creation of the “flybot,” which won the international 2014 Google Science Fair. The flybot is a tiny, flying robot that avoids obstacles by mimicking the way a fruit fly avoids threats and moving obstacles. He has since extended the idea to create a low-cost, intelligent drone to be used in search-and-rescue missions in dangerous environments.

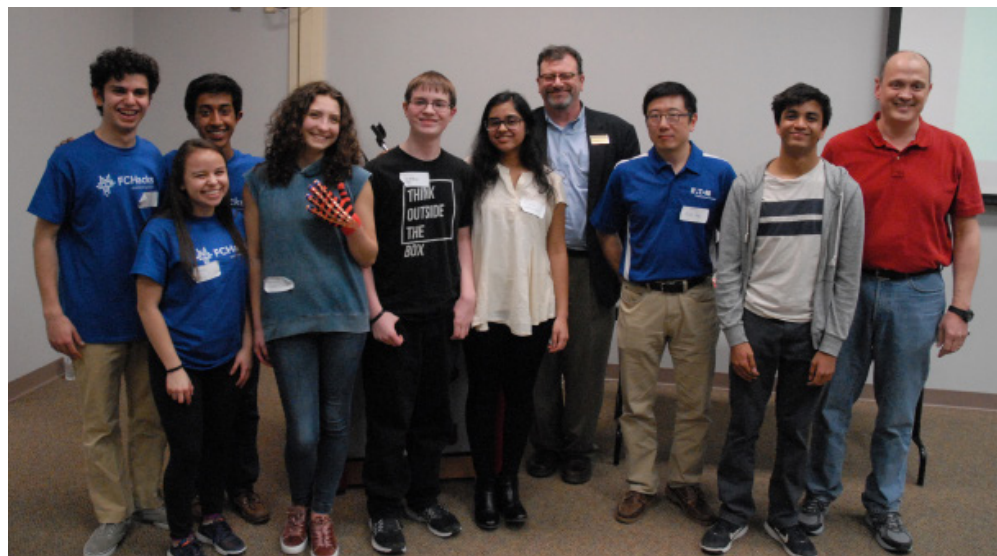
Other well-known teens featured on the list were Sasha Obama, Yara Shahidi, Willow Smith, Amandla Stenberg, and Brooklyn Beckham. Guardian US covers American and international news for an online global audience.

This is the second list that Mihir was featured on in 2016. He was also chosen for Fortune’s 18 Under 18 list.



# FCHACKS 2017

BY BLISS URIBE



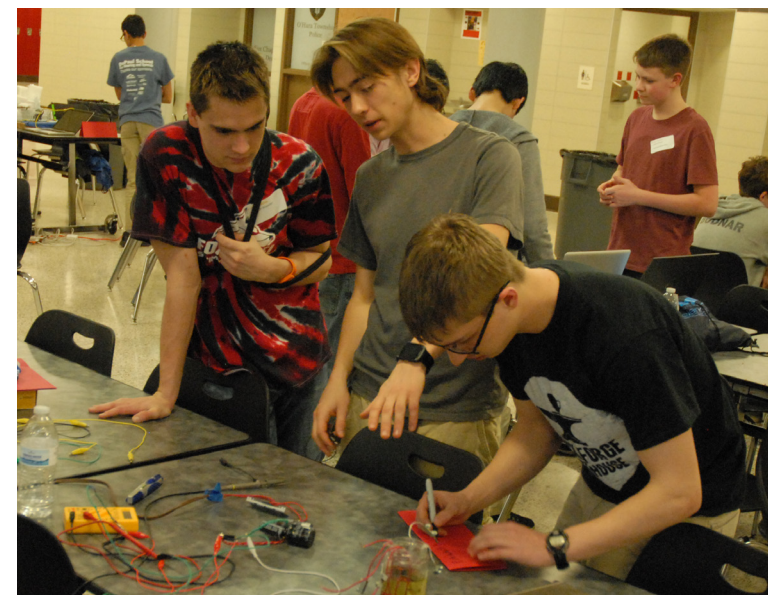
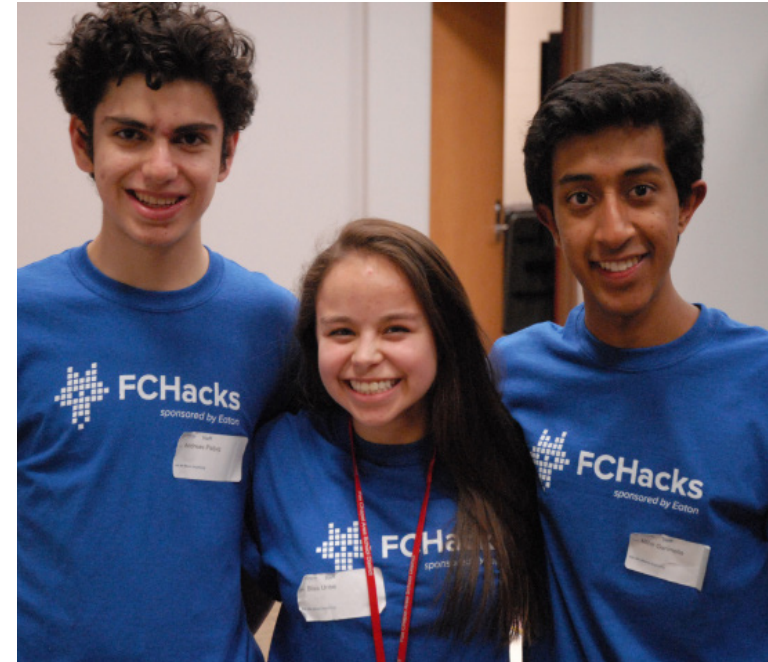
On March 25, 2017, 189 students from all over the Pittsburgh region came to Fox Chapel Area High School to participate in the first annual FCHacks. FCHacks was a 12-hour hackathon – a competition during which students who are interested in exploring computer science or engineering team up and build cool projects (apps, games, robots, or whatever they’re excited about).

Most hackathons are open to college students with significant experience, but the goal of Mihir Garimella, Andreas Paljug, and Bliss Uribe (the organizers of the hackathon) was to give kids with no prior knowledge or experience a chance to learn something new. During the event all participants had access to mentors from local universities, schools, and companies, materials such as robotic kits, 3D printers and hardware, and free food! Additionally, sporadically throughout the day there were several workshops offered, including app development, beginners robotics workshops, a sales pitch development workshop, and more.



At the end of the long day all the participants presented their “hacks” and judges selected the top five. The top five teams then presented their hacks to a final panel of three judges to select the top three teams. The first place team, “Mobile Music,” consisted of three FCAHS students: Arnav Gupta, Tanvi Meringenti, and Moira McCormick and one student from Thomas Jefferson High School, Liam Woodward. This team created a sound sleeve that was designed to allow string players to practice on the go, thus eliminating the hassle of traveling with heavy string instruments.

Special thanks to all of FCHacks sponsors, especially the title Sponsor, Eaton. Eaton provides energy-efficient solutions that help customers to effectively manage electrical, hydraulic, and mechanical power more efficiently, safely, and sustainably.





# YOU CAN'T BEAT THE SPRING COMEDY

BY BROOKE ECHNAT

This year the Fox Chapel Area High School Drama Club performed their annual spring comedy with the play *You Can't Beat the House*. Directed by senior Nadia Dandashi, *You Can't Beat the House* tells the hysterical story of two amateur robbers who break into a house only to find that the house is for sale. Chaos ensues when a young couple comes to the house for a showing.

The play starred seniors Max Lucas as Merle and Brooke Echnat as Glenda Spears. The show also featured many talented underclassmen such as Karl Pil as Howie, Gabe Fynsk as Conrad Spears, Danielle Werner as Lillian, Sadie Lorence as Courtney Parfait, Julia Szymanski as Madame Zenobia, Nathaniel Meth as Officer Larraby, Olivia Pistella as Brittany and Abby Alexander as Fern.

The cast kept the audience laughing the whole time with switched identities, haunting spirits, exorcisms, and perfectly timed one-liners. Congratulations to the cast and crew for once again putting on a fantastic show.



# DESI ROCKED THE NIGHT

BY BRIDGET WANG



Every year, the auditorium transforms from a typical American high school auditorium into a splurge of South and East Asian culture through the annual DESI (Distinguished Ethnic Society of India) night. The students involved work very hard the entire year to plan an amazing event, and everyone has so much fun doing it.

The first performance was from the Fox Chapel Madrigals Choir, directed by Mr. Murray, performing a song called "Desh," composed by Ethan Sperry. Other exhibition acts included Ayan Sinha performed a classic Indian vocal piece and various Bollywood. Sanjana Harish, student of Shobhitha Ravi, performed an Indian classical dance in the Bharatanatyam style, and Gina Wang, student of Yanlai Dance Academy, performed a classical Chinese dance, "Fan Dance Painting," to reflect the elegance of Chinese calligraphy. For the larger dances, the girls performed to a piece called "London Thumakada," a Punjabi song to celebrate the marriage of a bride and groom, and "Nagada Sang Dhol," a modern Bollywood song to celebrate God through dance and music. The boys joined the girls in the dance "Radha Kaise Na Jale," a battle between two lovers, and in the finale, a Bhangra dance that speaks to the rich history of Bhangra.

Additionally, one can never forget the teachers who did such a lovely job this year, as they always do, in dancing to a song called "Bole Chudiyan." Thank you to Ms. Cooper, Ms. Lancz, Ms. Polesiak, Ms. Butkovic, Mr. Rios, Mr. Murray, Mr. Hower, and Señor Gonzalez for showcasing your wonderful talent this night!

During intermission, we had our final fundraising event for the school year in the sale of delicious ethnic Indian food. Collectively, we raised over \$500 for Children's Hospital, and would like to thank everyone who donated and came to support us all this night.

All students (and teachers!) interested in joining DESI next year, please contact Señor Gonzalez our visit our table during club week in the fall!





# THE MOST COLORFUL ROOM IN THE SCHOOL

BY ABBE COHEN

There's a good chance you've passed by one of the dozens of murals former Pittsburgh Steeler Baron Batch has painted throughout the city of Pittsburgh. His most recognizable work is a painting of his favorite animal, the elephant, that can be seen in multiple locations, including East Carson Street in the South Side. Some of Batch's artwork is being sold for over \$4,000, but for the students of Fox Chapel Area High School, his latest work of art was free of charge.

The newly updated media lounge in the TV studio was recently adorned with an original new piece painted by both Batch and some lucky FCAHS students who helped him to splatter paint onto the walls. The mural employs a plethora of bright colors that showcase a beautiful fox and the Pittsburgh city skyline.

Students in Mr. Devlin's Advanced TV class contacted the artist via social media, and he happily accepted the offer to help create an inspiring space where students could create media. Batch studied communications in college, and he was fascinated to learn about the new direction the TV studio was taking. He often volunteers his talents in the Pittsburgh community and has already been talking with Swift Fox Media about some future collaborative projects.

Batch worked with students in both the multimedia program and the art department during his visit. A behind-the-scenes documentary of this project, along with an interview with the artist will be forthcoming on the Swift Fox Media YouTube channel. Batch provided students with great life advice on how they too can achieve their dreams by following their passion.



# FCAHS TEAM PLACES FIRST AT ENVIROTHON

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students recently placed first in the 2017 Allegheny County Envirothon competition. The first place team members qualified for the state competition and they are seniors David "Kyle" Breault and David Han, juniors Albert Liu and Elizabeth Mountz, and sophomore Diana Crookston. A Fox Chapel Area team also placed second in the county competition. Those team members were junior Brandon Brewster, sophomores Kevin Falconett and Zachary Lakkis, and freshmen Hanna Chen and Sina Shaikh.

As a part of the county competition, the students answered written test questions as a team after conducting outdoor research in the field. The test covered five different subject areas including soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and environmental issues. Teams of students in grades nine-12 from high schools across Allegheny County participated in the county competition which was held April 28 in South Park.



# STUDENTS NAMED WINNERS IN NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors Jared Cohen and Allison Gould have been winners in the 2017 Founding Freedoms Essay Contest. Jared won first place in the twelfth-grade portion of the essay contest and Allison won second place. Jared received a \$2,500 cash prize and a trip to Philadelphia in June where he will be honored as part of a special awards ceremony. Allison won a \$1,000 cash prize.

The Founding Freedoms Essay Contest is sponsored by the National Constitution Center and funded through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The contest is designed to increase awareness of the rights set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights and to engage students to think creatively about our nation's history, the Constitution, and protecting individual freedoms. It is open to students from across the United States in grades six, eight, and twelve.





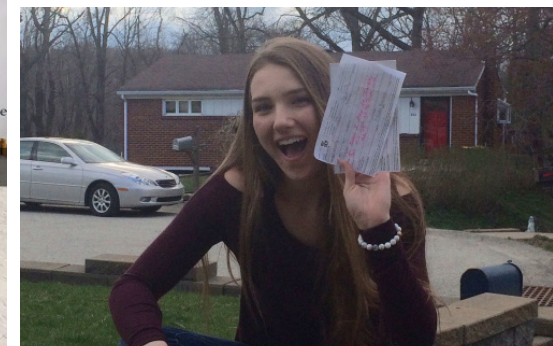
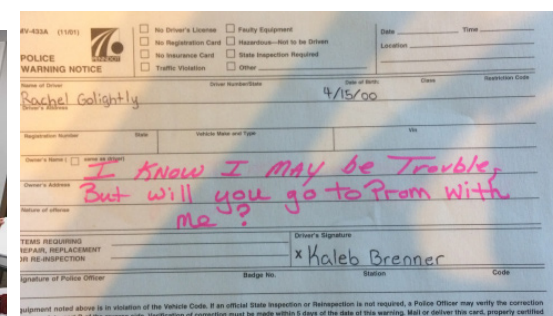
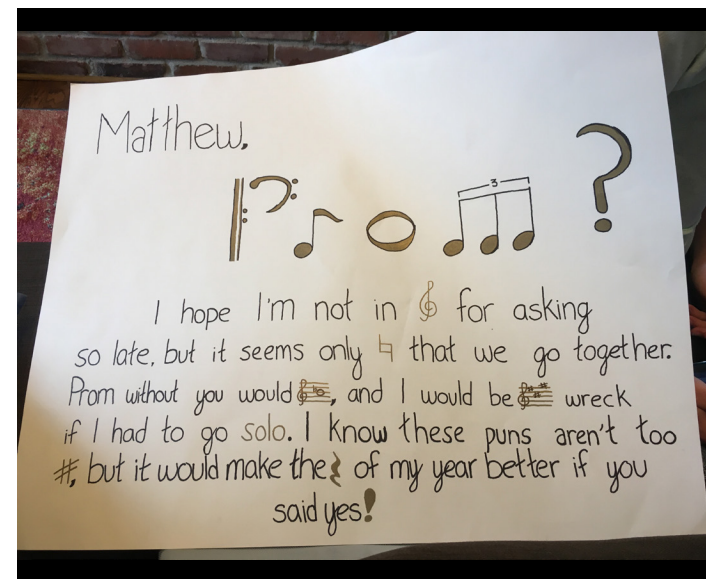
# PROM - A SWEET SUCCESS

BY ALEX SMOLAR

On Saturday, May 13th, seniors and juniors gathered for the always amazing annual high school tradition known as Prom. With finals around the corner and AP tests in the rear view mirror, students took advantage of this respite to dress up, dance, and make lasting memories with friends. Prom was held in the Marriott City Center, and the great times included a photo booth, a talented DJ, and of course, a TV that was showing the all-important Penguins playoff game. This year's theme was "Candy Land," so the menus and decor of the dance were designed to immerse students in the famous board game. Of course, no Prom is complete without the crowning of the king and queen and this year's royals were Phillip Swigon and Elizabeth Heidenreich. Congratulations Phillip and Elizabeth!

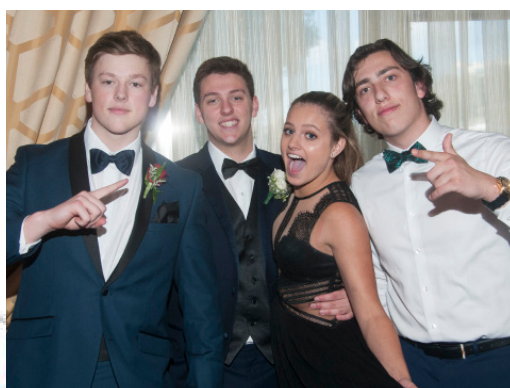
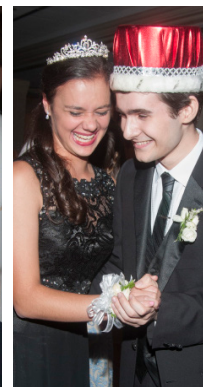
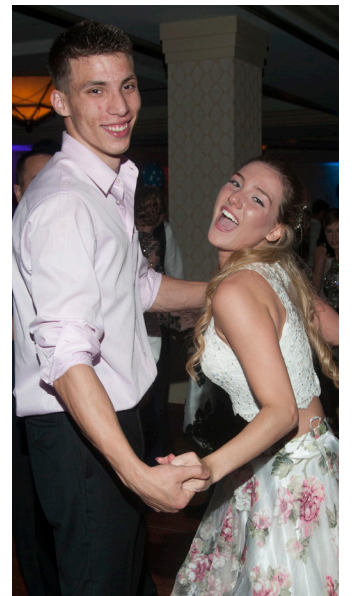


In addition, Fox Tales ran its annual Promposal competition, which evaluates the most creative Promposals and awards the winning couple two free tickets to the dance. There were many fantastic entries, including Brandon Brewster's Hawaiian beach antics, Bohan Yao "falling" for his date, Jenna McKinley getting poetic, and Jordyn Koontz employing her musical talents. This year's winners were Kaleb Brenner and Rachel Golightly. Kaleb recruited the assistance of the local police force for his promposal. While the two were driving, Kaleb was pulled over and the not-so-nice officer wrote him a citation. Rachel was surprised when she saw what was written on the ticket: "I know I may be in trouble, but will you go to Prom with me?" The creative promposal was enough for Kaleb to not only secure a "yes" from his prom date, but also win the Fox Tales' competition. Congratulations Kaleb and Rachel!





# PROM 2017





FOX CHAPEL AREA AGAIN NAMED ONE OF  
"BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION"

The Fox Chapel Area School District has been named among the 2017 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the sixth year in a row that the district received this prestigious designation! Fox Chapel Area is one of only 73 in the state of Pennsylvania and one of 527 school districts in the nation chosen for this honor that recognizes outstanding music programs. The districts were selected through a program sponsored by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation which acknowledges and celebrates schools and districts across the United States for their commitment to and support of music education.

Now in its 18th year, the Best Communities for Music Education program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who work together to make music education part of the curriculum. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. These districts and schools set the bar in offering students access to comprehensive music education. The program evaluates schools and districts based on funding, staffing of highly-qualified teachers, commitment to standards, and access to music instruction. Awardees were selected by representatives of the NAMM Foundation and by researchers at The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

The NAMM Foundation is a non-profit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its thousands of members around the world. The Foundation advances active participation in music-making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs.



**MRS. COOPER HONORED BY THE CARSON  
SCHOLARS FUND**

Fox Chapel Area High School orchestra director Mairi Cooper was honored by the Carson Scholars Fund. Cooper received the Fund's Power of Excellence Award at the annual Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund Awards Ceremony April 8, 2017, at Heinz Field. Cooper was also Pennsylvania's 2015 Teacher of the Year and is chairperson of the high school's music department. As the award recipient, she addressed the 247 students in attendance at the ceremony who have been named this year's Carson Scholars and those who were renewing their Carson Scholar status. Additionally, retired world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson was also slated to speak at the event.

Cooper was presented at the banquet by Fox Chapel Area High School freshmen Gwendolyn Davison. Gwen, who was one of Cooper's orchestra students, was named a Carson Scholar in 2016 and qualified to renew her status this year. Additionally, Dorseyville Middle School eighth grader Vivian Shao was also named a 2017 Carson Scholar for the first time. Students are named Carson Scholars and renew their status based on their high academic achievement and their commitment to their communities through community service and they receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.

To date, the Carson Scholars Fund has awarded more than 7,800 scholarships to promising young students in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. This year, 483 students from across the nation were named 2017 Carson Scholars. In addition, 869 students renewed their Carson Scholar status. Scholars across the country will be recognized at seven additional regional awards banquets throughout the spring.

The Carson Scholars Fund was started by Dr. Carson and his wife, Candy, and is dedicated to impacting the nation in a positive way by cultivating future leaders who are academically talented and socially conscious. The fund is a non-profit public charity based in Maryland.





# TAPESTRY'S 40TH EDITION RELEASED

BY HANNAH MUELLER

With spring comes the annual release of FCAHS's national award-winning literary arts magazine, Tapestry. Tapestry is a club at the high school, sponsored by Mrs. Jessica Green and managed by the hard working and committed Editor-in-Chief, Emma Paulini. Tapestry accepts student submissions of creative writing, poetry, visual art and photography and decides, through a peer-review process, which pieces to publish in its annual magazine.

This year, Tapestry featured 52 student writers, poets, artists, and photographers from all grades. On May 19, the Tapestry staff, authors and other guests gathered at their publication party to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the publication, distribute free copies of the magazine, and hold an open mic for student writers to share their works.

Every year, Tapestry highlights amazing writers and artists from FCAHS, and the newest issue did not disappoint!



# SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENCOURAGES GRADUATES TO PURSUE EDUCATION FIELD

BY ANNA MEYER

Every year, the Fox Chapel Educators' Association or FCEA (the teachers' union) gives back to the community by awarding a scholarship to one or more graduate(s) who share their passion for education. Rachel Machen, a school counselor and secretary of the teachers' union, commented about this year's candidates. "We had five excellent applicants, so the committee selected two students to receive \$750 each to support their efforts in obtaining an undergraduate application."

The applicants were required to submit an application, resume, transcript, and an essay explaining why they wanted to be educators. Congratulations to Elaina Graca and Gabi Young. Best of luck to both of you as you pursue the field of education!



Our high school student government community outreach committee visited the Ronald McDonald House at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. The students brought, prepared, and served lunch to the families staying at the house. They also helped with cleaning, organizing, and moving donations at the facility. According to their sponsor, Mrs. Rachel Machen, this is "a great learning experience for our students. It's a great way for them to take part in helping others!"

# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE MOBILE LAB

BY ALEX SMOLAR



Fox Chapel Area High School is extremely fortunate to have a spectacular engineering department, with a Fab Lab that includes a 3D printer and numerous other highly advanced tools. For the past few months, students have been putting their skills to work by building an amazing Mobile FAB Lab to give back to our community and other school districts. Students have worked through rain, sunshine, and even snow to build a house on a trailer that is full of advanced engineering machinery.

"The goal is to be able to drive the trailer around to other school districts and teach elementary-aged kids about engineering. It'll be a great learning tool for young students," says senior Michael Bliss. Congratulations on a job well done to all the students involved in the lab's construction!



# SENIOR WINS FOR ARTWORK IN NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING CONTEST



Fox Chapel Area High School senior William "Tim" Marsh was named a national winner in the spring 2017 Create Real Impact teen safe driving campaign. Create Real Impact challenges students to address the dangers of distracted driving in creative ways that will resonate with other young drivers. Tim was one of only five national winners and he won the grand prize in the art category for his artwork entitled "Every Glance a Chance."

As a national winner, Tim received a \$1,500 educational grant. The contest encourages peer-to-peer messages and creative expression from students to help stem the tide of distracted and reckless driving, the number one killer of young drivers. It is sponsored by Impact Teen Drivers and California Casualty and was open to students ages 14-22. More than 1,500 submissions of essays, artwork, videos, and music were received from students across the nation.

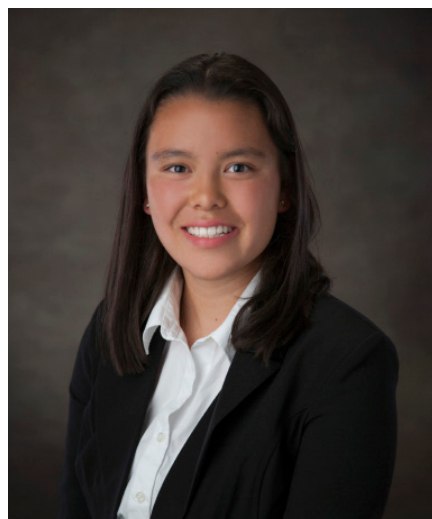




# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY MEGAN WIESE

The last day of the school year is approaching at a rapid speed, marking the end of high school for many. The class of 2017 has a wide variety of future plans, including entering the workforce, enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces, attending a college or university, enrolling in a preparatory academy, or traveling to new and exciting places. Gabby Hollander, Billy Myers, Hannah Mueller, Micah Ziff, Alec Eckman and Joe Dusabe are embarking on very different yet exciting paths worth mentioning.



Gabby Hollander, a Dutch Citizen who has attended Fox Chapel Area High School for all four years, will be continuing her education in the Netherlands. She is extremely excited to be returning to her native country and is looking forward to living on her own. Gabby will miss her younger siblings greatly, but plans to keep in close communication with her friends and family in the states and visit whenever an opportunity is granted.



Billy Myers' future plan includes enlisting in the United States Army. Billy has wanted to join a branch in the military since before he started Kindergarten. Protecting and fighting for his country is where Billy's passion lies. He is incredibly eager to begin his training. Thank you, Billy, for choosing to serve our country!



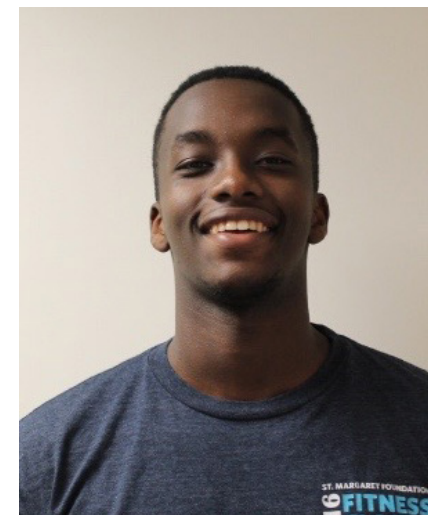
Hannah Mueller will be furthering her education at Stanford University next year. Attending Stanford has been Hannah's dream since she was a young girl, so it goes without saying that she is ecstatic about heading to the beautiful California campus this September. Hannah feels that FC's broad course selection and the ability to take almost any class desired at the highest level possible really prepared her for her future. She also believes that the advice and guidance the counselors offered when determining future plans provided clarity and was beneficial.



Enrolled at Ohio University starting this August is Micah Ziff. The best piece of advice Micah can offer to a rising senior is "keep pushing ahead and working towards your goals, because one day, we will all be on the top, looking down and remembering our great experiences at Fox Chapel Area High School." As the number of school days left gets smaller and smaller, Micah is itching to start a new chapter of his life in Athens, Ohio.



Attending the prestigious Naval Academy is Alec Eckman. Alec wants to serve his country and is also seeking an active and exciting life, both of which he can achieve at the Naval Academy. Those two factors alone are what led him to apply and accept his position in the Navy. He knows school will be very difficult, but is looking forward to the challenge.



Joe Dusabe will continue to play basketball at Believe Preparatory Academy in Athens, Tennessee. The sport has taught Joe many crucial life lessons, the most important one being that obstacles do not just disappear, they must be faced and conquered. Basketball has always been a means of release and relaxation for Joe; a way to clear his head. Joe says he would not be who he is today without basketball, which is why he chose to further his basketball career at Believe Prep. Joe fell in love with the academy because not only is Believe concerned with molding their students into elite athletes, but they pride themselves on their family-orientated atmosphere and place high value on the development of students into well-rounded individuals.



*Fox Chapel Area High School  
is sad to see a class of such  
intelligent, energetic,  
and kind students depart,  
but wishes the class of 2017  
the best of luck with  
their bright futures.*





Omar Abdalla: American University  
Ariane Akhand: University of Mary Washington  
Marissa Albrecht: Undecided  
Annamarie Alfery: University of Akron  
Daniel Allen: CCAC  
Nathan Andrud: University of Pittsburgh  
Gretchen Angerman: James Madison University  
Robert Artice: Carpentry Work  
Bim Badmus: Hofstra University  
Gabriella Badway: Le Moyne College  
Alex Barcic: Belmont University  
Nathaniel Beard: Allegheny College  
Phoebe Beard: Elon University  
Lee Beasley: University of Michigan  
Hanna Belotti: CCAC  
Neil Bencherif: University of Pittsburgh  
Harper Bennett: University of Richmond  
Jared Bernesser: CCAC  
Crispian Bish: Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics  
Michael Bliss: Mission Trip  
Erik Bothe: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
Megan Botos: University of Colorado  
David Breault: Edinboro University  
Kaleb Brenner: CCAC  
Cierra-Rose Bromley: Point Park University  
Jack Brown: Pennsylvania State University  
Lance Brusco: Slippery Rock University  
Desirae Buccigrossi: University of Dayton  
Dominique Buccigrossi: University of Dayton  
Anna Burkel: CCAC  
Joshua Cagan: Carnegie Mellon University  
Camille Cagley: Undecided  
Harley Caro: CCAC  
Emma Cassidy: St. Mary's University  
Rohan Chalasani: Northwestern University  
Samantha Cider: UMPC School of Nursing  
Kristie Claus: Slippery Rock University  
Jared Cohen: University of Pennsylvania  
Ariam Colan: University of Pittsburgh  
Natalie Columbus: University of Colorado  
Sarah Contestabile: Gap Year  
Adam Cook: St. Vincent College  
Anthony Cordaro: Lehigh University  
Aubrey Cullinan: Syracuse Univeristy  
Caitlyn Cupps: Duquesne University  
Mikayla D'Cunha: University of Wisconsin  
Nadia Dandashi: Pace University  
Gary Davis: St. Francis University  
Alysha Dean: United States Navy  
Deena DeBald: Duquesne University  
Casey Dillon: Mercyhurst University  
Nathen DiMaggio: CCAC  
Madeleine Doerr: Stony Brook University  
Helena Domenico: University of Alabama  
Marvin Dusabe: Prep Year (Basketball)  
Brooke Echnat: Bucknell University  
Alec Eckman: United States Naval Academy  
Megan Eisengart: University of Arizona  
Gracie Farrell: CCAC  
Francesco Fava: Ohio University  
Lorenzo Fava: Ohio University  
John Feczko: Case Western Reserve University  
Tyler Fera: CCAC  
Ellie Fetting: Pennsylvania State University  
Shannon Fisher: Ohio University  
Austin Fisher: Purdue University  
Anne Friday: Bucknell University  
Andrew Fugh: Lehigh University  
Claire Gaffney: Northeastern University  
Dominic Gaggini: Baldwin Wallace Univeristy  
Kira Galanter: Chatham Univeristy

Roy Gao: University of Pittsburgh  
Mihir Garimella: Stanford University  
Morgan Geahry: West Virginia University  
James Gilmore: Colby College  
Anthony Gizzo: Univeristy of Pittsburgh  
Rachel Gorby: University of Michigan  
Donovan Gorgas: Pennsylvania State University  
Allison Gould: Otterbein University  
Elaina Graca: Temple University  
Shaylin Gross: Univeristy of Pittsburgh - Greensburg  
Regis Grumbaugh: Northeast Ministry School  
Alyssa Guzzie: CCAC  
Joshua Haitema: Marshall College  
Sarah Hamilton: Carnegie Mellon University  
David Han: Kenyon College  
Sydney Hanna: College of London  
Alyssa Harris: CCAC  
Thomas Hartle: Duquesne University  
Morgan Haskett: University of Colorado - Boulder  
Nicole Heasley: University of Kentucky  
Elizabeth Heidenreich: Notre Dame University  
Matthew Heilmann: United States Coast Guard  
Haley Herrmann: Ohio State University  
Luke Hoffman: Work Force  
Gabrielle Hollander: Viaa Hogeschool  
Jung Eui Hong: Kean University  
Evan Huber: Undecided  
Morgan Hurley: Slippery Rock University  
Amanda Hurwitz: American University  
Ashley Hurwitz: University of Colorado - Boulder  
Alexis Hurwitz: University of Miami  
Nadia Islam: University of California - Los Angeles  
Elias Izenson: Pennsylvania State University  
Won Jun Kang: Boston University  
Kotone Kataoka: La Roche College  
Katherine Kauma: Pennsylvania State University  
Thomas Kelly: Pennsylvania State University  
Kathryn Kenney: Ohio State University  
William Kennington: CCAC  
Grace Kerr: American University  
Joshua Kieffer: Prep Year (Baseball)  
Nicholas Killian: Eastern Michigan University  
Kevin Kilmer: University of Pittsburgh  
Brandon Kim: United States Army  
Laura Klak: Radford University  
Emma Klatt: Ithaca College  
Tiernan Konopasek: Rochester Institute of Technology  
Jordyn Koontz: Robert Morris University  
Taylor Korbe: CCAC  
Alyssa Kozer: University of Michigan  
Ronnie Kramer: CCAC  
Benjamin Krannacker: United States Marine Corps  
Sofia Lagazzi: University of Pittsburgh  
Joshua Lai: University of Pittsburgh  
Sara Lankes: Pennsylvania State University - Altoona  
Sada Lantgios: Purdue University  
Alexander Lawson: Liberty University  
Daniel Lazaro: CCAC  
Yelim Lee: California Institute of Technology  
Sophia Lee: Johns Hopkins University  
Mark Lees: CCAC  
Darwin Leuba: Yale University  
Hannah Lewis: CCAC  
Haley Lisanti: University of Dayton  
Russell Livingston: Denison University  
Hannah Lowe: Denison University  
Maxwell Lucas: Middlebury College  
Madeline Lucey: Washington and Jefferson College  
Vincent Lundy: Catholic University of America  
Virgil Luster: CCAC  
Michael Mahon: Waynesburg University

Nikolaos Manousos: Prep Year (Hockey)  
Victor Marculescu: Carnegie Mellon University  
Matthew Marino: Mercyhurst University  
Daniel Markovitz: University of Pittsburgh  
William Marsh: University of Virginia  
Allison Martini: University of Alabama  
Christina Massalski: Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Garrett Matamoros: California University of Pennsylvania  
Timothy McCarthy: University of South Carolina  
Macy McClaran: Pennsylvania State University  
Moirra McCormick: Johns Hopkins University  
Sean McCoy: Lehigh University  
Megan McCrady: Georgetown University  
Anna McDougall: Franklin and Marshall College  
Thomas McFadden: New Century Careers  
Zach McGivern: Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Alan McIvor: University of California - Los Angeles  
Jenna McKinley: Carnegie Mellon University  
Nicholas McRandal: Mercyhurst University  
Corinne Meinert: University of Pittsburgh  
Tanvi Meringenti: Carnegie Mellon University  
Ursula Meyer: West Virginia University  
Amanda Michalowski: CCAC  
James Michel: Pennsylvania State University - New Kensington  
Korey Michna: Pittsburgh Technical College  
Delaney Mills: Temple University  
Suvir Mirchandani: Stanford University  
Jonathan Monroe: Carnegie Mellon University  
Ryan Moore: Savannah College of Art and Design  
Geneeva Morgan: Work Force  
Solana Morningstar: Carnegie Mellon University  
Jacob Mozurak: Westminster College  
Jake Mucci: Syracuse University  
Grace Mueller: Stanford University  
Hannah Mueller: Stanford University  
William Myers: United States Navy  
Juliette Naugle: Case Western Reserve University  
Kerstin Nestel: University of Pittsburgh  
Mary O'Connor: Notre Dame University  
Reilly O'Donnell: Colorado Mesa University  
Charles Okunewick: St. Boneventure University  
Kirsten Ovick: Purdue University  
Jamie Palmieri: Duquesne University  
Michael Palumbo: Point Park University  
Elias Panos: West Virginia University  
Alec Patsko: Kent State University  
Maia Pauley: Pomona College  
Emma Paulini: Pomona College  
Daniel Paviglianiti: Catholic University of America  
Jared Pegher: Ohio University  
Riley Perchinsky: CNC Machinest Training  
Avalon Perdriel-Arons: Carnegie Mellon University  
Amber Petrelli: Army National Guard  
Ellen Pil: Notre Dame University  
Sarah Pilarski: Duquesne University  
Carlie Platt: Baldwin Wallace University  
Sincere Plummer: Augustana University  
Zachary Popovich: United States Army  
Allison Potochny: Butler County Community College  
Kristen Rabbitt: Rice University  
John Ramassini: Rochester Institute of Technology  
Christina Recchi: Suffolk University  
John Rezzetano: Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Lukas Rice: Work Force  
Alexandra Robosson: Pennsylvania State University  
Jeremy Rodrigues: Case Western Reserve University  
Conner Romango: Bucknell University  
Ryan Roncovich: Work Force  
Benjamin Rosen: University of Michigan  
Cole Rosenbloom: Denison University  
Bryce Ryan: University of Pittsburgh

Alanna Rygelski: Slippery Rock University  
Zach Sacks: Work Force  
Christopher Salerno: Work Force  
Dominic Scanga: George Mason University  
Jacob Schaffold: Slippery Rock University  
Will Schwartzman: Case Western Reserve University  
Kai Shaikh: University of California- Berkeley  
Jung An Shin: University of Pittsburgh  
Ayan Sinha: Case Western Reserve University  
Caroline Smith: University of California- Berkeley  
Alexander Smolar: Brown University  
Christopher Snider: United States Air Force  
Michael Snowball: Baldwin Wallace University  
Andrew Sobek: University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown  
Michael Sodini: University of Pittsburgh  
Ashley Sokol: Slippery Rock University  
Mary Soloski: CCAC  
Dimitri Spina: Grove City College  
Krista Spuhler: University of Pittsburgh  
Derek Stathis: University of Pittsburgh  
Bradshaw Staudt: National Guard of the United States  
David Stebbins: Syracuse University  
Craig Stewart: CCAC  
Brooke Stillion: Pennsylvania State University  
Charles Stipetich: United States Marine Corps  
Nina Stumpf: Point Park University  
Timothy Sutton: DePaul University  
Philip Swigon: Oberlin College  
Thomas Swigon: University of Pittsburgh  
Paris Szalla: Seton Hill University  
Waleed Tariq: University of Pittsburgh  
Martin Taxay: University of Michigan  
Taylor Thiele: Miami of Ohio University  
Omar Tolentino: College of Wooster  
Christy Ann Tommasin: Work Force  
Ian Tracey: St. Vincent College  
Ronald Tran: Denison University  
Amanda Trusiak: Duquesne University  
Dale Tuche: United States Navy  
David Uebing: United States Navy  
Nicholas Uminski: Slippery Rock University  
Ted Uminski: West Virginia University  
Bliss Uribe: Georgia Institute of Technology  
Bryanna Urso: Allegheny College  
Natalie Vayonis: Pennsylvania State University  
Virginia Veltri: University of North Carolina - Wilmington  
Brenda Vernon: CCAC  
Lance Vetter: University of Pittsburgh  
Robert Wallace: Virginia Tech University  
Nathan Wecht: Georgetown University  
Mallory Weimerskirch: Kent State University  
Victoria Weng: Work Force  
Alexandra Wessel: Oberlin College  
Terrance Whitehead: Pittsburgh Technical College  
Megan Wiese: University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Ryan Wonderley: CCAC  
Elizabeth Woodwell: Northeastern University  
Skylor Wright: CCAC  
Emily Wymore: CCAC  
Bohan Yao: Virginia Tech University  
Gabrielle Young: University of Pittsburgh  
Jerett Zaleski: Indiana University  
David Zaretsky: Pennsylvania State University- Behrend  
Ailuo Zhang: Returning to China  
Micah Ziff: Ohio University  
Calle Zmenkowski: University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg  
Houruiyang Zong: Case Western Reserve University  
Krista Zottola: Slippery Rock University  
Mitchell Zukerman: Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Briana Zwolak: Indiana University of Pennsylvania



# FBLA: A SWEET SHOWING IN HERSHEY, PA

BY MADISON BORKOVICH

The Future Business Leaders of America at Fox Chapel Area High School picked up first through tenth places at the 2017 State Leadership Conference. Seniors Tanvi Meringeti and Tim Marsh were awarded with first and second places respectively. Second place went to juniors Toby Lazear and Lucy Stone, with sophomore Gina Wang in third. All six qualified for the National FBLA Leadership Conference this summer which will be held from June 27-July 7 in Anaheim, California. Fifth to tenth places were also awarded to students from Fox Chapel Area High School, including senior Sophia Lee, juniors Benjamin Kronman and Ryan Santilli, and sophomore Arnav Gupta. Four students were able to place in the open competitive events held at the state competition. Senior Yelim Lee won first place, sophomores Abigail Baldauf and Noah Fritsch took home fourth and fifth places, and senior Tim Marsh rounded off the top ten, earning tenth place. Over 4,000 students from high schools statewide participated, and these dedicated few were able to perform at their peak. These fabulous results are also largely due to sponsor and business teacher Christina (Shanko) Congalton. Congratulations to Mrs. Congalton and the FBLA team!



# WRESTLING WRAP-UP AND PROJECTIONS

BY LUKE BROWN

The Fox Chapel Area High School wrestling team faced challenges as a very young team this year, having graduated ten talented seniors the prior year. The 2017 senior captains, Billy Myers, Mike Mahon and Jared Pegher knew they had a big role to take on, considering they were three of the six starters who would be returning. With eight spots to fill, head coach Ron Frank decided to start recruiting in the hallways, and found six freshman who ended up making a big impact on our 9-4 record.

There were several accomplishments made individually and collectively throughout the season, including Mike Mahon and coach Ron Frank reaching milestones on their win total. At the Allegheny County Tournament, Mike Mahon received his 100th varsity career win. A few weeks later, he punched his ticket to Hershey, PA with a third place finish at the WPIAL tournament. After competing at the state tournament for the second year in a row, he finished his career with 117 wins, becoming the school's fifth all-time win holder. The team finished the year strong, beating Mount Lebanon in a nail biter and Plum to cap off the season with Coach Frank's 400th dual-meet win. Coach Frank tells everyone that this accomplishment is because of the kids and how hard they work every day, but we know that it is not possible without him and his staff's dedication to the program.

Next winter, the Foxes have big expectations with lots of starters returning, including Zach Carcy who qualified for states during his sophomore year. He will rise as a leader next year, along with Juan Morales, Luke Brown and R.J. Okenuwick. Although it is a new season, the bar is still set high and we are expected to work hard day in and day out to achieve the goals ahead of us.

# FCA STUDENTS NAMED TRIB TOP 100

BY CLAIRE FENTON

Four students from Fox Chapel Area High School received the 2017 Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Award award from 630 nominations across 97 schools. Seniors Yelim Lee, Tanvi Meringenti, and Suvir Mirchandani and junior Shania Khatri were chosen as part of the Elite Top 100 for their exemplary academics, leadership qualities, community involvement, and character. This group was honored at a banquet on April 19, where Lee, Khatri, and Mirchandani each won an Outstanding Young Citizen gold medal. Gold medals are given to the top ten awardees, recognizing them as being among the most accomplished and exceptional students. Additionally, Lindsay Cupps, Allison Gould, Elizabeth Heidenreich, William Marsh, Olivia Pistella, and Emma Rice were nominated for the award.



Shania Khatri participated in the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Academy and has presented at an American Medical Informatics Association meeting and the Pitt Science Undergraduate Poster Symposium. She is the founder of the FCAHS Computational Biology Club, member of the Technology Student Association, and plays tennis and golf. She is involved with Code Like a Girl and is a founder of the Education Initiative.

Yelim Lee finished in the Top 24 of the USA National Brain Bee Championship and is a Silver Prize Winner in the USA Mathematical Talent Search. Outside of school, she teaches Korean to people of all ages and is involved in the Pittsburgh Refugee Ministry. She is a member of the Asian Cultural Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and the International Friends Club.

Suvir Mirchandani participated in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology THINK Scholars Program and received an award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. He is a Head Class Agent and is involved with the National Robotics Engineering Center, Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences, and the Musical Outreach Club. He is also active with The ElderBots Project and the Sharpsburg and Cooper-Siegel Community Libraries.





# STUDENTS CONNECT GLOBALLY FOR A DAY

BY ELIAS IZENSON

On April 24th, as part of the Global Connections day, I had an opportunity to meet with several international students currently participating in a foreign exchange program. International Experience Day was organized to allow international students in the surrounding area to experience a day in the life of a Fox Chapel Area High School student and for FC students to meet and learn from them about life and school in their countries. I spoke personally with Yara from Germany, Nora from Finland, Ipek from Turkey, and Waghi from Tunisia about the differences in the education system between America, and each of their countries.

One thing that seemed consistent throughout all of these other countries was that students have to pay to use public transportation to get to school, and have to pay for parking. In addition, in other countries there are no school-sponsored sports; all sports are club or afterschool programs. Really makes one think about how lucky American students are to be able to play on school-sponsored teams, right?



While speaking to Waghi, I learned that in Tunisia there are 13 grades, much akin to Canada, where they also are required to complete thirteen years of state-sponsored education. Ipek told me that in Turkey, the teachers rotate between classrooms, while the students stay in the same room all day. In addition, there is only one math class, called “math class,” which is basically just math class. Yara told me that in Germany, each final exam is six hours long, with four, four-page essays on each exam. That makes Mr. Kirk’s AP English final seem pretty easy, doesn’t it?

Overall, I’d say that while the way schools work all over the world is very different, the culture of “High School” is the same everywhere.



# AND THE WINNERS ARE...

BY MADISON BORKOVICH



Most likely you’ve heard of the smash hit television show, “America’s Got Talent,” with judges Simon Cowell, Mel B., Heidi Klum, and Howie Mandel. Well, “FC’s Got Talent,” a spin-off of the popular program, is our local talent-scouting event that you need to know about. This year’s event took place on the night of April 20th in the Fox Chapel Area High School auditorium and featured guest celebrity judges Drew Stone, an acclaimed actor and performer, and Miss Pennsylvania, Samantha Lambert, who is also a FC alum. The audience was in for a special treat when surprised with a student guest judge, which turned out to be former talent show winner, Ronald Tran.

The show featured 14 astounding acts, with a total of 22 student performers. Acts ranged from singing to magic to showcasing skills on musical instruments. Performers were as follows: Steven Cano and Gabriel Fynsk, Sara Rabbitt and Vishi Agrawal, Serena Smith and Will Kabazie, Bridget Shelestak, Noah Hertzman, Gwynn Heidinger, Kira Clark, Nico Fennell, The Garage Monkeys, Alex Barcic, Ally Sacre, Mia Schmidttter, Anna Aupke and Grace Stasolla, and Cierra-Rose Bromley.

During intermission, attendees were able to purchase raffle tickets, and winners were announced during judge deliberation by the emcees, lead principal Mr. Hower and Program Principal, Dr. Lentz. They raffled off two free 2017 prom tickets, three free 2017 Homecoming dance tickets, two two-week spring 2017 parking passes, and the grand prize, two four-hour recording sessions at Tonic Studios.

Finally, it was time for the results. First place was awarded \$500, second place earned \$300, and third place was given \$100. Mia Schmidttter, with a rendition of “Say the Word,” claimed third prize. Runners-up were The Garage Monkeys, a student band comprised of Max Wolfendale, Liam Botos, Andreas Paljug, and the Fava twins, Francesco and Lorenzo. After a drum roll and intense anticipation emanating from the audience, the winner was crowned... Nico Fennell, who performed a vocal of a Ben Folds medley, accompanied by astounding piano playing!





# A PARTING RETROSPECTIVE

BY ALEX SMOLAR



I wrote my first article for Fox Tales in the first semester of my freshman year. The article, about past professions of various teachers in the school, was not a success, considering that I was too shy to talk to most teachers about anything other than class. Since then, however, writing for Fox Tales Quarterly has been the highlight of my high school career. I was given a home for QRT with an amazing mentor in Mrs. Gibson, who offered me the opportunity to build upon my writing skills. I'd also like to thank my fellow senior staff: Marty Taxay, Bliss Uribe, Eli Izenson, Micah Ziff, Hannah Mueller, and the future Editor-in-Chief, Bridget Wang. Without their help and hard work, we wouldn't be able to finish anything. To any student who enjoys writing and wants to become more involved in the high school community, Fox Tales is the perfect solution.

