

Rotary Seniors of the Month of December

By Lily Fay

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For December, students Hannah Martin and Haresh Patel were recognized as the two Rotary Seniors of the Month. Within their high school careers, both seniors have excelled academically and have great opportunities set ahead of them.



Hannah Martin is among the top of her class, is medically certified on multiple fronts, and has traveled all over the world for international mission trips.

Hannah has been enrolled in many AP level classes, some of which including AP European History, AP Chemistry, AP Language and Composition, AP Biology, and AP Psychology. She is big on science and health fields, and at the conclusion of her junior year she received an excellence award in AP Chemistry. However, she mentions that her favorite AP course is Biology, due to her interest in how its concepts apply to daily life. In the class, she mentions how Mrs. Anderson attempts to make learning more interactive, “often through virtual simulations, plays/acting, and observation of real plants and animals.”

Hannah is also a member of various clubs offered at Oxford Area High School. These clubs include National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Helping Hands, and Waterway Youth Group. With her membership in these organizations, Hannah has gained the opportunity to have many school volunteer experiences. Many of these activities include the yearly blood drives, study skills sessions held after school, the Writer's Workshop, judging for district wide poetry contests, and holiday volunteer events. Specifically, Hannah enjoys spending her time tutoring students every Monday in the library with Mrs. Mavrelos. She shares that she enjoys volunteering at these study skills sessions because it lets her get to know her fellow peers as well as help them better understand the material they had been struggling with.

She also is a part of the Allied Health program at TCHS, where she spends half her day learning about medical fields and procedures that college students are taught. She earned her CPR and First Aid certification during her sophomore year, which is vital for students wanting to explore medicine. Within the first six weeks of Allied Health, Hannah worked to create a future career portfolio and witnessed many college-level lectures. From these first few weeks, she learned about different types of infection and how to resolve them, how to treat wounds, how to deal with legal and ethical issues, how to navigate health insurance, and how to take vital signs. In the program, she also studied medical terminology, which helped her associate real life scenarios within the field.

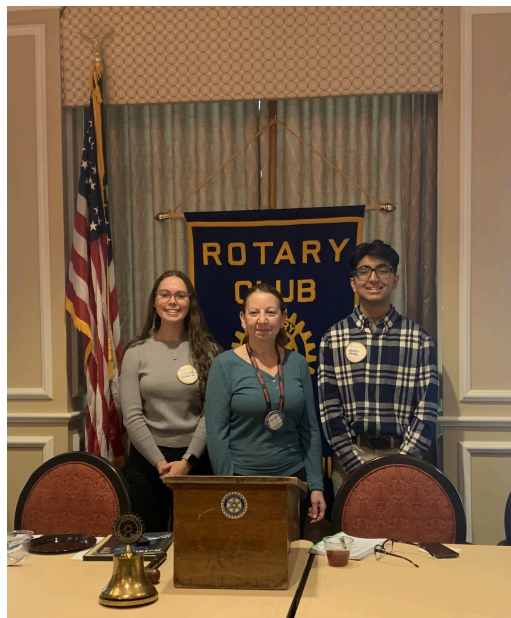
After the six weeks, she began clinical rotations at different medical sites. The rotations allowed her to watch medical professionals at work and ask them questions in hospitals, physical therapy clinics, pharmacies, Urgent Cares, and more. More specifically, she has shadowed at Oxford EMS, Hometown Health, and A.I DuPont in Delaware. From this TCHS program, Hannah has come to see what she may be interested in pursuing post high school.

Outside of school, she has attended three different international mission trips with numerous organizations. She has been to Honduras with *Porque No Tu*, the Bahamas with the Waterway Church, and the Dominican Republic with the Mercy Ship organization. From these mission trips, Hannah had the chance to see various cultures and build relationships with people from all sorts of backgrounds. For example, the trip to the Dominican Republic allowed her to provide medical services and training to regions with less resources and very limited healthcare access. During this trip is where Hannah

realized that nursing was a huge interest for her future career. From the assistance of a hospital ship, Hannah and her team docked a ship in the Eastern region of the Dominican Republic, and proceeded to provide care and treatment to the people in the local communities. She mentions, “it’s a beautiful thing to come together and celebrate our cultural differences. I am looking forward to making more connections in the future as I continue to travel and experience the world.”

Beyond high school, Hannah is looking at Drexel University, West Chester University, the University of Delaware and her top choice, the University of Pennsylvania. She is hoping to earn her Master’s as a nurse practitioner.

Hannah offers advice to upcoming high schoolers to “focus on what is important, and do not be brought down by what others think of you. Focus on your strengths, be confident in who you are, and keep your head held high. And always be kind because you never know what your friends, peers, and teachers are going through. Be the person who is supportive and encouraging.”



Haresh Patel is a student with a strong business focus, has many volunteer experiences within the Oxford community, and is an avid computer science coder.

Outside of school, Haresh helps his family business, a local gas station and store, Xpress Gas. He works off of regular hours, anytime that he can after school. This uncompensated job has taught Haresh

valuable business skills. Additionally, his older sisters Neha, Lisa, and Nikki, have influenced him as well, teaching him qualities such as emotional intelligence, compassion, being the bigger person in a situation, and even cooking tips. From his sisters' advice as well as working in an employment setting, Haresh's interest in management and business commerce has increased, and has encouraged him to have more rapid thinking and make quicker decisions. By working with his family, Haresh mentions, "It has also changed my management decisions by making me be more on top of every situation in order to not get overwhelmed."

As a member of qualifying clubs like National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and National Science Honor Society, Haresh has gained school volunteer hours that include staying after school for homework help and tutoring struggling students. Within the school day, he has been enrolled in a number of math and technology classes such as AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science Principles, and AP Computer Science A. He prefers the computer science classes more than the math classes, and states his favoritism from the teacher, (Mr. Wooddell) because he is "very understanding, easy to comprehend, and he is just a fun person to talk to."

Coding is a field that interests Haresh especially, as noted from the supporting comment that says, "I've gained a new insight on how a lot of technology and websites work and can truly appreciate the amount of effort and time it took for their creation." Throughout high school, Haresh has gained coding skills from a majority of Computer Science classes. By taking them, he has learned how to code in four different computer program languages, including Python, Java, CSS, and HTML. Haresh's enrollment in Oxford provided courses such as Computer Science essentials, multiple AP Computer Science classes, and Web Design inspired him to improve his knowledge and ability to code.

Haresh is planning to have a business oriented focus post high school. He has applied to five or six schools, two of which are Penn State University and the University of Pittsburgh.

He leaves some advice to upcoming high schoolers that suggest, "to take highschool seriously but not to the point where you lose yourself just for the sake of school. Find the in between. I would also suggest appreciating your family a bunch over the four years of high school. Because after high school, it'll be harder and harder to stay in touch."

