



FOX TALES *Quarterly*

A Student Publication

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Fox Tales Quarterly Wins First Place National Award

Fox Chapel Area High School's 2015-2016 student news publication "Fox Tales Quarterly" has been



"Fox Tales Quarterly" won first place in the 2016 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Newspaper Competition.

named the first place winner of the 2016 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Newspaper Competition. The Scholastic Press Association remarked that "Fox Tales Quarterly" is "an excellent school newspaper, which shows the creativity and journalistic knowledge of editors, reporters, writers, photographers, layout/graphics designers and advisor."

The 2015-2016 senior staff members of "Fox Tales Quarterly" are current seniors Maria Burns, Ishan Khatri, Daly Trimble, and Marjorie Trimble; juniors Alex Smolar, Marty Taxay, Bliss Uribe, and Micah Ziff; and sophomore Bridget Wang. The students' advisor is Fox Chapel Area High School gifted education facilitator Lisa Giguere.

The American Scholastic Press Association's contest is open to students from middle schools, high schools, and colleges from across the United States. Entries include magazines, newspapers, and yearbooks and they are judged on page design, story layout, graphics, headlining, cover design, and photography.

Business Teacher Wins Personal Finance Award

Ishan Khatri

Mr. Brian Yanizeski, a teacher in the FCAHS business department recently won honorable mention of the Next Gen Personal Finance Teacher Innovator Award. His "Home-Buying Project" that is a part of the Online Finance class, was recognized as having "unique aspects" and wowed the judges with its fully online nature. Through the Home Buying Project, students are not only exposed to the financial implications that come with borrowing money for an asset, but they also develop an understanding of numerous peripheral topics such as: homeowner's insurance, private mortgage insurance, closing costs, walkthroughs, and many other key aspects of making a major purchase. When asked about why he thought the project was important, Mr. Yanizeski said, "I believe this particular project goes beyond the numbers and touches on real-life knowledge."

Mr. Yanizeski was one of seven teachers nationwide who was recognized with an award by the NGPF, and he will be awarded \$250 as well as the opportunity to talk about his project on an upcoming NGPF podcast.



One of seven nationwide, Mr. Brian Yanizeski recieved an honorable mention for the Next Gen Personal Finance Teacher Innovator Award



Mental Health Awareness Month

Nadia Islam

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Psychology Club recognized it by bringing in experts from various fields of mental health to talk about their discoveries and experiences. At least once a week, these volunteers met in Mrs. Modlin's room to give informational presentations.

The first speakers were brought in by the Psychology Club's Communications Officer, Amanda Hurwitz, who was familiar with them from her participation in the Friendship Circle social group of the Pittsburgh area. She intro-

duced Rivkee Rudoph and Mark Friedman to talk about what Friendship Circle does on a day to day basis. Friedman went on to speak about the needs of the LGBT youth community.

The next speaker was introduced by Psychology Club President, Shaina Munin. Debbie Witchel visited the school to speak about Gestalt therapy and general counseling. In the same week, Mr. Norberg brought in Dr. Victor Wong to speak during fourth period about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Veterans.

The following week, Mrs. Modlin, the sponsor of Fox Chapel's Psychology Club, introduced Sarah Bradley, a Fox Chapel Area graduate, to speak about her major of Neuroscience. The second speaker was introduced by the Psychology Club Vice President, Nadia Islam. Roshan Koozekanani, a psychiatrist, spoke in general about her experience in her field of study and her day-to-day counseling efforts.

The very last speakers of the month spoke about college life as they pursue the subject of Psychology. FCAHS graduates and previous Psychology Club officers Kristin Goodwin and Megan Martin as well as graduate Zoe Beard came in to talk to high school students interested in their chosen field of study.

Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month has been a tradition of the Psychology Club and continues to thrive due to the amount of speakers being brought in each year. The club's officers are expected to introduce at least one volunteer to inform the club members as well as interested listeners about future job options that are related to Psychology. The speakers were available typically during third period so that those wanderers during lunch could stop by and learn something that might inspire them to expand their studies. If you missed out this year, be sure to mark your calendar and join us next May!



Mental Health Awareness Month's first speakers accompanied by Psychology Club's Communications Officer Amanda Hurwitz and her sister. (Pictured left to right: Mark Friedman, Alexis Hurwitz, Rivkee Rudoph, and Amanda Hurwitz)

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Students Part of the Elite Top 100

Congratulations to Fox Chapel Area High School senior Sreeroopa Som and junior Elizabeth Heidenreich, who were recently named to the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Elite Top 100. The students were chosen from among 548 nominees representing 97 schools from the region and honored at a banquet in April.

Elizabeth was nominated for her commitment to academic success, involvement in numerous extracurricular activities, and awards which include: High School Highest Honors, Westinghouse Science Honors Institute, Women in Mathematics Award, Carnegie Mellon Sigma XI Award, Varsity Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee State Finalist, Festival of Strings Concertmaster, and much more. Upon graduation, Elizabeth plans to go to college to study science.

Sreeroopa, who won a gold medal for placing in the top ten, was nominated by Ms. Lisa Giguere for her steadfast commitment to excellence in the fields of STEM. Sreeroopa's achievements include being named a National Merit Semifinalist, Coca-Cola Scholarship Semifinalist, Superior in US Piano Guild examinations, CIEE Global Navigator Scholarship Awardee, Magee-Womens' Research Institute Intern, and the Fourth River Robotics Connect Award. After graduation, Sreeroopa plans to attend Stanford Uni-

versity to study mathematics and pre-med.

Six other amazing FCAHS students were among the nominees. They were: Kelly Arel, Rebecca Heilmann, Samantha Olbrich, Amanda Puthenpuylaril, Mia Vento, and Skylor Wright.



Senior Sreeroopa Som (left) and Elizabeth Heidenreich (right), part of Trib Total Media's Elite Top 100, were joined by QUEST teacher Ms. Giguere at the student recognition ceremony.

LAUNCH Into a Better Future

Marty Taxay

This year, Fox Chapel Area High School is offering a new program for incoming freshman. The LAUNCH (Learning and Understanding the Necessities of College and High School) program is a five-day seminar that will prepare future ninth graders for transition to high school. This free program has been carefully developed by teachers and administrators to help students in numerous fields. The LAUNCH name, all logos, and the marketing strategy were all designed last year by the FCAHS Marketing class!

This orientation to high school life focuses on five key areas. Academic Preparation will strengthen the most important learning strategies used by students by teaching note-taking and study skills in addition to analyzing comprehension and writing strategies. The program will also focus on Metacognitive Enhancement. Students will learn how to analyze how they view all aspects of their lives, from academic success to friendships. Various problem solving, time management and organization skills will be developed

as well as an evaluation of the importance of positive social interactions. In addition, a high school orientation will be offered. Tours of the high school grounds and insight into athletic programs and other school affiliated activities will allow the future freshman to plan ahead for their high school careers.

The fourth central idea of LAUNCH will include teaching Technological Responsibility. Issues such as cyber bullying, social media presence, and overall technological understanding will be studied. This aspect of the program will help inform the students about how posting inappropriate material may come back to negatively affect one's life after high school. Finally, the last theme of the program is "Make Your High School Years Count!" Throughout the week, students will hear from a variety of speakers who will provide motivation and inspiration on how to maximize their potential and get the most out of their four years of high school.



FCAHS Robotics Team Excels at Competition

Six Fox Chapel Area High School robotics teams competed at the Combat Bots competition held at Pine Richland Area High School on April 27, 2016.

The Fox Chapel Area High School all-girls combat team "Marduk" won the best-engineered combat bot and finished second in the rumble against 13 other robots. "The crowd went crazy when the girl's combat bot hit Connellsville

robot "Flippin the Bot," sending it to and bouncing their robot off of the arena ceiling," said Combat Bots coach Kenneth Grimm. They battled all day and the girls were the crowd favorite, sending other school robots flying during battles. They finished 7th overall and had a great time competing against all-boy teams. "I'm so proud of all the team's from FCAHS, their hard work and their many hours working after school to get ready for the competitions."

Fox Chapel Area High School robot "Throat Punch" finished 3rd at the competition, winning more battles than any other bot. "Dragon Lord" finished 3rd in the rumble and 4th out of 30 teams that battled at the 6th annual Combat Bots competition.

The teams and student members include: "Marduk" – Elena Berg, Clara Ferreira, Hanna Belotti and Karissa Becer. "Throat Punch" – Donovan Gorgas, Erik Bothe, Jacob Mozurak and Andy Fugh. "Dragon Lord" – Jacob Smith, Chris Snider and Andrew Wirkowski. "Desert Fox" – Tyler Rapp, Cash Brusco, Michael Schilcher and Andrew Sobek. "Cup Cake" – Skyler Wright, Thomas McFadden, Darrien Thomas and Luke Fezcko. "Black and Blue Ram" – Joe Klaas, Amanda Trusiak and Daniel Beluk.

Combat Bots is a good example of STEM education at its best. Students each school year design the robot, design and fabricate the weapon, design and fascinate the wiring harness, design the control system and finally test and turn their own battle bot.



FCAHS's all-girls combat robotic team won second out of thirteen at the Combat Bots competition held at Pine Richland High School.

Global Connection Day

Fox Chapel Area High School hosted their first Global Connection Day April 4, 2016. As a part of the day, 16 foreign exchange students from across the greater Pittsburgh area spent the day at Fox Chapel Area High School. The students participated in a large-group question and answer session and were then featured as guest speakers in various classrooms. The students were able to share many aspects about their home country with the Fox Chapel Area students. Topics included culture, politics, economics, education, and other topics of interest to high school students. The majority of the foreign exchange students participating are part of the AFS (American Field Service) program.





State Legislators Attend Northern Area Principals Association Meeting

Alex Smolar & Daly Trimble

On April 8, Pennsylvania General Assembly legislators attended a day-long meeting of the Northern Area Principals' Association (NAPA) at Fox Chapel Area High School to discuss education policy and create connections with local teachers and administrators. NAPA was created by Fox Chapel Area's very own Dan Lentz, Ph.D. and Rebecca Cunningham, Ed.D. and includes principals from all school districts in northern Allegheny County. The association holds quarterly meetings where principals come together to discuss the most pressing issues in Pennsylvania education. For the final gathering of the year, the school leaders felt that it would be very helpful to bring educators and state-level policymakers together to address educational developments in Harrisburg. Dr. Lentz was a strong advocate for this meeting, stating, "With growing concerns about decisions being made at the state level... we wanted to rally. The goal... is to address some concerns or some questions about state legislation... and show them that we are knowledgeable... and would welcome partnering with them in the formation of education legislation."

All legislators expressed how much they valued the conference and noted that they frequently benefit from constituent input. As Representative Frank Dermody stated, "This meeting is very helpful to open up lines of communications between us and the school districts. Teachers are the experts."

To ensure that NAPA can regularly offer the policymakers advice and guidance on school legislation, Dr. Lentz and Dr. Cunningham created a directory for the legislators that contained contact information of all principals and districts in the association.



Representative Dom Costa addresses the principals at NAPA.

Those invited and attending were Republican Senator Randy Vulakovich, Republican Representative Hal English, Democratic Representative Dom Costa, and Democratic House Minority Leader Frank Dermody. The agenda for the meeting included topics such as the state budget, the reimbursement structure for local schools, referendums and school boards' ability to tax, the future of state testing and technology block grants, updates on truancy and attendance changes, the adoption of the Every Student Succeeds Act, and the use of technical center programs such as the A.W. Beattie Career Center. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

The Budget

The budget has been a daily concern for Pennsylvania school districts, and it dominated a large portion of the meeting. The principals asked for an update on the passage of the 2016-2017 school budget, and Representative Dermody and Senator Vulakovich said that they hope to get it passed by May. However, both Democrats and Republicans chastised extremists on the left and the right, and as Senator Vulakovich said, "the moderates are those who get things done."

Nevertheless, the meeting would not be one with politicians without the occasional debate between Democrats and Republicans, as Representative Dermody advocated for a personal income tax to garner the money for the education budget while Senator Vulakovich made the case for an increase in sales tax. In addition, Representative Costa shared his idea for a two-year budget to avoid a stalemate every year. Multiple principals and teachers noted that the budget came so late last year that many school districts



Fox Tales Quarterly reporter Daly Trimble interviews Representative Hal English before the meeting.



struggled to plan funding allocations and were forced to dismiss teachers. Senator Vulakovich warned that, in light of the continuing state fiscal crises, "Nobody is going to be happy, no matter what we do. The art of compromise in bad times, that's the way it is."

State Testing and Vocational Alternatives

Senate Bill 880 also captured much of the meeting, in part due to the considerable effects it could have on the school environment. The bill's passage placed a two-year moratorium on Keystone Exam graduation requirements, a result all legislators present argued was their motivation for signing. However, school districts are concerned about the bill's caveat. When the Keystone Exams are required again in 2021, 10 tests will be required in place of the previous three. Senator Vulakovich urged the group to understand that, "We passed this thing to give us a period of time to kill it... I don't like the other stuff we put in it; but we got a moratorium." The legislators were, however, surprised to hear of the months-long delay school districts must wait to receive student results. Tests that are administered in May are returned in October, months after the data could have been a useful benchmark.

While educators recognized the need for a normed and standardized testing tool, Dr. Lentz spoke for the group when he said that, "These three exams have become all we do. If we got to 10, everything will be magnified immensely... the logistics of exam administration disrupt the education of every student in the building." Principals of vocational-technical institutions, such as A.W. Beattie Career Center, advocated for the use of the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exams so students pursuing an alternative education can perform to their strengths.

Cyber Education and Truancy

According to NAPA, Senate Bill 359 is a new complication in the relationship between school districts and cyber schools. Currently, students are free to sign up for the cyber school of their choice, and the school district of their residence is obligated to supply that cyber school with funding equivalent to the district's per-pupil cost despite



Fox Tale Quaterly reporter Alex Smolar interviews Representative Costa and Democratic House Minority Leader Frank Dermody.

online education being inherently cheaper. The districts are also frequently absorbing the burden of "runners," students who migrate through multiple cyber schools, are difficult to track, and often wind up in a public school in need of remediation. The NAPA is concerned with SB359 because it obligates cyber schools to report truant students (those who have not logged on for 10 days) to their districts only at the end of the year, a delay that principals argue would make it almost impossible to ensure that cyber students are receiving the education being paid for and are not in a dangerous environment.

A recent NAPA victory has come through with Senator Vulakovich contacting principals for advice while crafting amendments for the bill less than 48 business hours after the meeting concluded.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Senate Bill 1159 details Pennsylvania's adoption of the Every Student Succeeds Act, which is the evolved version of the since-expired No Child Left Behind initiatives. The NAPA discussion of it revolved around the state's current attempts to standardize teacher evaluations, a process most school leaders would argue is very difficult to homogenize given the vastly different regions, local economies, teacher backgrounds, and evaluator perceptions throughout the state. While all principals agreed with the need for a metric, protest was placed again on oversimplification and the inefficient delays in data. Representative English acknowledged the needs of context-aware analysis, arguing that, "My goal is to let teachers be teachers."

More information about the bills, the leaders present at the meeting and state education policy can be found at www.education.pa.gov and www.legis.state.pa.us.



The Northern Area Principals Association (featured above in their last meeting of the year) convenes to discuss local education policy.



FCA Softball: A Whirlwind of a Season

Caitlin McEvoy

This year was set up to be an interesting one for the Fox Chapel Area Softball team. A new head coach and the loss of three starting infielders who graduated last year made the security of the team a little shaky. But even with that, the team was still expected to make it to playoffs and do well in their section. Thankfully, that prediction held true.

Last year, the softball team won their section outright but unfortunately lost in the first round of playoffs. This year however, the rest of the section was out to stop the reclamation of the section title by the Foxes and were successful in that quest.

In section, the Foxes were -3, losing only to Franklin Regional and Plum. The team was able to start off the season well by winning their first section game and then defeating Gateway, their section rival. Unfortunately, they had a harsh loss to Franklin Regional, who battled their way back after being down 4-0, eventually defeating the Foxes

7-6. They also lost to Plum in a walk off fashion, losing to the Mustangs 4-3. The second time they played Franklin Regional, they were out for revenge. The Foxes stuck with them, winning 1-0 until the 6th and finally losing 5-1. Otherwise, the girls were able to defeat most other teams in the section, with the closest score being 5-1 (against Gateway). Out of section, they were 2-2, a decent record based on the caliber of the teams they were facing.

The starting lineup consisted of Alyssa Guzzie in center field, Caitlin McEvoy at second base, Samantha Olbrich as catcher, Emma Humes at first base, Calle Zmenkowski as pitcher, Tawnya Holben at first base, Krystyna Burdelski at shortstop, Gretchen Angerman in right field, and Kerstin Nestel in left field. Of those girls, Samantha was placed on first team all section, and 5 others were placed on second team all section; showing the talent that was held on this year's team. They were led by their two seniors, Samantha Olbrich and Caitlin McEvoy, who helped their team deal with strife and kept their hopes alive even when the team realized that being back-to-back section champs was no longer a possibility.

As a senior and captain of this team, I can't express how proud I was of what we achieved. Although we were not able to take back the section title, we still achieved part of our goal – making it to playoffs. However, we were only able to get as far as we did last year, and we lost to Canon McMillan in the first round, 9-2. Although the score does not show it, it was one of the best games that we played this year, and we went out as a solid team.

Next year, the softball team will move to a new section, 6A section 2, a much harder and intense section then we are used to. Hopefully, the team will be able to achieve just as much there and stay competitive with the other talented teams. I wish them nothing but the best next year as they take on a new section and season!



This season's softball team faced its challenges but succeeded in making it to playoffs and worked hard as a team.

FCAHS Students Among the Best in State Forensic Tournament

Three Fox Chapel Area High School juniors recently placed at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League's (PHSSL) State Championship Tournament. Mihir Garimella won second place in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Ellen Pil won sixth place in Student Congress, and Suvir Mirchandani won

tenth place in Student Congress.

The state tournament was held April 8 and 9, 2016, at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Approximately 680 students from 104 high schools from across the state participated in the tournament.



Students Place in FBLA Competition

Several Fox Chapel Area High School students recently earned first through tenth places at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference and 12 qualified to participate in the national conference. Senior Stephen Polcyn and sophomore Rebekah Polcyn won first place; junior Tanvi Meringenti and sophomore Andreas Paljug won second places; senior Anja Schempf and juniors Rohan Chalasani, Tim Marsh, Grace Mueller, and Hannah Mueller won third places; seniors Logan Foster, Jacob Kronman, and Benjamin Santilli won fourth place. All 12 of these students qualified for the National FBLA Leadership Conference. The conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, June 27-July 3, 2016. Additionally, the following Fox Chapel Area High School students earned fifth-tenth places in the state competition: seniors Rahul Bidanda and James Braham; juniors Alec Eckman, Alan McIvor, Ronald Tran; sophomores Sarthak Navjivan and Ryan Santilli; and

freshmen Arnav Gupta, Jayanth Kashyap, and Jared Nord.

Additionally, five Fox Chapel Area High School students also placed in the open competitive events held at the state competition. Those students are senior Stephen Polcyn (first and second places), junior Alec Eckman (sixth place), sophomores Rebekah Polcyn (third place) and Jeffrey Savin (seventh place), and freshman Gina Wang (ninth place).

The Fox Chapel Area High School Chapter of the FBLA won fifth place for the largest chapter in Pennsylvania with 171 members and tenth place for the Local Chapter Annual Business Report.

The FBLA State Leadership Conference was held April 11 and 12 in Hershey, Pennsylvania. More than 4,000 students from high schools across the state participated in the competition. The Fox Chapel Area High School FBLA sponsor is business education teacher Christina Shanko.

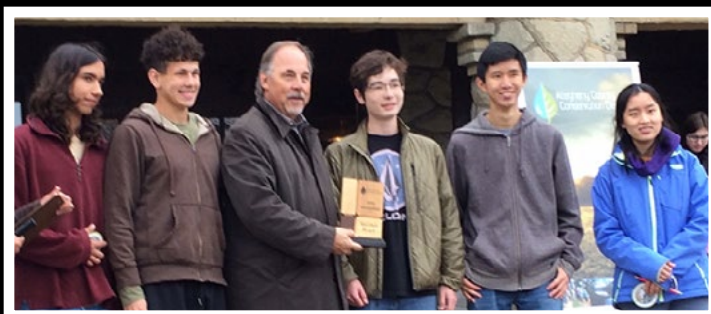
Liz Woodwell and Jenna McKinley Win Presigious Westinghouse Award

Alex Smolar

Fox Chapel Area High School juniors Elizabeth Woodwell and Jenna McKinley have both won awards for their tremendous performances on the Pittsburgh-wide Westinghouse Science Honors Institute voluntary exam. Liz won tenth place and will receive a \$250 check and Jenna won twentieth place and will receive a \$50 Best Buy Gift Card. Liz, who was very excited about her performance, said, "It was an honor to be accepted into the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute last fall. Every Saturday, lec-

ture introduced me to some of the endless possibilities of math and science."

The 59th Annual Westinghouse Exam provides students like Liz and Jenna the opportunity to gain a greater understanding and knowledge of the cutting-edge science and technology that is being developed at Westinghouse. The two-hour long exam was taken by 159 students. Please make sure to congratulate Liz and Jenna on their spectacular performance and their skills in science and engineering!



The Fox Chapel Area Envirothon team, anchored by coxswain David Han, earned a second place in the competition that was held on April 29. They were edged out by a team from Thomas Jefferson School District. Among the silver medalists were also Kai Shaikh, Kyle Breault, Albert Liu, and Yelim Lee.



Students Selected for PMEA Choirs

Several Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with prestigious 2016 Pennsylvania Music Educator Association (PMEA) choral groups.

PMEA All-State Chorus – Fox Chapel Area High School junior William Schwartzman (Bass 1) was selected by audition to perform with the PMEA All-State Chorus. The all-state chorus featured the best singers from across the state of Pennsylvania and the group was featured in a concert in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 2.

PMEA Region 1 Chorus – Five Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the PMEA Region 1 Chorus. These students are juniors Elizabeth Heidenreich (Soprano 1), Carlie Platt (Soprano 2), William Schwartzman (Bass 1), Philip Swigon (Bass 2), and Thomas Swigon (Bass 1). This choral group included stu-

dents from school districts in Allegheny, Butler, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. Approximately 180 students were selected for the Region 1 Chorus and the festival concert was held at Western Beaver High School March 18.

PMEA District 1 Chorus – Six Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the PMEA District 1 Chorus. The students chosen for the choir were senior Joey Desmone (Bass 1) and juniors Elizabeth Heidenreich (Soprano 1), Carlie Platt (Soprano 2), William Schwartzman (Bass 1), Philip Swigon (Bass 2), and Thomas Swigon (Bass 1). The PMEA District 1 Chorus featured students from across the Pittsburgh area and the festival concert was held at Penn Hills High School February 5.

FC's Definitely Got Talent

Bridget Wang

On Thursday, April 7, seventeen acts came together on one night to show off their skills in front a panel of three judges, Lindsey Nova, Executive Director of Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras, Candace Erb, choral director at Fairview Elementary School and Adjunct Professor of Music Education at Duquesne University, and Michael Bonavita, Fox Chapel Area High School senior and Madrigal Singer, who will be attending Syracuse University this fall. The talent show is sponsored by contributions from nine total sponsors, as well as 18 local company supporters and eight family contributors, all of which made the competition and raffles possible.

The night was filled with bands, solo artists, duets, and pianists, all hoping to lay claim to the first place prize of \$500. Those who competed include bands like Mafia and the Caps, duets, including Grace Sauereisen and Ted Uminski, Ana Spangenburg and Murphy Patterson, and Serena Smith and Aj Rosenberg, and solo artists, including Anna Aupke, Josh Manuel, Noah Khorey, Sam Fabiszewski, Kira Clark, Nina DeBiasio, Mia Schmidtetter, Gwynneth Heidinger, Jenna McKinley, Ally Sacre, Bridget Shelestak, and Alex Barcic. After an evening of music, promposals, and raffles, the winners were announced. Third place went to Alex Barcic for his performance of "Ain't No Sunshine"; second place went to Nina DeBiasio for her performance of "Fever"; and lastly, first place went to Mia Schmidtetter for her performance of "With You" from the musical *Ghost*. In addition, all of the acts were invited to Tonic Recording Studio to record their music in a professional atmosphere.

With the additional behind-the-scenes assistance from Señor Gonzalez, Michael Palumbo, Danny Beluk, Terry Whitehead, and stage ninjas Ronald Tran and Andy Fugh, who were also last year's talent show winners, this entire competition was made possible.



Alex Barcic (left) won third place; Nina DeBiasio (right) won second; and Mia Schmidtetter (center) won first for her performance of "With You" from the musical *Ghost*.



FCAHS Battle Bots Team Excels at State Competition

Students from Fox Chapel Area High School placed seventh out of 80 battle bots teams at the PA BotsIQ State Competition. The battles were held at California University of Pennsylvania on April 8-9, 2016.



FCAHS's robotics team placed seventh out of eighty teams, and the robot won four out of five battles.

Fox Chapel Area High School robot "La Venganza del Diablo" won four of its five battles in the winners bracket, thus advancing to elimination bracket as one of the top 16 battle bots. After two great battles, the team finished 7th and will compete in National Robotics League Battle Bot competition on May 21st at California University of Pennsylvania. "I'm so proud of the team's hard work and effort shown during the two days of competitions," said BotsIQ coach Ken Grimm. Our team worked two 10-hour days on their bot and help other teams. The team helped Connellsville High with repairs and gave out spare parts to two other schools so they could still compete.

Fox Chapel Area will be one of the 65 teams at the national competition. The next level of competition is the National Robotics League. The competitions will be held on May 20- 21, 2016 at California University of Pennsylvania. Team members include seniors Joseph Klaas, Jacob Smith, Brian Koglin, Dylan Lion, Jacob Pilarski, Darrien Thomas, and Andrew Wirkowski and juniors Thomas McFadden, Christopher Snider, Andrew Sobek, Amanda Trusiak, and Skylor Wright.

Also a special thank you to the Advanced Robotics Engineering class for all their help.

Day of Extreme Cuteness

Liz Kauma

On Thursday, April 28, the high school's student population grew larger and younger as dozens of children accompanied their parents to the annual FCAHS Take Your Child to Work Day. The new students, ranging from toddler to tween, made friends, explored the school, and stared in awe at the "big kids" while being ferried to and from activities that student and staff volunteers coordinated throughout the day. Events included: participating in the TV studio's live broadcast, a Disney concert, and instrument interaction with the orchestra students, Ukrainian egg-dyeing, pottery making, t-shirt printing, painting, henna and airbrushed tattoos in the art/industrial technology wing, learning about constellations with Big Bird and Elmo in the planetarium, a scavenger hunt in the library, and even a pizza party for lunch. The day was enjoyed by all, and one child's commented effectively summed up the whole experience, "high school is the best place in the world!"



Students in Mr. Martin's Television Production class get assistance from an 8-year- old during the FCTV broadcast on Take Your Child to Work Day.



David Han Wins Yosemite Alcoa Scholar Award

Alex Smolar

Fox Chapel Area High School Junior David Han was recently accepted as a 2016 Yosemite Alcoa Scholar based on his passion for the environment, experience in giving back to his community, and his demonstrated desire to learn in a team setting. The only 100 students worldwide who were accepted into this program will learn and bond in the beautiful wilderness of Yosemite National Park this August.

The program is designed to enhance students' abilities to address the many environmental challenges that threaten our world and community. David will interact with mindful students from all over the world. As David said about the award, "I've always enjoyed spending time in the outdoors and am thrilled to have the opportunity to develop backpacking and environmental science skills in the forests of Yosemite." Please make sure to congratulate David on his prestigious award if you get the chance!



Junior David Han was one of 100 students worldwide that recieved the 2016 Yosemite Alcoa Scholar Award.

FCAHS Students Compete at State TSA Conference

Several Fox Chapel Area High School students recently won awards at the Pennsylvania Technology Student

Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference which was held April 13-16, 2016, at the Seven Springs Conference Center. The Fox Chapel Area first place winner was junior Jeremy Rodrigues and the second place winners were juniors Jeremy Rodrigues and Jonathan Monroe. Jeremy and Jonathan have advance to the national competition which will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, June 28-July 2. Additional Fox Chapel Area finalists earning fourth-tenth places were: seniors Daniel Beluk, Jacob Caruso, Ishan Khatri, Jonathan Monroe, and Jacob Smith; juniors Erik Bothe, Sean McCoy, Mackenzie Myers, and Juliette Naugle; and sophomores Elizabeth Mountz and Jorgen Wu.

Founded in 1978, TSA is the only student organization devoted exclusively to the needs of students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The state conference culminated with an awards banquet during which many students were recognized for their achievements.



Many FCAHS students attended the Pennsylvania TSA State Leadership Conference at Seven Spring Conference Center.



FCA Students Observe the Perils of Drunk Driving

Alex Smolar

Every 15 minutes, an individual tragically dies in a drunk driving accident. This clear message was conveyed to all Fox Chapel Area High School upperclassmen on April 15th and 16th. On Thursday, every 15 minutes, a police officer entered a classroom to pronounce a student "dead." These students were hand-picked to participate in the program and were told to write an obituary beforehand to be read in front of their classes. After being pronounced dead, the assigned student wore a black t-shirt that simply read "dead" and was not allowed to speak for the rest of the day, thus giving their peers an opportunity to reflect upon the void that would be felt had the individual truly been lost as a result of driving under the influence.

Later that afternoon, students gathered outside the front office to observe a mock drunk driving accident. The immense demonstration featured numerous police cars, ambulances, fire trucks, the medical examiner's truck, and even the dramatic entrance of Allegheny County's Lifeflight Helicopter. Junior Annamarie Alfery and Senior John Bach acted as those who were killed in the accident, while Junior Billy Myers and Senior Maddie Wateska were arrested in the demonstration for drunk driving.

Those students who were selected to be dead were proud to help teach their peers about the risks of drunk

driving. Junior Alan McIvor said that he "felt honored to accept the responsibility of trying to stop kids from making stupid decisions" and that the program taught him "that peers can change each other's minds and have positive impacts on bad decisions." Furthermore, fellow "dead" Junior Eli Izenson said, "I felt like I had an impression of how terrible drunk driving was, but after what I saw today, I realized how truly terrible the risks are." Thursday's informative program had an impact on all students, dead or alive, and exposed the great perils of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Friday's program, however, brought a much more emotional, real-life application to Every 15 Minutes. The morning assembly gathered all upperclassmen in the auditorium to hear from Molly Cobb, a grieving mother from the Greensburg-Salem area, who told the story of her son, Jordan, and his three friends' tragic deaths in a drunk driving accident in 2010. This devastating story left students speechless, teary-eyed, and well informed that drunk driving is never the right choice. Hopefully, this important program has taught FCA upperclassmen that the risks of drunk driving are far too great, and that the Fox Chapel Area School District has an important role to play in combatting future drunk driving accidents.



Throughout the day, students were pulled out of class to be dressed in "DEAD" shirts and face-painted with white paint.



The mock accident was set up in the front parking lot of FCAHS to illustrate the dangers of drunk driving.



Student Selected to Study in Germany

Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore Cassidy Carson has been selected to receive a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship. Cassidy will spend her junior year of high school studying abroad in Germany. She will live with a German family and attend a gymnasium (a college prep high school) for 10 months (September 2016-July 2017). The students studying abroad will also travel to Berlin where they will address the German Bundestag (the lower house of parliament). Cassidy is one of only about 250 students from the United States selected to participate in this program for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange is for motivated high school students who want to experience a

culture and learn a language through a full immersion trip. Initiated in 1983, the program was created to strengthen ties between Germany and the United States through citizen diplomacy. The program was founded in celebration of the 300th year anniversary of the first German immigration to the United States. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program is jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and in the U.S. is overseen by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. More than 24,000 students have prepared themselves for success in an increasingly global world by participating in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program.

High School Students Honored for their Work with GSA

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors Hansen Bursic and Daly Trimble were recently honored by the Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference Advisory Committee. The teens were honored for their work in facilitating the Proud Youth of Pittsburgh Convention. The convention was held in November 2015 at Chatham University and involved more than 100 student members from Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs from various schools from throughout Western Pennsylvania. Hansen and Daly worked for months, along with representatives from THRIVE Southwest PA (a community organization that focuses on youth LGBT issues), with the goal of uniting students from GSA clubs from across the region. They or-

ganized the convention which included guest speakers, workshops, and breakout sessions, and covered the topics of diversity and inclusion. Hansen and Daly also spent a great deal of time meeting with various youth groups and members of GSA clubs from across the region. The convention was called "a breakthrough regional forum for LGBTQ students."

Hansen and Daly were honored as part of the Fifth Annual Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference in Philadelphia. The award was presented at a banquet at the University of Pennsylvania April 9, 2016. The Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference is the largest annual statewide gathering of young LGBTQ leaders.

On May 2, the Lima Interescolar Big Band from Lima, Peru performed for students and teachers in the HS auditorium. This group of high school musicians performed in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, before ending their tour at New York University before heading home. The FCAHS Jazz Ensemble performed for them and also engaged in a side-by-side. Spanish students had the unique opportunity of speaking with the band in Spanish and enjoying a private performance.





FC Boys Tennis Wins State Runner-Up

Alex Smolar

The Fox Chapel Area Boys Tennis team swept their way through the WPIAL Tennis Tournament along with the Pennsylvania State Tournament this spring. After claiming the WPIAL title, decimating other teams from the region, the boys tennis team found themselves as the second seed in this year's state tournament. The team dominated in the state tournament before losing in the finals to Lower Mer-

ion High School, but the this year's finals run made a lasting impression on the tremendous athletes on the team and Assistant Coach Mr. Bryan Deal. Coach Deal praised the team's performance, stating, "I am thankful to be part of such a great group of young men and special thanks to Alex Slezak for giving me a chance to be part of this exciting run!" Great job, Foxes!



The 2016 FCA WPIAL Tennis team with Coach Alex Slezak.



The boys at the end of their season.

"A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody" Dazzles Audiences

Alex Smolar

Fox Chapel Area audiences had the opportunity to be once again amazed and awed by the talents of our student actors. This year's Spring Comedy, "A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody," was performed in the FCAHS auditorium on Thursday May 19th, Friday May 20th, and Saturday May 21st. The show has received rave reviews, as it does every year.

"A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody" pays homage to the golden age of comedies in the 1930s and 1940s. The play follows a rich man, Matthew Perry, who attempts to kill his wife, Julia, in order to live a life of fun and travel

like his recently-widowed friend. Julia, however, is determined to be alive a year later. While the premise seems rather dark, the play itself certainly provided an evening of laughs for any FCA family looking to support the arts.

The performance was directed by Junior Nadia Dandashi and sub-directed by sophomore Alyssa Melani. Some of the stars of the show included Brooke Echnat, Thomas Troyan, Duncan Regan, Sadie Lorence, and Gabriel Fynsk. Please congratulate these students on a job well done if you get the chance.



DESI Night 2016



Seniors Michael Bonavita (left) and Manny Sullivan (right), dressed in Indian clothes, MC'd the event.

Sanjana Harish performed Bharata Natyam, a classical Indian dance.



Eight girls performed in Modern Bollywood, which was choreographed by Izzy Acevedo and Maria Burns.



Ms. Fink, Mr. Murray, Ms. Lancz, Ms. Giguere, Ms. Leonard, Ms. Polesiak, and Senor Gonzalez performed in the Teacher Dance, choreographed by Jasmine Pabla.



Michael Bonavita and Manny Sullivan cameoned as Taylor Swift and Kanye West respectively in the Modern Bhangra performance.

The first group dance was Traditional Bhangra, the Senior Dance.



The Modern
Bollywood
dancers per-
forming.

Junior Ayan
Sinha per-
formed Ajabsi
and Sawaar
Loon.



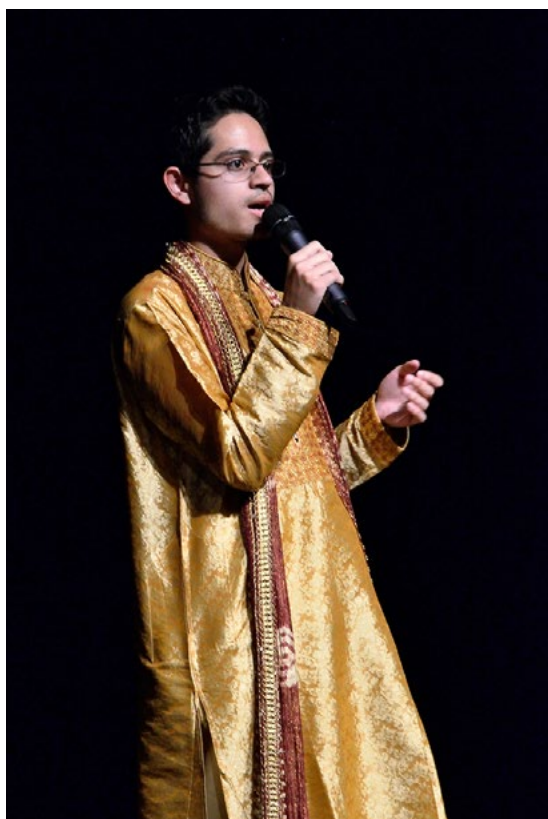
Jasmine Pabla choreo-
graphed both Modern
(above) and Traditional
Bhangra.

Senior Ciera Miller
performing in Tradi-
tional Bhangra.

Traditional Bollywood
(left and below), which
was choreographed by
Maria Burns and Izzy
Acevedo.



The night
ended with a
finale per-
formance by all
the dancers.





Class of 2016 Post-Graduation Plans

Acevedo	Isabel	Brown University
Ahmed	Izaz	Army Reserves
Alexander	Jenna	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Amorose	Jeffrey	Mercy School of Nursing
Amshel	Caitlyn	The Evergreen State College
Anderson	Joshua	Mercyhurst North East
Arel	Kelly	Colgate University
Armor	Holden	College of Charleston
Bach	John	University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown
Balanquet	Rafael	Northwestern University
Baldwin	Matthew	Marine Corps
Balogun	Bolanle	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Bartley	John Griffin	University of Alabama
Bates	Tara	University of Pittsburgh
Battistel	Brendan	CCAC
Becerra	Diego	CCAC
Beighley	Brittney	Carlow University
Beluk	Daniel	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
Berg	Elena	Rochester Institute of Technology
Berg	Jessica	Swarthmore College
Berman	Eli	Princeton University
Bernacki	Samantha	Furman University
Bernhard	Sarah	Carnegie Mellon University
Bernhard	Patrick	University of Pittsburgh
Beyer	Lydia	Boston University
Bidanda	Rahul	University of Pittsburgh
Blake	David	CCAC
Bobeck	Richard	Marine Corps
Bonavita	Michael	Syracuse University
Bontempo	Samuel	CCAC
Bordean	Bogdan	University of Pittsburgh
Bove	Michael	Duquesne University
Braham	James	Denison University
Braun	Derrik	Employment
Brentley	Emmanuel	Employment
Brink	Megan	CCAC
Brokaw	Brennan	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Brown	Christina	Rice University
Brown-D'Angelo	David	Employment Training
Burdelski	Elayna	Chatham University
Burke	Beatrice	Boston University
Burke	Amy	University of Rochester
Burkhart	Zachary	Virginia Wesleyan College
Burns	Maria	Ohio State University
Bursic	Hansen	Temple University
Burton	Allison	Boston University
Butler	Nash	Philadelphia
Buzzatto	Alexis	Duquesne University
Calandra	MarkMiami	University of Ohio
Cano-Czagany	Francesca	Villanova University
Capuzzi	Chad	Michigan State University
Caruso	Jacob	Duquesne University
Casile	Emily	Duquesne University
Chandler	Andrew	Employment Training
Chitambo	Clement	Bradford School
Clark	Maya	Duquesne University



Cohen	Lacey	Slippery Rock University
Cohen	Taylor	Washington University (St. Louis)
Collins	Aleyna	Duquesne University
Condron	Nathanael	CCAC
Costanzo	Katherine	Pennsylvania State University
Coulson	Madelyn	Johns Hopkins University
Counahan	Hailie	Waynesburg University
Crates	Kevin	Point Park University
Crittenden	Elizabeth	Westminster College
Crocker	Lia	University of Arizona
Curry	Erin	Temple University
Darapuneni	Kavya	University of Pittsburgh
de la Torre	Mariana	Duquesne University
DeBiasio	Nina	CCAC
DeLuca	Caroline	CCAC
Denny	Kelsey	Pennsylvania State University
DePellegrini	Brooklyn	Point Park University
Desmone	Joseph	American University
Dhakal	Narayani	CCAC
Dietz	Derrin	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Difatta	Darrian	Slippery Rock University
DiMatteo	Domenico	Temple University
Dolhi	Zachary	Pennsylvania State University
Donnick	Mitchell	Westminster College
Drischler	Jeremy	Point Park University
Drzewinski	Theodore	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
Duray	Michael	Navy
Eckenrode	Elizabeth	South Hills and North Hills Beauty Academy
Erick	Sarah	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
Esch	Christopher	Dartmouth College
Essey	Katelyn	Clemson University
Esteves	Paula	University of Pittsburgh
Fanto	Jonathan	Employment - Giant Eagle Headquarters
Farber	Jack	University of Colorado Boulder
Feczko	W. Luke	Messiah College
Fennell	Lucas	Rollins College
Fennell	Thomas	University of California, Los Angeles
Ferreira	Clara Rose-Hulman	Institute of Technology
Ferrone	Michael	Pennsylvania State University - New Kensington
Flotta	Vaun	CCAC
Fortier	Claire	Oberlin College
Foster	Logan	Wake Forest University
Friday	Matthew	Schreyer Honors College (Penn State)
Friedland	Benjamin	University of Maryland, College Park
Friend	Mary	University of Colorado Boulder
Furuhata	Kota	Carnegie Mellon University
Gaffney	Conor	Case Western Reserve University
Gallagher	Joshua	Employment
Gao	Chi	University of California, San Diego
Garfinkel	Daniel	University of Colorado Boulder
Gehosky	Savannah	Chatham University
Giovannitti	David	CCAC
Glick	Sam	Slippery Rock University
Goodman	Hannah	University of Alabama
Gottschalk	Olivia	Carlow University
Gottschalk	Kara	CCAC
Gullo	Antonino	CCAC
Gurklis	John	Pennsylvania State University
Haberman	William	CCAC
Hardiman	Matthew	Notre Dame University
Harvey	Nancy	Ohio University



Heilmann	Rebecca	Waynesburg University
Henderson	Tierra	Youngstown State University
Hertzberg	Jessica	Georgia Institute of Technology
Hoerr	Matthew	Marine Corps
Houser	Tristin	Mercyhurst University
Hudic	Michael	University of Dayton
Humbert	Ryan	Pennsylvania State University
Humphrey	David	University of Virginia
Humphrey	Mary	Villanova University
Irakoze	Charles	Bradford School
Irwin	Andrew	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
Ivie	Aaron	Brigham Young University
Jaffe	Emmelia	University of Pittsburgh
Jerpe	Melissa	CCAC
Kakela	Mikke	Finland
Kamat	Rohan	Pennsylvania State University
Kaminski	Sierra	CCAC
Karas	Robert	Robert Morris University
Kasian	Noah	Rochester Institute of Technology
Kelly	Anna	Michigan State University
Khatril	Ishan	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Khorey	Noah	Point Park University
Kiehn	Emily	Temple University
Kiley	Ryan	Triangle Tech
Killian	Zachery	CCAC
Kintner	Sarah	University of Dayton
Kiszka	Kathleen	Mercyhurst University
Klaas	Joseph	Pennsylvania State University - New Kensington
Koglin	Brian	Pennsylvania State University - Greater Allegheny
Kohnen	Michael	Military
Kollar	Ruth	University of Vermont
Kopco	Andrew	College of Wooster
Kotanchik	Emily	Ohio University
Kronman	Jacob	Cornell University
Krysinsky	Jason	La Roche College
Laymon	Genevieve	University of Pittsburgh
Lee-Oesterreich	Nicola	University of Pittsburgh
Lightfoot	Alison	Pennsylvania State University
Lion	Dylan	Navy
Liu	Steven	University of California, Davis
Lloyd	Emma	Carnegie Mellon University
Lucas	Angelin	College of the Holy Cross
Lukas	Dylan	Mercyhurst University
Lynch	Julia	University of Miami
Magnelli	Dominic	Employment
Manuel	Joshua	Robert Morris University
Marree	Fiona	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Marsico	Michael	Coastal Carolina University
Martinez	Lizbeth	Employment
Mason	Vincent	Drexel University
Matamoros	Glenn	Case Western Reserve University
Matisko	Nathan	University of Pittsburgh
Maximovich	Brady	Xavier University - Williams College of Business
McCann	Maya	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
McCleese	Madison	Ohio Technical College
McCradly	Levi	Brown University
McDade	Dexter	Kent State University
McDonough	Tyler	CCAC
McEvoy	Caitlin	Ohio State University
McGreevy	Heather	Employment Training
McIlroy	Margaret	Southern Methodist University



McLaren	Dominik	Colorado State University
McNulty	Donald	Army
Meadows	Dakota	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Mele	Demetri	University of South Carolina
Mendelson	Molly	Miami University of Ohio
Middleby	Shane	Duquesne University
Millard	Jane	University of Pittsburgh
Miller	Ciera	Maryland University
Miloser	Eric	University of Dayton
Mitchell	Aydin	Pennsylvania State University
Mitrakos	Gabriel	University of Pittsburgh
Molina	Olivia	Temple University
Monteverde	Patrick	Virginia Wesleyan College
Morris	Wesley	Bowling Green State University
Morrissey	Ryan	Florida State University
Muhina	Sahara	CCAC
Mulroy	Nina	Ohio State University
Munin	Shaina	Johns Hopkins University
Murphy	Aidan	Navy
Murphy	Shakur	Slippery Rock University
Nadeem	Abdual	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
Navas	Grijalva Astrid	Pennsylvania State University
Newcomer	David	Rosedale Technical College
Nguyen	Thomson	Employment
Norman	Elliott	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Olbrich	Samantha	Wheeling Jesuit University
Oliver	Dylan	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
Orban	Tyler	Slippery Rock University
Pabla	Jasmine	University of Pittsburgh
Painter	Holly	CCAC
Panza	Victoria	Point Park University
Patterson	Murphy	Ohio University
Patterson	Ian	University of Pittsburgh
Pawlikowski	Andrew	University of Dayton
Penner	Kristopher	University of Pittsburgh
Perry	Morgan	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Peterle	Dylan	University of South Florida
Peterson	Katherine	University of Pittsburgh
Petrovich	Alex	Employment - Construction
Phillips	Gestina	Point Park University
Pietropaolo	Breanna	Clarion University
Pignoli	Hannah	Kent State University
Pilarski	Jacob	Virginia Wesleyan College
Pisano	Austin	Clarion University
Pogue	Joshua	University of Pittsburgh
Polcyn	Stephen	Princeton University
Pollock	Bethany	Gannon University
Porter-Bacon	Amelia	Cedar Crest College
Puthenpurayil	Amanda	Pennsylvania State University
Quemado	Alisa	Case Western Reserve University
Quinn	Ryan	Hood College
Ragguinti	Brandon	University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown
Rago	Robert	West Virginia University
Rajupet	Siddharth	Case Western Reserve University
Reese	John	University of Hawaii
Regan	Isaiah	Employment
Regan	Emma	University of Pittsburgh
Rhodes	Jacob	CCAC
Rice	Jonathan	Pennsylvania State University - Behrend
Rincon	Jose	University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
Robosson	Emily	Bucknell University



Rodosky	Sophie	Northwestern University
Rodwell	Adina	CCAC
Roncevich	Christian	Pennsylvania State University - Behrend
Root	Tucker	Denison University
Rosenberg	Adam	CCAC
Ross	Angelo	University of Illinois - Chicago
Rowland	Amber	Employment
Royston	Blake	Slippery Rock University
Russo	Maia	Mercyhurst University
Rymer	Mia	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Sacco	Veronica	Mercyhurst University
Salamacha	Rebecca	Ohio State University
Saleone	Leah	Seton Hill University
Santilli	Benjamin	Boston University
Sauereisen	Grace	Clemson University
Savin	Margot	University of Michigan
Schaffer	Hannah	Allegheny College
Schaffold	Hailey	Slippery Rock University
Schaitkin	Iris	Tulane University
Schanwald	Sarah	Pennsylvania State University
Schempf	Anja	University of Chicago
Schmidt	Shyanne	Employment
Schmithorst	Rachel	CCAC
Schmithorst	Victor	University of Pittsburgh
Schwartz	Alexis	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Scipione	Kristen	Duquesne University
Scolieri	Giovanni	Duquesne University
Scott	Sean	CCAC
Selkowitz	Austin	Employment
Shah	Priyanka	Drexel University
Shaw	Matthew	Pennsylvania State University
Shepard	Cassie	Duquesne University
Shodipo	Jesuloluwa	Harvard University
Shymansky	Laurel	Duquesne University
Siegle	Isabella	Navy
Silverman	Ilyse	Indiana University Bloomington
Simon	Eli	George Washington University
Sisson	Arlene	DePaul University
Slovenec	Kayla	Saint Vincent College
Smith	Thomas	Allegheny College
Smith	Jacob	Purdue University
Snowball	Heather	Pennsylvania State University - Altoona
Snyder	Jennifer	Pennsylvania State University
Sokol	Andrew	Employment
Solomon	Yarden	CCAC
Som	Sreeroopa	Stanford University
Soman	Vishal	University of Pittsburgh
Spangenberg	Ana	Lehigh University
Spodek	Zachary	University of Pittsburgh
Stankovich	Lauren	CCAC/Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
Stasiak	Samantha	CCAC
Stearns	Wolfgang	CCAC
Stephens	Shianne	Employment
Stevenson	Olivia	CCAC
Stevenson	Benjamin	Florida Institute of Technology
Stewart	Asia	CCAC
Stumpf	Nicole	Liberty University
Sullivan	James	Kent State University
Supura	Sarah	University of Dayton
Susi	Dylan	CCAC
Susi	Nicole	Seton Hill University



Thada	Manasa	Ohio State University
Thomas	Darrien	Navy
Thomson	James	Ohio State University
Tinyo	Zachary	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Towle	Mary	Employment
Trageser	Emily	Pennsylvania State University
Trimble	Marjorie	Miami University of Ohio
Trimble	Daly	University of Pittsburgh
Troutman	Ryan	Pennsylvania State University
Troyan	Thomas	University of Pittsburgh
Truong	Steven	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Ulanowicz	Casey	Edinboro University
Urban	Konrad	Harvard University
Uricchio	Jasper	Pennsylvania State University - Behrend
Urso	Brendon	Allegheny College
Uselman	Daniel	Duquesne University
Van Dyke	Olivia	Temple University
Van Kirk	Michael	La Roche College
Vayonis	Brad	University of Pittsburgh
Veltri	Chad	Penguins Elite Hockey
Vento	Mia	Pennsylvania State University-Behrend Honors College
Vettier	Freesia	Concordia University
Vielott	Christopher	Carnegie Mellon University
Vignali	Carlo	University of Pittsburgh
Vogel	Joshua	CCAC
Walden	Harmony	Navy
Walter	Cameron	Denison University
Wang	Hao Ran	CCAC
Wateska	Madison	Duquesne University
Waxter	Bric	Slippery Rock University
Weis	Maya	Connecticut College
Whelan	Brendan	University of Dayton
Whelan	Maura	University of Tennessee
Wiegand	Zachary	Allegheny College
Wight	Edward	Miami University of Ohio
Wilk	Matthew	University of Pittsburgh
Williams	Spencer	Temple University
Wilson	Tracy	Employment - UPMC
Wirkowski	Andrew	California University of Pennsylvania
Wise	Bryan	CCAC
Witt	Kira	George Washington University
Wolfendale	Katherine	CCAC
Wolff	Casandra	Kent State University
Wolff	Michele	University of Colorado Boulder
Wright	Tayron	ITT Technical Institute
Xu	Xi	University of California, Los Angeles
Yates	Elaine	University of Pittsburgh
Yeager	Hannah	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Yount	Shannon	Employment
Yousem	Emilie	Syracuse University
Yousem	Blanche	University of Pittsburgh
Zappala	Michael	Washington and Jefferson College
Zhyzhkevych	Ivan	Music Production
Zito	Ashley	The Catholic University of America
Zonker	Megan	Ohio State University



FCAHS Prom: One to Remember

Daly Trimble

Fox Chapel Area Seniors and Juniors came together at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center ballroom to celebrate a Gatsby-themed prom on Saturday, May 7th. Students set aside the week's AP exams and last-semester crunch to put on everything from flapper dresses and stilettos to ballgowns and Converse, share a dinner of baked chicken and fudge cake with their friends, and dance for several hours to artists that ranged from The Temptations to Eminem. Additional fun included using a Shutterbug photo booth that could fit up to 12 people and singing along to crowd favorites such as "Sweet Clementine" and Smash Mouth's "All Star." Seniors John Bach and Katie Costanzo were crowned this year's Prom King and Queen, and they shared a dance with their respective dates to "All of Me" by John Legend.







That's a Wrap for Mr. Martin

Micah Ziff

After a storied 27-year-long career at Fox Chapel Area School District, the man behind the camera, Mr. Doug Martin, is ready to dim the lights in the TV studio and prepare to tackle his next adventure in life.

Most notably, Mr. Martin was known for being one of 44 teachers across America to win the Disney Teacher award back in 2006 and was the only teacher in Pennsylvania to win this prestigious award. Mr. Martin's retirement plans are still very career oriented. He plans to help other schools and programs build up their TV studios as well as teach the ins and outs of the on- and off-camera parts of producing professional-level programming.

One of his favorite memories from his years here at Fox Chapel Area School District was the annual telethon during the holidays. The pressure of the entire district watching as well as performing live is what made Mr. Martin thrive. He also was proud of the way many TV studio students decide to stick around for up to four years of his class rather than electing to take other classes, thus enabling him to build many strong, lasting relationships with his students.

"Mr. Martin is unlike any teacher I've ever had," says Emily Yousem. "He knows exactly how much and how hard to push his students so they produce the best work possible, which I think is a crucial trait in a teacher. When/if I decide to enter the TV industry, I'll know Mr. Martin has prepared me for it. For that, I am extremely grateful."

Mr. Martin is a teacher of a lifetime who will not be forgotten in the halls of Fox Chapel Area High School.



FCA History Buff Plans to Solve JFK Mystery in Spare Time

Karissa Becer



Faculty member Mr. Charles Mesiano, better known as Mr. Mes, will be retiring from teaching US History after 33 years. Mr. Mesiano is currently the oldest teacher in the school who attended Fox Chapel Area High School, and one of his fondest school memories is when the FCA basketball team won the state championship in 1977. However, he'll miss the other faculty members and the students the most. "More than anything, it's the relationships with other teachers and with students that has always been the best," declares Mr. Mesiano with a grin. His retirement plans include more researching to figure out who killed President John F. Kennedy, a passion for which Mr. Mesiano is famous for throughout the school, as well as working part time for the pros at the golf club and volunteering in the community.



Final Curtain Call for Ms. Meyers

Micah Ziff

After a glorious 29 years here at Fox Chapel Area School District, Ms. Sally Meyers is calling it a wrap. Ms. Meyers doesn't plan to stop here, though. She may do some acting, seek certification in Tai Chi or Pilates, and rediscover her love for healthy cooking.

Educators like Ms. Meyers truly dedicate their lives to teaching and sometimes lose touch with some of their own interests. This new beginning is something she is excited about. What she will miss the most is working with so many eager and creative students. Ms. Meyers has spent the majority of her career teaching French and Theater Arts and working in the QUEST department. Recently, she began teaching the English courses for the Fox Chapel Area online program; however, her heart will always be with theater. Ms. Meyers produced and directed the Fall plays from 1993 to 2005, and she nurtured the Spring Comedy Club during its first few years. She proudly recalls: "As Fall Play director, it was my goal to exploit the individual talents of each student and to give as many as possible the opportunity to contribute in acting, designing composing music, poster design, etc." Many of her stars can attest to her success.

She has made a large impact through all she has done for FCASD and will surely be missed.



A Little Peace in Life After Three Decades in the Science Department

Marjorie Trimble

Ms. Adele Selinger is the AP Biology teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, but that is soon to be no more. After 29 years of service enlightening the masses on the difference between transcription and translation, the process of dissecting a sheep brain with flair, and the art of a lab writeup, Ms. Selinger is retiring. Senior Samantha Olbrich states, "After taking AP Biology with Mrs. Selinger, I know I will be prepared for college. She taught me so much more than biology. I will miss her next year when I'm at college!" Samantha's sentiments are similar to many other of "Selly's" past students, several of whom frequented her QRT in the morning to talk, even if they had nothing related to science to discuss. When asked what her favorite FCA memory is, Mrs. Selinger replied that she didn't have one due to "too many amazing moments." She stated that her students "exceeded expectations" and left her "pleasantly surprised."

I am a past student of hers, and I can say that Ms. Selinger not only taught biology but also helped me to actually learn, understand, and love the science. Her plans for retirement are to be determined as she will look for opportunities along the way. She will continue working with therapy dogs at the University of Pittsburgh and tutoring. Ms. Selinger's past and current students are sad to see her go but wish nothing but the best for her in the future.





Running Foxes: All the Way to WPIALs

Alex Smolar

The 2016 Fox Chapel Area Track and Field team boasted some of the most talented athletes that FCA has to offer. Both boys and girls teams showcased tremendous performances; for example, at the highly competitive Baldwin Invitational on May 6th, Senior Mike Bove had an unbelievably talented half mile time of 1:53. In addition, a 4x100 relay team of Katherine Kauma, Maddie Lucey, Olivia Van Dyke, and Arla Sisson broke the school record for fastest time.

None of these tremendous performances could have occurred without the leadership of Fox Chapel's tremendous coaches. Mr. Moul, Mr. Karavlan, Mr. Patterson, Dr. Cowles, Mr. Shemanski, and Mr. Papariello worked every day after school with students striving to succeed. Also, the coaching staff received valuable help from a number of college students who had formerly participated on the FCA team.

The 2016 Foxes were defined by the dedication of its athletes. In a season that began in the cold of early March, runners and throwers alike suffered through hard workouts every day after school, always bringing a positive attitude. One of the Foxes brightest stars, Junior Alec Eckman, is a dedicated runner. "I do track because I've met some of my best friends through the sport," he said. "I love running."



Caelah Miller, Serena Seeger, Dixon Veltri, and Annika Urban had an impressive season as a 4x800 meter relay team.

FCAHS Students Compete in State Science Competition

Several Fox Chapel Area School District students recently won awards at the 82nd Annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). Fox Chapel Area first place state winners were seniors Anja Schempf and Sreeroopa Som; juniors Rohan Chalasani, Tanvi Meringenti, Ellen Pil, and William Schwartzman; sophomore Sarthak Navjivan; freshmen Sanjana Harish and Ji-Yool Moon, eighth graders Rajeev Godse and Anzu Sekikawa; and seventh grader Anthony Nguyen. Second place winners were freshmen Kathryn Schwartzman and Gina Wang and eighth grader Ameya Velankar. Additionally, Sarthak, Rajeev, and Anthony each received a Perfect Score Award.

The participating Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students were among approximately 3,000 students in grades seven-twelve who participated in the state PJAS competition. Each researched their science projects for several months and was required to give an oral presentation on his or her science project in front of a panel of judges.

The state competition was held at Penn State University (Main Campus) May 15-17, 2016. All of the Fox Chapel Area students participating at the state level were named first place winners at the 82nd Annual Region 7 Meeting of the PJAS in February.



Novel by Fox Chapel Teen is Published

Hannah Mueller

Fox Chapel Area freshman Theresa Heidenreich is now a published author. With encouragement from English teacher Mrs. Green Theresa decided to enter a writing competition for National Novel Writing Month in November. All submissions were required to be at least 50,000 words (around 250 pages) — no small feat for any author, let alone a current high school student. Her book, *Masterminds*, captivated the judges' imaginations and won the competition. Now, her novel is being published by FastPencil, Inc., and is available for purchase online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Masterminds follows a group of kids in the modern day with unique talents who meet in order to compete in a variety of athletic and academic challenges. Heidenreich

revealed that she was generally inspired to write by the extremely popular fantasy genre aimed at young adult readers.

This is not the first competition that this budding author has won. As early as second grade, she entered a competition through Reading Rainbow and won first place for her short story. Despite such success early in her writing career, Theresa confessed that she believes herself to be more of a STEM girl, and she does not anticipate a future career as an author.

Congratulations, Theresa, both for your outstanding accomplishment and for motivating other young authors to write.

FCAHS Students Win First Place in STEAM Competition

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students recently placed at the Shaler Area STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Competition. The team of juniors Vincent Lundy, Solana Morningstar, and Krista Spuhler won first place for their catapult. The students built a catapult and tested it over a month-long period. The catapult was then taken to the competition where it was judged for both accuracy and distance while throwing a tennis ball. The students were also judged on several STEAM-related challenges that were coordinated by the Carnegie Science Center.

Students from nine area high schools participated in the contest, which was sponsored by PPG. The competition was held April 26, 2016, at Shaler Area High School.



Krista Spuhler, Solana Morningstar, and Vincent Lundy built a catapult that won first place at the STEAM Competition.



On May 19th, the Pittsburgh High School Ultimate league championships were played at Duquesne University and the girls from FCAHS won the title game! In each of the last three years, they've made it to finals, and this is the second time they've won. Key contributions were made by Michele Wolff, Maya Weis, Ciera Miller, Liz Heidenreich, and Theresa Heidenreich.



New AP Computer Science Class Starts Next Fall

Sarah Hamilton

There is some exciting news for those technology-loving students who are interested in the computer sci-



Computer science teacher Mr. Klipa discusses programming with his students.

ence courses offered here at FCAHS. For the past couple years, FCAHS has offered introductory courses to the programming languages of BASIC and Java and an AP Computer Science course for those who complete the introductory courses. The College Board recently launched the AP Computer Science Principles class, and it will be taught at FCAHS beginning next fall. This course will be less focused on the syntax of code and more focused on the creative aspects and the real world impact that it has. It is designed to get more students interested in this growing field and to demonstrate how computer science can be applied in any area of interest or study. The goal of the course is to attract students of all levels and teach them how to think and create using computers. Hopefully, this new course will accomplish its goal of reaching out to many more students living in this rapidly changing, technology-based world.

Students Remain Silent for LGBTQIA+ Rights

Daly Trimble

On May 6th, several FCA students spent the school day in silence to call attention to the discrimination LGBTQIA+ individuals face in the United States. Fox Chapel Area High School's efforts occurred as part of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network's Day of Silence, an event annually coordinated by the international diversity organization.

Members of the FCA Gender and Sexuality Awareness Club passed out GLSEN explanation cards, rainbow ribbons, stickers, and candy for participants. GSA students also set up an information table to discuss gender and sexual orientation, current political issues, and Transgender Awareness Week, a national event that FCA commemorated at the same time. While controversies over transgender visibility, bathroom laws, and gay marriage continue to broil in other districts and states, dozens of FCA students attempted to peacefully advocate for the community, with teachers aware that their classes might have been quieter on that day.



May 6th was the Day of Silence, an event coordinated by GLSEN when students may decide to remain silent to call attention to discrimination towards LGBTQIA+ individuals.



International Students Connect with FCA

Daly Trimble

On Monday, May 4th, 16 foreign exchange students within Fox Chapel Area and surrounding school districts gathered at the high school to celebrate Fox Chapel's Global Connections Day. An endeavor organized largely by French teacher Madame Montgomery, principal Dr. Cunningham, and host families affiliated with American Field Service, Global Connections Day enabled students traveling abroad to meet one another, visit classrooms to bring an international focus to the day's lesson plans, and briefly share their experiences with a student audience during a panel discussion.

Several FCA students were in attendance and were encouraged to ask questions about living and learning around the globe. The first question, "What is the biggest difference between the United States and your country?" was met with raucous laughter and was the primary theme behind the ensuing conversation as the travelers discussed everything from the weather and the American presidential race to the education system.

Mid-panel, several students made note of the fact that American high school is another world to them. Regarding scheduling, Ella from France noted that she was used to beginning her days around 8:30 AM and concluding them in the early evening. Many students from Europe and the Middle East reported not having extensive or school-affiliated extracurricular activities, and students were surprised at the restricted mobility caused by hall passes and the inability to leave the building unsupervised during school hours. Testing is also different internationally,

with German students taking multiple-choice exams for the first time here and Shahmir from Pakistan receiving a final grade based on more than a final exam score. Attitudes towards teachers varied from Mathias from South Korea, who is accustomed to bowing to his teachers in greeting, to Mikke from Finland and Sulaiman from Kuwait, who are on a first-name basis with their instructors back home. However, as diverse as the exchange student's experiences were in their home countries, their adventures here have had a unifying impact on their post-graduation plans. Cited aspirations included international relations, business, and medicine as well as STEM careers and social service.

While students admitted they had plenty to miss when asked towards the end of the panel (the overwhelming responses being food from home and public transportation), they also had a wide range of newfound pleasures. Oleksandria from Ukraine shared that she had fulfilled a childhood dream by trying out for and becoming a member of the FCA Cheer Squad, and Narayani from Nepal confessed that she could never get tired of Kennywood Amusement Park. The international students also made serious remarks that proved the ultimate goals of Global Connections day and high school study abroad programs had been realized, citing their favorite memories as shared holidays, cultural exposure, and the assimilation into a second family. Gesturing to his other peers, Alex from Denmark adeptly concluded that "Now, every country has a face to me."

Students Qualify to Take National Math Exam

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students recently qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). The students are sophomores Wonho Kang and Albert Liu. Wonho and Albert were the top scorers at Fox Chapel Area High School in 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.



FCAHS Orchestra Spreads the Power of Music to Youth

Bridget Wang

On Saturday, May 14, members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Orchestra appeared at O'Hara Elementary School with the intention of encouraging elementary-aged students to pursue paths in music. Most of the production and advertisement of the event to local families was organized by junior Elizabeth Heidenreich. With the coordination of her, orchestral director Mrs. Mairi Cooper, and the entire orchestra, both parents and children were entertained with orchestral compositions of classic Disney songs.

The students played arrangements from *Up*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, and *Frozen*. In honor of the Disney theme of the concert, members of the orchestra dressed as their favorite Disney characters, including Jasmine, Mickey Mouse, Lilo, and Jack Sparrow. All children, teenagers, and adults enjoyed and were thrilled at the application of the magic of Disney on a orchestral level. Hopefully, many attendees will choose to play a string instrument as a result of these efforts.



Members of the orchestra chose to dress up as Disney characters for the concert given at O'Hara Elementary.



Chloe Yofan and Mrs. Cooper during the Disney-themed orchestra concert.

FCAHS Students Score High on National Latin Exam

Fourteen Fox Chapel Area High School students recently earned high marks on the 2016 National Latin Exam. Silver Medals/Maxima Cum Laude awards were given to juniors Ariane Akhand, David Han, Anna McDougall, and Suvir Mirchandani; sophomore Nathan VanDemark; and freshmen Marissa Hardiman, Elizabeth Kaslewicz, and Ziya Xu. Magna Cum Laude recognition and certificates were earned by sophomores Shania Khatri and Elizabeth

Sodini and freshman Catherine McDonough. Cum Laude recognition and certificates were earned by sophomores Karissa Becer and Delaney Roberts and freshman Annika Urban.

The National Latin Exam was taken in March 2016. Approximately 154,000 students from 50 states and 19 foreign countries participated.



PSAT/NMSQT High Scorers

Thirty-one Fox Chapel Area High School juniors are among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants on the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and have met the requirements to enter the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are: juniors Rohan Chalasani, Jared Cohen, Alec Eckman, John Feczko, Mihir Garimella, David Han, Elizabeth Heidenreich, Katherine Kauma, Sophia Lee, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, Victor Marculescu, William Marsh, Sean McCoy, Tanvi Meringenti, Suvir Mirchandani, Jonathan Monroe, Grace Mueller, Hannah Mueller, Mary Clare O'Connor, Emma Paulini, Avalon Perdriel-Arons, Ellen Pil, John Ramassini, Bryce Ryan, Kai Shaikh, Caroline Smith, Philip Swi-

gon, Martin Taxay, Nathan Wecht, and Houruiyang Zong. Approximately 1.5 million students took the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT and these Fox Chapel Area students are among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants on that test from across the nation.

Approximately 16,000 of these highest scoring students will be named National Merit Program Semifinalists in September 2016, representing the top scorers in each state, and approximately 34,000 others will be commended for their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. The Semifinalists will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for about 7,400 National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2017.

FCA Student Wins National Competition and Trip to Germany

Daly Trimble

FCA Junior Emma Paulini recently became one of 44 American high school students selected by the American Association of Teachers of German to receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Germany over the summer. A German V AP student and an active member of the high school's German Club, Emma took the AATG National German Exam in December and scored in the top 10%. From there, she was granted the opportunity to compete at the regional level by writing essays and participating in an interview, both of which occurred in German and English. Passing with flying colors, she was selected by the AATG Testing Chair to go forward to the national level of the competition before being notified of her being made a final award winner by the National Selection Committee.

Emma will be staying in Bavaria, a region of Southern Germany, for three and a half weeks at the beginning of the summer. She will attend a Gymnasium, a high school for German students on the college track, in either Nürnberg or Kulmbach while also living with a host family and traveling to famous sites around the country. While she is a little nervous about speaking German constantly, Emma is extremely excited for the challenge and looks forward to experiencing authentic foods, sights, and traditions. "German is an important aspect of my life and background...Since I have relatives in Germany, I especially want to become fluent in the language. I'd love to be able to communicate with my grandmother and perhaps study abroad there later in life." Herzlichen Glückwunsch (congratulations), Emma!



Junior Emma Paulini, a German V AP student, received an all-expenses-paid trip to Germany over the summer.



American Mathematics Competition: Why Participate?

Bliss Uribe

Every year, over 350,000 students across the nation take on the challenge of the American Mathematics Competition. It is one of the most difficult and prestigious mathematics contests for students, and Fox Chapel Area High School is generous enough to host the AMC's and pay for the test in order to give its students the opportunity to participate. In recent years, students from other districts have even come to FCAHS to take the exam.

The competition is sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America, which has designed a competition that aims to enrich problem solving and analytical thinking skills while still being fun. The AMC test is open to students in all grades, with one version for freshmen and sophomores and another for juniors and seniors. Students are encour-

aged to participate all four years of high school in order to see the improvement in their scores and to see what they are capable of achieving. Every year, participating in this competition has become more and more important. In fact, several well-known universities have begun asking their applicants to include their AMC score on their applications.

This year, the test was administered in early February, and 40 students from all grade levels participated. Students who scored approximately in the top 2.5% of AMC 10 and 5% of AMC 12 qualified to participate in the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). Sophomores Albert Liu and Won Ho Kang qualified for the AIME after taking the AMC 10. Congratulations Albert and Won Ho!



Jun Kang in deep concentration.



AMC test-takers enjoy a well-deserved luncheon after exhausting themselves in the competition.

Nina Khorey Scores Highest in Nation on National French Exam

Fox Chapel Area High School junior Nina Khorey recently earned the highest score in the nation on the 2016 Le Grand Concours (National French Exam). Nina won the Platinum Award, meaning that she earned the top score in the nation in her division (French 5E). Nina, along with the other Platinum winners, will be featured in the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) fall publication.

She will receive a platinum medal, a plaque, and a Lauréat National certificate. She is also eligible for the grand prize drawing of a trip to a language camp in Quebec this summer.

A total of 4,753 students participated in the Level 5 French Exam and a total of 86,832 students participated in all the French exams given.



