

FOX TALES

Quarterly

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INTO THE WOODS

BY BLISS URIBE & BRIDGET WANG



Every year Fox Chapel Area High School students have the great fortune of participating in numerous theatrical and musical productions. This year the music and drama department have chosen to *Into the Woods* for the 2017 spring musical. The spring musical is always a crowd favorite for the community and the student body. Thousands of people come to see our talented students sing and dance their hearts out in our beautiful, newly remodeled auditorium. This year's musical would not have been possible without the direction of Benjamin Murray, Bill Ivins, Dennis Emeret, choreographers Kathleen Nicholas and Cara Coulter, and the countless hours brought forth from parents, students, volunteers, and sponsors.

Our students prepare for opening night beginning in November with auditions. Stage managers Natalie Columbus, Emilia Cano-Czagany, and Mallory McIvor have been organizing and preparing for the three months of rehearsal since this past summer. These three ladies are also in charge of the stage and lighting crew that are essential for the smooth flow of the show. Brooke Echnat and Katie Schwartzman were this year's student producers and program designers, Bridget Wang coordinated advertisements which became an important part in financing the production. Marissa Albrecht and Georgina Zimmerman organized and managed the hair and makeup of the entire cast. Nina Stumpf, Delaney Roberts, and Maddie Macek designed and organized all the costumes for every single cast member. There are a ton of students who have also put in countless of hours into this amazing production. *Into the Woods* is a combination of numerous fairy tales working together to teach the meaning of "be careful what you wish for." The predominant stories

are Jack and the Beanstalk (played by Max Lucas), Little Red Riding Hood (played by Kieran Bartels), Cinderella (played by Carlie Platt), and Baker and Wife (played by Thomas Swigon and Deirdre Roberts). The ugly Witch, the mastermind that causes the chaos in Act I and Act II, is played by the talented Nadia Dandashi. The musical is a long process but every cast, crew, and pit member will agree that every single hour of rehearsal was worth it.



Battle Bot Team Excels at Regional Preliminary Competition

Students from Fox Chapel Area High School placed third at the SWPA BotsIQ Preliminary Competition. The battles were held at the Butler County Community College on March 9th.

Fox Chapel Area High School battle bot "Reaper" won all of its battles and winners bracket, advancing it to the quarter finals. After two great battles with Pine-Richland, the team finished third and qualified for the PA State BotsIQ competition against 84 teams and 65 Schools. Senior Thomas McFadden, the pit boss, said, "I'm proud of the team's sportsmanship and hard work at the competition. FCAHS bot "Reaper" and Pine-Richland bot "RAMbo" were in two epic battles. Both battle bots were barely moving at the end of the three-minute bout. Pine-Richland lost in the finals because of the beating we gave them. The brackets had the two best bots going head to head before the finals. We learned a lot about our bot today and what changes need to be made for the state competitions in April. We will be ready!"

Fox Chapel's team will be one of the top 9 teams at the State completion, thus increasing the chances of making it to the finals at the PA State BotsIQ competition.

Team members include; Thomas McFadden, Chris Snider, Skylor Wright, Brian King, Andrew Sobek, Juliette Naugle, Amanda Trusiak, Alaina Kotchey, Thomas Penland, Matt Hopkins, Riley Perchinsky, Maximillion Polster and Brian Mulhern. Special thanks to the Advanced Robotics Engineering class for all their help.

The SWPA BotsIQ is the first of three levels of competitive competitions. The next level of competition is the Pennsylvania BotsIQ State competition, which will be held from Thursday, April 27 to Saturday, April 29 at California University of Pennsylvania.



FCAHS STUDENTS CANDIDATES IN PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors Mihir Garimella, Darwin Leuba, William "Tim" Marsh, and Suvir Mirchandani have been named candidates in the 2017 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Approximately 4,000 students from across the United States, and 136 from Pennsylvania, have been named candidates in this year's program.

Inclusion in the Presidential Scholars Program, begun in 1964, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Students are initially selected for the program based on academic achievement and having scored exceptionally well on the SAT or the ACT. The candidates must then complete an application which includes essays, self-assessments, and secondary school reports and transcripts. Candidates are evaluated based on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and the quality and content of their essay.

About 800 students will be selected as Semi-finalists in the program and then students chosen as Scholars will be notified this spring. Each year up to 161 students are named Presidential Scholars. Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., in June for an expense-paid trip to meet with government officials, educators, and other accomplished people. They will also receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a special recognition ceremony sponsored by the White House.



MIHIR
GARIMELLA



DARWIN
LEUBA



TIM
MARSH



SIVIR
MIRCHANDANI



FCAHS Choir Chosen to Perform

The Fox Chapel Area High School Madrigal Singers have been selected to perform at the 2017 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Annual Conference. The group will perform April 21 in Erie, Pennsylvania. The PMEA selected the Madrigal Singers from approximately 140 other performance ensembles who had submitted audition recordings.

The Madrigal Singers includes 40 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and the choir is under the direction of teacher Benjamin Murray.

FC Meets World



Fox Chapel Area High School junior Jessica Schwartz started the FC Meets World Club because she wanted students to learn about issues of concern and importance around the world. She recently did a project, with the help of her classmates and teacher Brandon Rios, where they collected 1,000 books for a library in a primary school in Kenya.

Jessica recently received a commendation "As an Outstanding Citizen of Allegheny County" from Allegheny County Treasurer John K. Weinstein. According to a letter to Jessica from Mr. Weinstein, "You are an exemplary representation to both Fox Chapel High School and Allegheny County."

Great job Jessica! Keep up the great work!

Singing Praises of the FCASD Choral Department

The Fox Chapel Area School District recently hosted a special community sing concert that featured the district elementary choirs, as well as very special guest Nick Page. Page is a Boston-based composer, conductor, and author who is best known for his song leading.

In the 1980s, Page was a conductor with the Emmy Award winning Chicago Children's Choir. Since 1990, he has led Boston's Mystic Chorale and guest conducted around the world including at three of the four Carnegie Halls (Pittsburgh, New York, and Scotland). His choral works have premiered everywhere from Lincoln Center to humble school cafeteriums. Page is the author of three books and has close to 100 published choral pieces.

The concert was the culminating event of Page's visit. He visited all four elementary schools March 30 and 31 where he worked with each schools' choir and then held all-school assemblies where he led songs with the entire school.

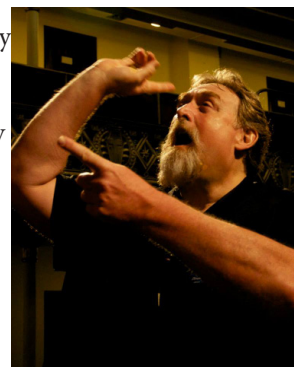
The special evening program featured a song composed by Page and commissioned by the Fox Chapel Area School District Music Department entitled "Train Song." The song combined the American railroad song "Nine Hundred Miles" with a South-African train song, "Mbombela." The students sang and accompanied the song on Orff and other percussion instruments. The concert also included an arrangement of the South African song "Hamba Nathi," as well as the song "Fairest Lady," an original composition of Page. In addition to the elementary choirs performing together, Page also led the entire audience in a singalong.

Page's visit and the community sing concert was made possible through the use of the Fox Chapel Area School District Gala funds. The district held a Community Gala in 2012 to raise money to benefit the arts programs at Fox Chapel Area School District.

According to Kerr Elementary music teacher and elementary music department chair Christy Ehman, everyone was looking forward to Page's visit with the students and the special evening community concert.

"Our department is so appreciative that our district values and supports the arts for all children and families, and that the district promotes music education at all levels through a variety of opportunities for our students," she said. "The elementary choral students are especially excited about this performance since 'Train Song' was written specifically for them!"

The community sing concert was held March 31 in the Fox Chapel Area High School auditorium. The event was free and all district residents were invited to attend this very special event.





MULTICULTURAL NIGHT AT FAIRVIEW

BY HANNAH MUELLER

On January 27, National Honor Society students were presented the unique experience of volunteering at Fairview Elementary's annual Multicultural Night. The event featured Fairview families of diverse backgrounds, each who set up a small table in the gym to display a little slice of their culture. Families from Egypt to Korea to Australia brought traditional food, music, and dress to show fellow Fairview families a bit of their cultural traditions. It was amazing to witness the students' passion and excitement as they engaged with unfamiliar cultures.

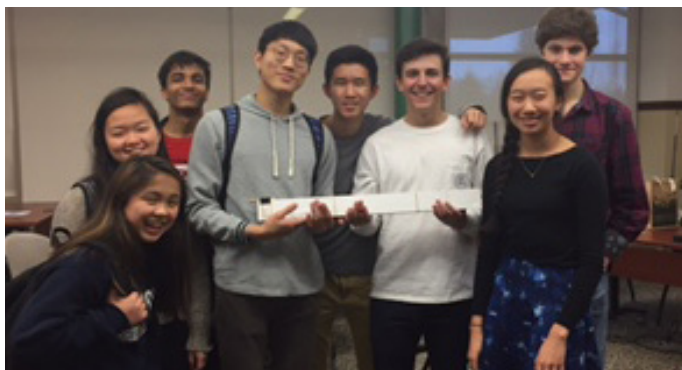
One FCAHS transfer student, junior Adnan Mir, presented an informative trifold about his home country of Kuwait while wearing the traditional clothing. Another FCAHS student, senior Ayan Sinha, gave an amazing vocal performance in Hindi in front of the large audience that had assembled. Additionally, the high school Spanish Club represented three hispanic countries, bringing arroz con pollo (a Peruvian dish), Argentinian music, and a soccer ball from Real Madrid, one of Spain's most beloved football teams.

Multicultural Night was a great way to showcase the rich cultural diversity that is so important to Fox Chapel—and a great way to sample the delicious cuisine of more than twenty countries represented there!

FCAHS Students Sweep the TEAMS Competition

Two teams of Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the 2017 Pennsylvania Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) competition. The team of juniors Karissa Becer, Wonho Kang, Albert Liu, and Bridget Wang and sophomores Arnav Gupta, Zachary Lakkis, Brian Mulhern, and Ziya Xu won first place in the 11/12 category. The first place team in the 9/10 category included sophomores Daniel Andrud, Justin Breen, Kristen Friday, Nathaniel Roe, and Annika Urban and freshmen Jackson Boychuk, David Shin, and Aaron Wu. The scores of both teams have now been sent to the state Technology Student Association (TSA) to be judged for possible inclusion in the national TSA competition.

The regional competition was held February 23 at Pine-Richland High School. The competition is a TSA-sponsored event and consists of a 1,000-word essay, 80 multiple choice questions, and a design/build section. During the event, students apply math and science knowledge in practical and creative ways to solve real-world engineering challenges. Students must employ the engineering design process to complete problems and demonstrate their solutions.



NOT MUCH OF A "BY THE BOOK" KIND OF CLASS

BY CLAIRE FENTON

We often picture a classroom to be filled with diligent students arranged neatly in rows, copying notes from a textbook or listening to a lecture. Today, that image is much different; technology has become an integral part of every curriculum imaginable. Students and teachers in the science department here at the high school have exceeded expectations in their application of technology. Its addition provides real-world context to the material, involving students in deeper level thinking rather than mindless memorization.

Mrs. Papariello, an AP Biology teacher, has introduced her students to Bioinformatics during their study of evolution. Bioinformatics is a combination of statistics and modeling used to analyze genomes, or the complete sets of genes in different organisms. After entering DNA sequences into BLAST, Basic Local Alignment Search Tool, the genetic makeups of organisms are instantly compared and contrasted. The program searches for patterns and similar sections in the genes. This information can be investigated to determine the relationships between animals and find common ancestors between them. The students in Ms. Papariello's class were given a newly discovered fossil from an unknown species. Through this program, they entered the DNA sequence extracted from the fossil and tried to find relationships with existing organisms. The more shared genes found between it and another organism, the more recent their common ancestor.

Similarly, Mr. Thomas' Astronomy class is working with coding and 3D printers, equipment far beyond that of a mere telescope. While it's true that observation is a key part of the science, it is by no means all that astronomers do; they use physics, chemistry, Earth Sciences, and biology in their studies of celestial bodies. Students combine this knowledge and their experience with technology to develop different prototypes. Using CAD, or computer-aided design, they are able to create and print spectrometer prototypes. The data from these instruments, which measure the wavelengths of light, can then be analyzed by a smartphone. Additionally, students have learned how to code for the Android OS through the MIT Appinventor; this has led to the development of semi-autonomous rovers, environment sensors, and Software Defined Radio communication devices. Mr. Thomas says that "these aspects of astronomy create a dynamic environment, and an ever-changing and evolving course."

These projects emulate the type of work scientists in these fields are involved with in their studies. It is widely accepted that biologists are constantly hunched over a lab sample, or that astronomers only venture out at night to stargaze. These teachers are bringing the technological aspect of these studies into a new light and expanding students' possibilities.





STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL PJAS COMPETITION 19 QUALIFY FOR STATE COMPETITION

Several Fox Chapel Area students recently won awards at the 83rd Annual Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). A total of 19 of those students qualified for the state competition.

Fox Chapel Area first place winners were: senior Austin Fisher; juniors Shania Khatri and Albert Liu; sophomores Arnav Gupta, Theresa Heidenreich, Zachary Lakkis, Ji-Yool Moon, and Ziya Xu; freshmen Hanna Chen, Rajeev Godse, Anzu Sekikawa, and Ameya Velankar; eighth graders Amulya Garimella, Catherine Heidenreich, Anthony Nguyen, Vinisha Sant, and Elizabeth Schwartzman; and seventh graders Mona Gerges and Theodor Urban. The first place winners have qualified for the state PJAS competition which will be held May 14-16, 2017, at Penn State University (Main Campus).

Fox Chapel Area second place winners were: juniors Andreas Paljug, Trisha Shah, and Claudia Simon; sophomores Vaishavi Agrawal, Sanjana Harish, Kathryn Schwartzman, and Gina Wang; freshmen Serena Fisher and Christiana Paljug; eighth graders Suparna Agrawal, Jackson Romero, and Nishi Thawani; and seventh grader Janise Kim.

The Fox Chapel Area third place winner was senior Ayan Sinha.

The following Fox Chapel Area High School students received these special awards in addition to their place awards: Austin Fisher and Ayan Sinha each received six-year Perseverance awards; Shania Khatri received an Innovation Works Award; Theresa Heidenreich won a PJAS Director's Award in Biology and a Duquesne University Excellence in Scientific Pursuit award;

Zachary Lakkis won a Carnegie Mellon University for Nucleic Acids Science and Technology Award; Hanna Chen received the Southwest Pennsylvania Outreach Award and the Society of Women Engineers' Award; Rajeev Godse won a Perfect Score Award and a PJAS Director's Award in Math; and Anzu Sekikawa won the Duquesne University Award for Excellence in Chemistry and Biochemistry – Dr. Kurt C. Schreiber and a PJAS Director's Award in Chemistry.

The following Dorseyville Middle School students received these special awards in addition to their first place awards: Catherine Heidenreich, Elizabeth Schwartzman, and Theodor Urban each won a Duquesne University Award for Excellence in Scientific Pursuit; Mona Gerges received a Perfect Score Award, a Westinghouse Women in Engineering Award, and an American Chemical Society Award; and Theodor Urban also won an American Society of Civil Engineers Award.

The participating students (from several schools from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties) researched their science projects for several months. During the competition, each of the students was required to give an oral presentation on his or her science project in front of a panel of judges. The regional competition was held at Duquesne University February 4.





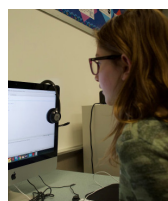
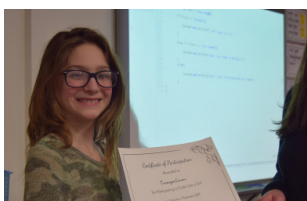
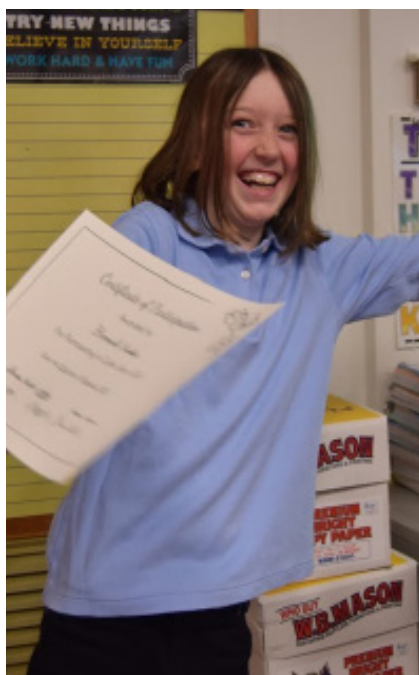
BY CLAUDIA SIMON

Knowing that change begins with the individual, I set out with a group of like-minded peers who wanted to serve as a catalyst for change and provide young girls with support and opportunities in this field. Along with juniors Shania Khatri and Toby Lazear and senior Bliss Uribe, we designed a curriculum that would create an environment where young girls could learn the fundamental ideas of coding. We approached Fairview Elementary teacher Mrs. Lang with a proposal to teach an after school program specifically designed to instill a love of computer programming on the elementary school level. After months of planning, we held our first session of “Code Like a Girl.” We were received by bubbling faces with genuine interest and hands shooting up excitedly in pursuit of answers.

“Code Like a Girl” offered a unique one-on-one approach that was tailored to the individual needs of each student and their knowledge of coding. Contrary to its name, the class was open to any girl or boy in fourth or fifth grade wanting to learn something new and exciting.

“Code Like a Girl” was offered after school as a part of Fairview Elementary’s Great Expectations program. We hope in the future to expand our course to the other elementary schools in our district.

My love of science in elementary school was encouraged and enriched by the family members and mentors who recognized my interests. Enthralled with the intricacies of biology, chemistry and environmental science, I filled my summers with classes to discover new areas of interest. I came to high school eager to expand my knowledge to further depths in the sciences I had come to cherish. Never did I consider myself to be naive to the fields of science, until I heard about coding. Until that point, in my head, coding had been synonymous with typing. Upon hearing about it, I felt cheated. I was not aware of the growing importance of coding in all STEM fields, and it seemed like the only people who understood this had parents who were engineers or worked with computers. Wanting to learn more, I enrolled in a coding class in my sophomore year and learned the languages of Basic and Java. I was shocked that in all my years of science, I had never been exposed to true coding, which is becoming an essential part of the STEM world. I was frustrated that the opportunities in early education levels were scarce. I found myself feeling sad for the girls like me who would never recognize the possibilities in computer coding until later in life.



Forensics: National Qualifiers

On Saturday March 4, students from the Fox Chapel Area High School Forensics & Model UN Team competed at the Diocesan Qualifying Tournament of the Pittsburgh Diocese Catholic Forensic League. We were among approximately 190 students representing 20 high schools from the Pittsburgh region who competed at Fort Couch Middle School in the Upper St. Clair School District.

The following students were recognized for their performances:

sophomore Jonah Green and senior Jeremy Rodrigues were both recognized as Student Congress Super Session senators (they advanced to the final round, but did not place in the top 7) freshman Jonathan Rodrigues won 7th place in Extemporaneous Speaking and is the second alternate to national championships seniors Joshua Cagan and Austin Fisher won 6th Place in Duo Interpretation and are the first alternates to national championships.

The following students were recognized for their fine performances and have advanced to the Grand National Championship Tournament for 2017 to be held in Louisville, KY, during Memorial Day weekend: senior Madeleine Doerr won 4th place in Original Oratory, seniors Mihir Garimella and Darwin Leuba won 5th Place in Policy Debate, junior Sara Puthenpurayil and senior Jonathan Monroe won 4th Place in Policy Debate, and senior Ellen Pil won 3rd Place in Student Congress.

OPPORTUNITIES FAIR LOOKS TO INFORM STUDENTS ABOUT THE FUTURE

BY ALEX SMOLAR

On April 26, Fox Chapel Area High School will host the annual Opportunities Fair during all lunches. The fair will feature dozens of vendors from businesses, parks, colleges, and volunteer organizations for the purpose of providing students with activities and options for the summer and beyond. Specifically, the fair provides information about internships, summer jobs, camps, and educational programs to students who are in need of building their resumes, making money, and kickstarting their future. In addition, local businesses are eager for the chance to be put in contact with high school students to employ during the busy summer months. Some of the great organizations at the fair that have already signed up this year include: A.W. Beattie, All of Us Care, Animal Friends, CCAC, Chatham, Cooper-Siegel Library, Five Guys, Fox Chapel Golf Club, Lauri Ann West Community Center, the PA National Guard, the Western PA Summer STEMM Academy, Rustic Pathways, the US Army/ROTC, West Penn School of Nursing, and Zoup!

The list continues to grow, adding more organizations by the day to give FCA students the best opportunities to plan their futures.



For Valentine's Day, students in high school orchestra director Mairi Cooper's class sent pencil cases with boxes of supplies to teachers and kids in Louisiana.

Cooking With Chemistry

BY COURTNEY KENNEDY

This winter, two FCAHS students took their love for STEM outside of the classroom and headed to Fairview elementary. Sophomores Courtney Kennedy and Theresa Heidenreich taught a group of 4th and 5th grade girls about chemistry as part of Fairview's Great Expectations program. Great Expectations is a 5-week after school program that offers students the opportunity to take classes in various fields of interest, from window decorating, to coding, to making things out of duct tape. In the past few years, more FCAHS students have taken the initiative to create and teach their own classes to the students. Last year, Courtney and Theresa helped to lead the "Girls Rock Robotics" class with Annika Urban, Kristen Friday, and Helen Paulini.

The goal of "Cooking with Chemistry" was to teach the girls some scientific concepts in a fun way. Theresa and Courtney lead experiments such as making fizzy lemonade, edible fossils, rock candy, and ice cream. While the girls had fun doing the experiments, they also learned some pretty advanced science. "I liked learning about osmosis," said Eliza. "I learned how only water can travel through the membrane." Little did Eliza know that osmosis is something people usually only learn about in high

school, but Theresa and Courtney got the idea across by dissolving egg shells and making eggs explode.

Courtney and Theresa enjoyed working with elementary school girls so much during "Girls Rock Robotics" that they were excited to return for another year. It was rewarding to teach the girls how much fun STEM fields can be and to hopefully make a positive impact on them as learners in these fields of study. "Getting people, especially girls, excited about STEM at a young age can be difficult because science, technology, engineering, and math are usually seen as the boring topics," said Courtney. "However by making STEM hands-on and showing girls that high school girls are interested in it, the tide can be changed." Courtney and Theresa and their "Cooking with Chemistry" class, and other classes for elementary school students like "Girls Rock Robotics" and "Code like a Girl" are getting kids from FCASD enthusiastic about STEM. Next year the girls plan to continue their efforts in STEM education for elementary school kids with another new class.





GARIMELLA FEATURED IN FORTUNE'S 18 UNDER 18



Fox Chapel Area High School senior Mihir Garimella was recently named one of Fortune's 18 Under 18. All of the teens on the list are considered the "most innovative and ambitious teens under 18 years old." According to Fortune, these are "young innovators who are changing the world."

Mihir was listed at number 4 and was chosen for his creation of the Firefly. Firefly is a low-cost, intelligent drone that can be used by first-responders to enable them to explore dangerous environments to find people who are trapped. In the article, finishing the sentence "In 20 years I will be..." Mihir said, "Leading ambitious, high-impact research projects and trying to bring them to the market. My future is still pretty open, and I'm not sure exactly what I'll work on, but I do know that I want to use computer science and robotics to make a difference."

The concept was modeled after Fortune's annual 40 under 40 list. The list featured 18 of the best and the brightest teenagers under the age of 18 from across the nation.

FCA STUDENTS COMPETE IN ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST

BY ALEX SMOLAR



On February 22nd, Freshman Rajeev Godse and Seniors Rohaan Chalasani, Alex Smolar, and Victor Marculescu represented Fox Chapel in this year's annual Academic WorldQuest at Duquesne University. The competition, hosted by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, welcomed 38 teams from around the Pittsburgh area and quizzed them on Geography, History, and current events. The competition had multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions that were divided into 9 subject-specific categories. The event was hosted by WTAE's very own Sally Wiggin, as Fox Chapel took home 10th place in the 38 team field. Way to go, Rohaan, Alex, Victor, and Rajeev!

BOYS BASKETBALL WRAP UP

BY ELIAS IZENSON

This year, the FCAHS Varsity Boys Basketball team won its first section title since 2007 and made it to the second round of playoffs. The team really thought they could do well, but no one expected a 19-win season, with only three losses. The team realized they could go far after a successful and undefeated Christmas tournament, in which they beat a team from Florida. The team was then further motivated by beating Penn Hills, a strong local team, with old section ties. The team was heavily motivated by an early round playoff loss from last season, with leaders, Carson Cohen, and Jake Livingston both quitting their fall sports to focus on basketball.

The team was really successful, being very defensively minded, but also, as Carson says “we always had five guys on the court who could put the ball through the peach basket.” This season’s team played with a lot of grit, both on and off the bench. Coach Skrinjar really set the tone early this year, with how motivated he was to push his players to win. While a late loss to one of the better WPIAL teams, Latrobe, hurt the team, Carson says, “we still prevailed and maintained a focus on the goal of success in the playoffs.” Congratulations to this year’s team on the section title, and congratulations to this year’s seniors on a successful final season.





FENCING... STILL RELEVANT

BY BRIDGET WANG

*TO JOIN NEXT YEAR,
SIGN UP DURING
CLUB WEEK IN
SEPTEMBER!*

One of the lesser known sports offered at our school is fencing. All are familiar with the concept of fighting with swords, but it is actually a little bit more complicated than that. Students who are interested in the sport work and practice throughout the year and finally compete against other schools like Oakland/Central Catholic, Pine Richland, Winchester Thurston, Bethel Park, Peters Township, Mount Lebanon, Aquinas, Allderdice, and Seton-La Salle. In fencing competitions and in bouts, girls typically fence girls and boys typically fence boys, and school districts who do well in bouts advance to championships which were held on March 10 this year. After a hard-fought season, the boys teams ended with a record of 3-6, and the girls ended with a record of 2-4, shy off championships by merely 2 points. Next year, Fox Chapel will surely be in the championships.

In the scheme of things, 400 is not a big number, but in terms of WPIAL wrestling, 400 is the ceiling, and the ceiling is the roof, and it was raised by Fox Chapel's own Mr. Ron Frank. With 400 wins, Mr. Frank is the winningest active wrestling coach in the WPIAL.

Mr. Frank is a beloved teacher at our school, and also a legend. As WPIAL Wrestling coaches go, he is the winningest, and also one of the most humble. Mr. Frank is a Jewelry teacher at FCAHS, and he takes as much pride in his students as he does his athletes. Mr. Frank's humility in the face of such praise is another reason why he is valued so highly at the high school. Most of Mr. Frank's students find his class to be their favorite, and his personality to be one of their favorites as well.

FRANKLY, HE IS THE WINNINGEST

BY ELIAS IZENSON



SECTION CHAMPIONS, WPIAL CHAMPIONS, AND BROKEN SCHOOL RECORDS

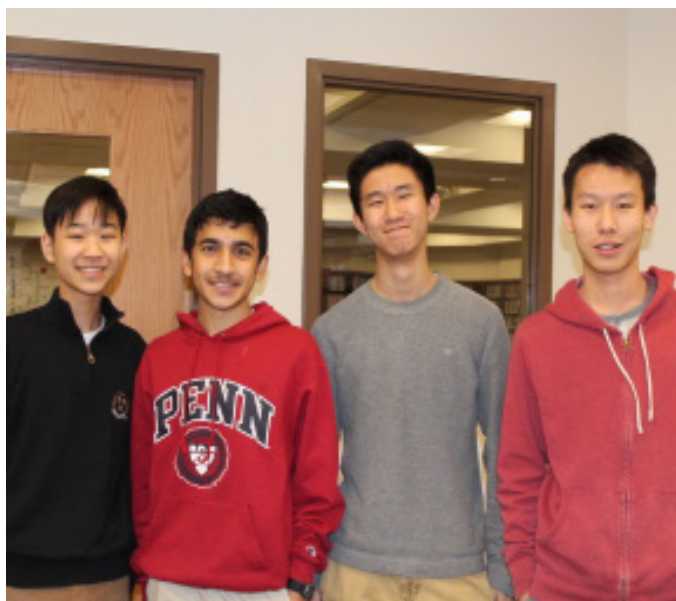
BY BLISS URIBE

Congratulations to the FC Swim and Dive team for having an amazing season this year, the team has really accomplished a lot of great things and have pushed beyond their previous limits. The girls team were undefeated and are section champions, a feat that has not been accomplished by Fox Chapel in a long time. In the meet against Franklin Regional, junior Joslyn Filo broke two school records for the 100yd fly and the 50yd free, and sophomore Jonah Cagley broke the school diving record.

An outstanding number of swimmers and divers also qualified and competed at WPIALs. Jonah Cagley won first place in the diving meet, and will be competing in the PIAA Swim/Dive Championship. Joslyn Filo also qualified for states in the 100yd freestyle and 50yd freestyle. Best of luck Jonah and Joslyn!



Students Score High on Math Exam and Qualify to Take National Exam



Four Fox Chapel Area High School students recently qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). The students are juniors Albert Liu and Ruopeng Wang and freshmen J. Oliver Choo and Rajeev Godse. They were among the top scorers in the nation on the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 12 exam which was taken by students in February.

The AMC is America's longest running and most prestigious math contest. Every year more than 350,000 students from all 50 states participate in this competition which is designed to strengthen the mathematical capabilities of our nation's youth in mathematics. Students who performed exceptionally well on the AMC are invited to participate in the AIME.

FCAPS Student Recipient of President's Volunteer Service Award

Fox Chapel Area High School senior Yelim Lee has been named a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award. The award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their communities and their country. The award is granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Representatives from Fox Chapel Area High School nominated Yelim for the national honor this past fall in recognition of her volunteer service.

Yelim is the founder of the Pittsburgh area Project LOHIR (Pittsburgh Lending Our Hands to Immigrants and Refugees) and the Fox Chapel Area High School International Friends Club. She works to educate immigrants and refugees to expand their network and community resources; works with Latino youth, including activities that allowed them to connect to their heritage; creates and teaches math and science lesson plans for after-school programs at Casa San Jose (Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh); and volunteers with the Pittsburgh Refugee Ministry, primarily creating and implementing hands-on science experiments for children. She is also the founder and president of Fox Chapel Area High School's chapter of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), is the co-president of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and is the president and founder of the high school's Asian Cultural Club. Yelim has also volunteered at UPMC Mercy, Volunteers of America-All of Us Care, YouthWorks, and the Pittsburgh Korean School.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), recognizes middle level and high school students across the country for outstanding volunteer service. Volunteer activities were judged on criteria including personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact, and personal growth.

"The recipients of these awards demonstrate that young people across America are making remarkable contributions to the health and vitality of their communities," said John Strangfeld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "By recognizing these students and placing a spotlight on their volunteer activities, we hope to motivate others to consider how they can also contribute to their community."

"Demonstrating civic responsibility through volunteerism is an important part of life," said NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti. "These honorees practice a lesson we hope all young people, as well as adults, will emulate."





FCAHS STUDENTS NAMED 2017 NATIONAL MERIT® FINALISTS

Thirteen Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The Finalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are Rohan Chalasani, Mihir Garimella, David Han, Elizabeth Heidenreich, Darwin Leuba, William "Tim" Marsh, Tanvi Meringenti, Suvir Mirchandani, Grace Mueller, Hannah Mueller, Mary Clare O'Connor, Ellen Pil, and Kai Shaikh.

These Fox Chapel Area High School students were named Semifinalists in September 2016 and have met all the requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards which will be announced this spring. The students are selected as Finalists based on their Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores and other factors, including SAT scores, a student essay, a school recommendation, and having an outstanding academic record throughout high school.

Each year college-bound 11th grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. All the students who take this test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program and approximately 15,000 advance to become Finalists. The Finalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and compete for some 7,500 Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million to be offered in the spring of 2017.

The NMSC is a privately financed, not-for-profit corporation.

(M)U (A)LPHA (TH)ETA

BY BRIDGET WANG

As part of the Mu Alpha Theta honors math club, members invited Mr. Russell Walker, a professor at CMU, to give a brief presentation of the material one might learn under his tutelage. The material presented was about series equations and other mathematical equations. Mu Alpha Theta has also been organizing over events such as a Math 24 competition between students and working in tandem with Mrs. Hollern for Rocket City Math.

Please see club president, Suvir Mirchandani, and find out how you could join next year!



BEST BUDDIES DANCE

BY MEGAN WIESE

On January 28th, the Best Buddies club held their 2nd annual Winter Dance at the Lauri Ann West Community Center. This year's dance was extra special, held in dedication to Will Zytneck, a member of the Best Buddies Club who was recently diagnosed with Leukemia. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend the dance, but all 165 students came in his honor. Anyone who attended would agree that the night was one to remember. The buddies and their friends arrived around 6pm to eat, sing, and dance the night away. Each of the attendees was dressed to the nines, accessorized with beaming smiles. The room was decorated to resemble a winter night, complete with blue streamers and paper snowflakes dangling from the ceiling. Pizza, chips and an abundance of cookies and cupcakes were there to indulge upon. The DJ played hit after hit, including some all-time favorites: Touchdown Dance, Whip and Nae Nae, Cupid Shuffle, and Holy by Florida Georgia Line. Andrew Chandler, Philip Saulsbury and Andrew Fedoush were especially great dancers, and the crowd circled around them to watch. The buddies and their friends also enjoyed dressing up in hats and classes to take pictures in the photobooth! On behalf of the Besties Buddies officers, we would like to thank everyone who came for making the night incredibly successful and one to remember.



NEW CLUB OFF TO A FANTASTIC START!

BY COURTNEY KENNEDY

HOSA, which stands for Health Occupations Students of America, is an international health competition, and a new club offered at Fox Chapel Area High School. This year 12 members of the Fox Chapel Area High School HOSA chapter competed in the state leadership conference in Lancaster, PA. 985 students competed at HOSA states in 47 different health events. It was Fox Chapel's first year competing in states, and two members placed! Senior Yelim Lee won third place in the Human Growth and Development event, and Courtney Kennedy placed third in the Sports Medicine event. The members of HOSA spent three days competing and attending health symposiums during their stay. FCAHS's twelve students definitely made their presence known in the 985 students competing from around the state, and they plan to attend next year with even more members.

The FCA HOSA club not only competes, but it is also trying to make a difference in the school and the community. They have held bake sales to raise funds for the Children's Institute and also hosted guest speakers pertaining to different health subjects that have been widely attended. HOSA has 25 members this year, but they hope to gain even more members next year. Any student interested in health-related careers or subjects, spanning from first aid to medical terminology, public speaking, or even veterinary medicine, consider joining HOSA. Contact Mrs. Hammer at maryruth_hammer@cl.fcasd.edu or Ellie Mountz at mountz_elizabeth@cl.fcasd.edu.

HOSA CLUB COORDINATES UNIQUE INTERACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

BY ELIZABETH MOUNTZ

This past February, the high school library transformed into a makeshift research lab. The high school was fortunate enough to have a guest, Dr. Michelle Scarritt, a post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Stephen Badylak at the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Scarritt talked with students about tissue engineering, organ engineering, and provided some general information about science careers. She also conducted some hands-on demonstrations.

Students felt the extracellular matrix (ECM) scaffolds of pig intestine, skin, and bladder, and marveled over the pea-sized ECM of a decellularized pig brain. They pumped a rat heart full of detergents and rinsed it with water until it was stripped of its cells.

The research that Dr. Scarritt conducts helps to close the gap between organ donors and those in need of a transplant. The ultimate goal is to take an entire organ from an animal, strip it of its cells so that only the ECM scaffold is left, recellularize the organ with the patient's own stem cells, and then conduct the transplant. Once the organ is comprised of the patient's cells, there is minimal chance of the patient's body rejecting the transplant organ. Dr. Scarritt is currently developing methods to master the decellularization and recellularization process with the liver.

This Summer, Serena Fisher, one of our Fox Chapel students who was inspired by the guest speaker presentation, has been invited to work alongside Dr. Scarritt at the McGowan Institute. Congratulations Serena! If you are interested in healthcare or guest speaker opportunities such as Dr. Scarritt's presentation, join the HOSA club!



Honor Societies - What's the Difference?

BY MARTY TAXAY

While many high school students feel passionate about certain subjects, a select group of these students are invited to join an honor society. While most students know about the National Honor Society, there are several other honor society differences that support excellence in various areas.



To those who do not know about the National Honor Society, NHS is the largest honor society in both Fox Chapel (with more than 300 members) and the country (with more than one million nationwide). The National Honor Society rewards students who excel in academics, in addition to being involved members of the community, with membership to the organization. In order to apply, students need to have a minimum non-weighted cumulative QPA of 3.5. If a student passes this first requirement, they are invited to complete an application in May of their sophomore year. The application requires proof of involvement in at least two activities in which the student has participated, two service initiatives, four character references from teachers, coaches or other role models, and finally an essay regarding examples of the student's leadership in the Fox Chapel Area community. Once inducted into NHS, students are required to maintain their commitment to leadership and service in the community through a variety of initiatives. The FCAHS NHS is co-sponsored by Mrs. Gibson and Ms. Miller.

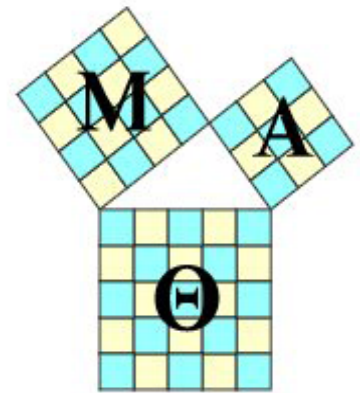


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For students who hold a high level of interest and achievement in the Spanish language and culture, the Spanish National Honor Society is worth looking pursuing. Led by Señora Fontes, SNHS is a collection of students who have achieved an A or A- or 3 levels of high school Spanish. The society is involved in school projects and fundraisers in order to increase awareness of Spanish culture.



If neither of those add up to your liking, Mu Alpha Theta, or the National Mathematics Honor Society, provides additional time and information for students who have a love for math. NMHS has regular meetings about mathematical concepts, guest speakers, and even an annual MATH 24 tournament. Students who are interested should contact Mr. Klippa in room 180. Finally, the National Art Honor Society consists of a wide variety of students interested in different forms of art. To become a member, students are required to have taken at least two art classes at the high school. The focus of the society is to enhance the presence of art throughout the district by volunteering at the elementary school and selling greeting cards featuring art created by the members. Additionally, this spring, NAHS is sponsoring a student art show in the community. For more information, please contact Mrs. Marangoni or Mrs. Smith for more details.



STUDENT WINS REGIONAL SCHOLASTIC WRITING AWARD



Fox Chapel Area High School senior Ian Tracey won a Silver Key for his short story in the 2017 Pittsburgh Regional Scholastic Writing Awards competition. More than 350 entries, spanning ten different genres of writing, were received from students from across the greater Pittsburgh area. The students' writing was judged by veteran writing teachers, professional writers, and university faculty and all of the students received their awards at the Regional Writing Awards Ceremony February 25 that was held in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium at the University of Pittsburgh.

The local competition was sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project. The Project is a non-profit, teacher-centered, teacher-led professional development program serving area schools and students for more than 30 years. It is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education and is a long-standing affiliate of the National Writing Project. The group partners with schools and community organizations in its efforts to strengthen academic and public literacy.

Students Place in German Day Competition

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students recently placed in the annual Three Rivers German Day Competition. In the fictional writing category, junior Bridget Shelestak won first place, junior Anna Paviglianiti won second place, and sophomore Courtney Kennedy was awarded third place. Freshman Alyssa Mattheis won second place for her painting, and junior Emma Francioni won second place for her drawing.

The Three Rivers German Day Competition was open to middle school and high school students from across western Pennsylvania and West Virginia and was held March 16, 2017, at Washington & Jefferson College. More than 400 students participate in the event each year which is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG).



FCAHS Students Score High on National German Exam

Several Fox Chapel Area School District students recently earned high marks on the 2017 National German Exam. Senior Dominic Gaggi won a gold award and is eligible to win a free trip to Germany. Freshmen Eve-Lyn Nicklas and Aaron Santilli won bronze awards, and honorable mention awards went to juniors Joseph Kirklewski and Bridget Shelestak, sophomore Courtney Kennedy, and freshman Shando Naini.

The National German Exam was taken at Fox Chapel Area High School earlier this school year and students from across the United States take the exam. The Fox Chapel Area students are under the instruction of German teachers Tanja Koller and Drew Richards.

FCASD STUDENTS WIN REGIONAL

BY CLAIRE FENTON



Several Fox Chapel Area School District students recently won awards for their entries in the Pittsburgh Arts Region of the Scholastic Art Awards of 2017. The show was held February 4-19 at La Roche College and many entries were received from students from schools across the region.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Gold Key winners were seniors Nathan Andrud, Phoebe Beard, Roy Gao, Elaina Graca, Haley Herrmann (two Gold Keys), Alexis Hurwitz (two Gold Keys), Amanda Hurwitz (five Gold Keys), Emmeline Klatt, Sara Lankes, Ryan Moore, Solana Morningstar, Ashlyn Spencer, Amanda Trusiak, Bryanna Urso (three Gold Keys), Brenda Vernon, and Ailuo Zhang (two Gold Keys); juniors Katherine Goodwin, Julia Kisslinger, Madeline Macek, Sarah Sheerer (two Gold Keys), Julia Szymanski, and Danielle Werner; sophomores Sofia Porter Bacon, Noah Fritsch, Paige Johnson (two Gold Keys), Demi Rymer (two Gold Keys), Chelsea Taylor, and Ziya Xu; and freshmen Marilyn Brach and Keara Yasko. Additionally, Amanda Hurwitz won a Gold Key for her portfolio. The Gold Key winners will have their work sent to New York for national judging where they will be competing with other regional winners from across the United States for national awards. The winners of the national contest will participate in The Scholastic Art Awards National Exhibit.



2017 SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

The Fox Chapel Area Silver Key winners were seniors Phoebe Beard (two Silver Keys), Roy Gao (two Silver Keys), Elaina Graca (four Silver Keys), Haley Herrmann, Alexis Hurwitz, Amanda Hurwitz (four Silver Keys), Emmeline Klatt, Sada Lantgios (two Silver Keys), Ryan Moore, Molly Mozurak, Mary Clare O'Connor, Riley Perchinsky, Avalon Perdriel-Arons, Cole Rosenbloom, Krista Spuhler, Amanda Trusiak (two Silver Keys), Bryanna Urso, Brenda Vernon (two Silver Keys), and Ailuo Zhang (three Silver Keys); juniors Harley Beckey, Isabela Berg, Amanda Bozic, Sally Dean, Kathleen Dunn (two Silver Keys), Madelyn Flanagan (two Silver Keys), Grace Katz, Elizabeth Kauma (two Silver Keys), Katherine Kauma (four Silver Keys), Julia Kisslinger (two Silver Keys), and Kathryn Way; sophomores Paige Johnson, Sofia Porter Bacon (two Silver Keys), Demi Rymer, Katherine Teele, and Noora Tuominen; and freshmen Emma Fuhrer, Nicole Lazaro, Nicolas Perico, and Grace Sisson. Additionally, Bryanna Urso won a Silver Key for her portfolio. Several students from Fox Chapel Area High School and one student from Dorseyville Middle School received Honorable Mentions for their entries. They are seniors Phoebe Beard (two Honorable Mentions), Emma Cassidy, Casey Dillon, Kira Galanter, Megan Hughes, Amanda Hurwitz, Kathryn Kenney, Emmeline Klatt, Sada Lantgios, Solana Morningstar (four Honorable Mentions), Mary Clare

O'Connor, Avalon Perdriel-Arons, Krista Spuhler, Amanda Trusiak (two Honorable Mentions), Bryanna Urso (two Honorable Mentions), Brenda Vernon (two Honorable Mentions), and Ailuo Zhang; juniors Amanda Bozic, Taylor Collins, Kathleen Dunn, Madelyn Flanagan (two Honorable Mentions), Elizabeth Kauma (three Honorable Mentions), Julia Kisslinger, Sarah Sheerer (three Honorable Mentions), and Kathryn Way; sophomores Lauren Copeland, Diana Crookston, Katherine Eames (two Honorable Mentions), Paige Johnson, Noah Manges, Elizabeth Mautino, Margaux Miller, Greg Overbeck, Maya Rice, Demi Rymer (two Honorable Mentions), Madeline Richards, and Richard Strawn; freshmen Jon DeLuca, Leda Perdriel-Arons, and Lauren Sabol; and eighth grader Jessica McCann. The regional award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges which included artists, art educators, and art professionals. All of these Fox Chapel Area students will be honored at a special closing celebration February 19 which opens at 12:30 p.m. followed by an award ceremony at 2 p.m. in the Kerr Sports & Fitness Center at La Roche College.

The Fox Chapel Area High School art teachers are Ron Frank, Joan Marangoni, Jody Shell, Christine Smith, Sarah Stewart, and Amy Wickman. The Dorseyville Middle School students are taught by Cheryl Etters, Nanci Goldberg, and Mary Jo Montgomery.



AAUW Recognizes Future Leaders in STEM Fields

Fifty-one young women from the 10th and 11th grades at Fox Chapel Area High School were honored on March 8 at the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church for their academic accomplishments in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at the 4th biennial STEM Careers Achievement Night sponsored by the Fox Chapel Area Affiliate of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Keynote speaker for the evening was Megan Cicconi, the Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership for the Fox Chapel Area School District. She talked to parents who attended the event about how to build a strong educational foundation for their daughters who were excelling in the STEM fields. And she urged teachers and administrators to help prepare these gifted young

women for professional development in STEM fields. Receiving certificates of achievement as well as congratulations were (pictured): Anna Aupke, Abigail Baldauf, Kieran Bartels, Emilia Bianchini, Aubrey Brown, Nicole Garcia-Tunon, Mayzie Gouza, Claudia Guerrieri, Annie Hirsch, Kiran Hughes, Mia Hursh, Elizabeth Kaslewicz, Sarah Khanzada, Shania Khatri, Katie Livingston, Madeline Macek, Julie Mallinger, Kaitlyn Nichols, Helen Paulini, Sofia Porter-Bacon, Emily Rosen, Bridget Shelestak, Claudia Simon, Anika Urban, Bridget Wang, Margaret Woodwell, and Tanvi Yende.

Also honored (not pictured) were: Emily Ben, Chynnah Bennett, Emilia Cano-Czagany, Anjali Chauhan, Sally Dean, Theresa Heidenreich, Alexis

Holben, Courtney Kennedy, Julia Kisslinger, Margaret Lazzara, Elizabeth Mountz, Jessica Paper, Oliva Pistella, Rebekah Polcyn, Mia Schmidtter, Kathryn Schwartzman, Sarah Seay, Sarena Smith, Elizabeth Uber, Gina Wang, Sofia Wedner, Ziya Xu, Kacie Zakin, and Georgina Zimmerman.

As parents and guests enjoyed Ms. Cicconi's remarks, honorees participated in lively career discussions with five distinguished STEM field panelists: Katie Flynn, Engineer and Energy Manager for Giant Eagle, Inc.; Dr. Alicia Hahn, Associate Veterinarian at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium; Stephanie

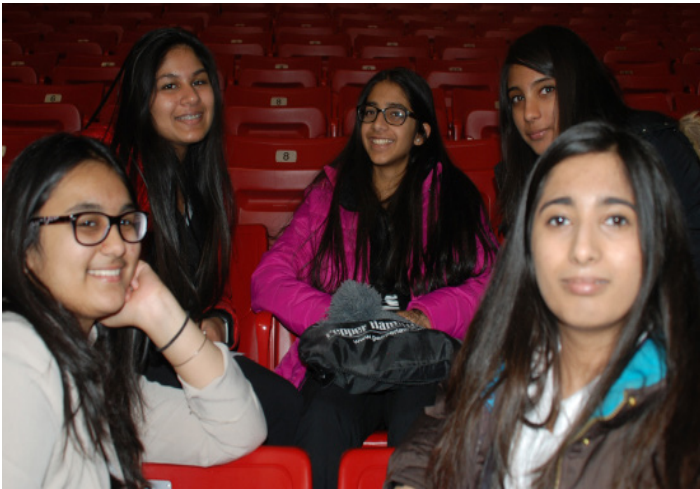


Kaiser, Oncology Nurse Practitioner at UPMC's Hillman Cancer Center; Cynthia St. Hilaire, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; and Jessica Trybus, CEO, Simcoach Games

and Adjunct Professor at Carnegie Mellon University. The interaction with good role models in technical and non-traditional fields is intended to offer encouragement to young women about to make important career choices.

Students were nominated for recognition by their teachers, who selected the girls on the basis of proficiency, interest or exceptional enthusiasm for one or more of the STEM fields. Educators agreed that each of the honorees demonstrated potential for growth in her special area of interest. Class participation, performance, special projects, problem-solving ability, and related extracurricular activities were some of the criteria teachers used to reach their decisions.

#CAHS STUDENTS TO COMPETE AT STATE-LEVEL TSA CONFERENCE



Several Fox Chapel Area High School students recently qualified to compete in the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference. The students qualified for states at the TSA Regions 1 and 6 Leadership Conference which was held February 16, 2017, at California University of Pennsylvania. The following Fox Chapel Area High School students won first places in the regional competition: senior Jeremy Rodrigues; juniors Anita Bargaje, Elizabeth Mountz, and Jorgen Wu; sophomores Vaishavi Agrawal and Nishika Mohnot; and freshman Aaron Wu. Senior Austin Fisher won a second place in the regional competition. Third place regional winners were: junior Nikita Bargaje; sophomores Erik Gurklis and Alaina Kotchey; and freshmen Joseph Johnson, Casey Monroe, Jacob Rendall, David Shin, Jake Sperry, and Ameya Velankar. The following eight Fox Chapel Area High School students also qualified for the state competition: seniors Samantha Cider, Juliette Naugle, and Waleed Tariq; juniors Karissa Becer, Matthew Ling, Matthew Treadwell, and Nathan VanDemark; and freshman William Urso.

The regional conference offered more than 31 state-qualifying events. It culminated with an awards presentation and closing ceremonies at which time many students were recognized for their achievements. The TSA Regions 1 and 6 Leadership Conference is the first of three levels of competitive conferences. The next level of competition is the Pennsylvania TSA State Leadership Conference which will be held April 19-22 at Seven Springs Resort. The third level is the National TSA Leadership Conference which will be held June 21-25 in Orlando, Florida.

