

The Home Page

by Jayne Greenberg

PTSA Executive Vice President—Communication

PTSA General Meeting: Monday, May 5, 8:45 am. Location: Hawk's Nest. Guest Speakers: Victoria and Jessica Heiges, Marin Teen Mental Health Board - Suicide Prevention.

Come hear about "Teen Screen," the new suicide prevention program sponsored by the district and currently being piloted at Tam. The Marin Teen Mental Health Board is comprised of parents, students and mental health experts. We hope to see you there! If you can't make the meeting but are interested in the program, please feel free to contact Victoria Heiges directly at 608-6160.

Tam's Marin Athletic Foundation Scholar Athletes of the Year

Seniors Katie Schlueter, a water polo player and swimmer, and J.D. Rieger, a football, basketball and baseball player, have been named Tam's Marin Athletic Foundation Scholar Athletes of the Year. See page 15 for details.

Where Are our Tam Seniors Headed?

See page 11 for a listing of many of the colleges where our seniors are headed next fall.

Tam Parent Named Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to Tam parent Bonnie Freiberg, winner of the Marin County School Administrators Association's Citizen of the Year Award for service to education in Marin. Bonnie is a tireless volunteer and student advocate. Thank you Bonnie for everything—you are awesome.

Tam Senior Eric Brandon Receives Jefferson Award

Jefferson Awards recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward. Established in 1972, this award honors individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service. Congratulations to Eric Brandon for receiving this prestigious award.

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Campus Construction Continues this Summer

Summer is usually a peaceful time on the Tam campus, with students, staff and teachers off on a well-deserved break. But things will be bustling this year as construction crews push forward with the final projects funded by the most recent bond initiative.

If all goes as planned, Tam students will be able to swim in a brand new pool once school resumes next fall. Over the summer, the old pool and metal wall will be demolished, and a new pool and weight room will be constructed at that site. These will be conveniently located near the girls and boys locker rooms and in close proximity to Gus Gym.

A safer and more efficient drop-off lane at the front of campus is expected to be ready on the first day of school. Work is also scheduled to begin over the summer on the elevator and path that will provide improved access for disabled persons to the upper part of campus.

The Keyser classroom building has been rising dramatically over the past weeks. Construction will continue over the summer, with completion projected for the fall and move-in over the winter break. The façade of the building facing Miller Avenue will blend in with the historic buildings on that side of campus, such as century-old Wood Hall. The opposite side of Keyser will reflect the more modern architectural style of Caldwell Theatre and the Student Center. The new building will anchor the center of campus with pedestrian routes linking it to other campus buildings.

Once students and teachers start filling up Keyser, we will see the end of "Trailer Town," the group of portables that has been sitting on top of the tennis courts for the past four years. The tennis courts will rise again, along with a new, pothole-free parking area.

The construction has been a long time in coming and not without its inconveniences for teachers, staff, students and parents. But those memories are sure to fade as we all enjoy the improved campus facilities.



This artist's rendering shows the location of the new pool and Keyser hall.

School Board Update

The end of the year is approaching, but the school board will continue to meet and make decisions about education in the Tamalpais School District. This month the board plans to announce a new superintendent for the district. Bob Ferguson will be leaving early in the summer.

The board will meet in Kreps Conference Center at Redwood High School at 7 pm on the following dates: (Tuesday) May 6, May 20, June 3 and June 24. A July meeting date will be determined.

The educational needs of the district and ongoing facility modernization and funding information will make the summer meetings informative. Attend and hear the building updates for Tam and see the board and the new superintendent in action. Check the district web site for agendas at www.tamdistrict.org. Come and see your board at work for your students.

Tam's Own Jewel Barrow Named Employee of the Year

Marin County Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke has announced that Clara "Jewel" Barrow has been named Marin County Classified Employee of the Year.

Jewel, a staff assistant, began working at Tam forty years ago. Every year since, she has been a positive influence for students on a daily basis. While her title is "staff assistant," she is in reality a mentor to students, especially students at risk of dropping out of school or failing in their classes.

She goes into classrooms every day to support the instruction and works one-on-one with students having difficulty. She reads the assigned books so that she is conversant with the work students have been assigned. She is the only paraeducator in the district who has an 11-month contract because she is so vital to the students' success, even in summer school.

Her work has spanned multiple generations. She is an anchor for so many young people who have succeeded with her help. She has a stable, reassuring presence that helps everyone in the school to smile and stay on track. She loves her job and she loves students.

Thanks to Parents for Office Help

from Allison Krivoruchko, Tam Receptionist

I would like to say thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have helped in the main office, especially Leslie Wachtel, Loryn Sweetwimer, Debbie Jordan, Ruthanne Appell, Patti Bertenthal, Patti Boston, Joanne Robinson, Cheryl Brandon, Shirley Ehrlich, Sandy Haevernick, Terry Strauss-White, Diana Jansen and all the other wonderful volunteers who have helped this school year. We are very appreciative of everyone's help.

Parents, Teens and the Law

A public forum for parents and teens to learn about their rights and responsibilities on issues directly relating to teens and their families.

Wednesday, May 21, 2008—7 pm
Hollis Hall—Marin County Office of Education
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA

Topics to Include:

- Sex and the Law
- Drinking and Driving During the Prom and Graduation Season
- Marin County's Social Host Ordinance - Civil and Criminal Consequences
- Cyberspace, Teens and the Law

Discussions will be led by a distinguished panel of legal experts who will share valuable information and answer your questions.

Sponsored by the Marin County Bar Association in collaboration with The Marin County Office of Education.

To RSVP for this event or to get more information, please contact Robynn Gaspar of the Marin County Bar Association at 499-1314 or email rgaspar@30nsp.org.



The Tam Family

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Senior Checklist for May

- If you haven't already done so, order your cap and gown from Balfour/Academic Affairs at 707-399-9091.
- Check your attendance record, and clear any excusable absences in a timely manner. The Senior In Good Standing Policy will be strictly enforced.
- Before graduation, see the Registrar, Joanie Ross, to send your final transcript to the college you will be attending (no fee). You must provide a Tam High envelope stamped and addressed to your college. Place a note with your name and Student ID number inside the envelope. After graduation there is a \$3 fee.
- Clear all bills; return all library books; return athletic uniforms.
- Complete all graduation outcomes. See your counselor if you have any questions about graduation requirements.
- Call the Assistant Principals' Office at 380-3512 for wheelchair or limited mobility seating for guests at the graduation ceremony.
- Notify the Assistant Principals' Office of awards received.
- Notify the Principal's Assistant, Mary O'Leary, if you choose not to walk in the graduation ceremony.

Senior Graduation Gown Shuffle

Seniors will receive their graduation gowns during lunch in T2 on a date to be determined in early June. It is a Tam tradition that seniors may decorate gowns in accordance with school guidelines if they choose. The guidelines will be distributed along with the gowns. Decorated or not, the gown should be ironed and put on a hanger with all other items (cap, tassel and sash). Be sure that gown and cap are clearly identified with a name, so that they can be returned if lost.

Gowns must be returned to Room 154 on senior check-out day on June 10, and will be given back to the seniors on graduation day, June 12.

Access to the Graduation Ceremony in Mead Theater

Do you have a senior who will be graduating this year? The Tam tradition is to start the ceremony promptly at 6 pm in Mead Theater, the amphitheatre at the back of the campus. Everyone needs a ticket to attend, and each senior will receive seven tickets at the senior breakfast on June 12.

Please be aware that the entrance to all seating, except for guests in wheelchairs and their attendants, is from the top of Mead Theater. Allow enough time to park and walk into Mead Theater from the area behind the ceramics building, or have a driver drop off guests at the top of Mead at the Homestead Avenue entrance.

Guests in wheelchairs: ONLY those in a wheelchair and their attendants may enter from the bottom of Mead. There is space at the edge of the stage for eight guests in wheelchairs, and one attendant may sit directly behind each person in a wheelchair. A reservation is required for a wheelchair space.

For guests who have difficulty walking: There is a section at the top of Mead Theatre that is reserved for those with limited mobility. Please note that there are a few steps from the road to this section.

To reserve a space in either the wheelchair or limited mobility section, please call the Assistant Principals' Office at 380-3512 before June 12. ♦

TAMALPAIS HIGH SCHOOL FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE Week of JUNE 9-13, 2008

Monday, June 9

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| 1st period | 8-10 am (final) |
| Break | 10-10:15 am |
| 2nd period | 10:20-11 am |
| 3rd period | 11:05-11:45 am |
| 4th period | 11:50 am - 12:30 pm |
| Lunch | 12:30-1:05 pm |
| 5th period | 1:10-1:50 pm |
| 6th period | 1:55-2:35 pm |
| 7th period | 2:40-3:20 pm |

Tuesday, June 10

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| 2nd period | 8-10 am |
| Break | 10-10:20 am |
| 3rd period | 10:25 am - 12:25 pm |

Wednesday, June 11

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| 4th period | 8-10 am |
| Break | 10-10:20 am |
| 5th period | 10:25 am - 12:25 pm |

Thursday, June 12

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| 6th period | 8-10 am |
| Break | 10-10:20 am |
| 7th period | 10:25 am - 12:25 pm |

Bus Service Reduction for 08-09 School Year

At the conclusion of this school year, the two bus trips on the Route 143, which serve Tamalpais High School students traveling between Strawberry/Mill Valley and school, will be eliminated due to low ridership: the bus departing Strawberry Village (Reed & Belvedere) at 7:32 am arriving at Tam at 7:50 am; and the bus departing Tam at 3:31 pm which stops at the Depot (Sun-nyside & Miller) at 3:25 pm and Strawberry Village (Reed & Belvedere) at 3:49 pm. For alternative local routes, check the marintransit.org website or goldengatetransit.org.

**May PTSA April
Meeting Agenda
May 5, 2008
8:45 am, Hawk's Nest**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review and Approval of the April Minutes
- III. Guest Speakers:
Marin Teen Mental Health Board
- IV. President's Report
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Committee Reports
- VII. Adjourn

Last Minute Volunteer Opportunities

There are two events that the PTSA is sponsoring that need your volunteer support. Please check your calendars and see if you can step up and lend a hand:

Senior Awards Reception – Thursday, June 5

Cookies are needed for this evening event honoring seniors and their families. Please deliver your cookies to the lobby of Caldwell Theatre after 3 pm or to the main office in Wood Hall during the day on June 5.

Graduation Reception – Thursday, June 12

Help is needed for to set up, serve, and/or clean up. The reception is held in the Student Center for the senior class and their families immediately following the graduation ceremony. Remember, you will be a senior parent in the future and will want other parents to participate in celebrating your student. Cookie platters are also needed.

If you have questions or want to lend your support for either or both of these activities contact Bonnie Freiberg at 388-4785 or bkgreiberg1@mac.com.

SAFE & SOBER Grad Night Donations Needed!

Attention senior class parents: We need your support TODAY! Our fundraising efforts have fallen short. We hope not to have to cancel any of the wonderful activities we have scheduled but that is up to you.

Remember Grad Night is the final gathering of the whole class before the students disperse to their travels, jobs, colleges and futures. Every year parents are responsible for raising the money to host this alcohol- and drug-free party to keep their children safe, sober, and off the roads. With the help of parents like you we are able to raise the funds needed to offer this event FREE of charge for all graduating seniors.

Please mail in a donation (to Tam High Safe & Sober Grad Night, 700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley CA 94941) in support of this very special evening for your graduate. We appreciate your commitment to helping keep these graduates safe and for setting a good example for all future students.

SAFE & SOBER Grad Night Raffle Ticket Sale Extended

The Grad Night raffle drawing has been moved May 9! The Grad Night committee has decided to extend the raffle ticket sales for another two weeks so don't miss out on this opportunity to win a great prize while supporting this very important event. You could win a week's vacation at a cabin in Tahoe, restaurant & hotel vouchers, jewelry, teeth whitening, gym membership, and much more, all for the price of a \$10 raffle ticket. Buy three tickets for \$25 and up your chances to win.

How do you buy a Safe & Sober Grad Night raffle ticket? Tickets are currently on sale at many school events and by all senior families. If you are a senior parent please take some raffle tickets to your student's sporting events and sell them to fellow Tam parents. If you've already sold all your tickets or can't remember where you put them and need more, contact Jackie Hamilton (hamilton267@comcast.net or 388-8333.)

If you don't know a senior family but want to help support this fundraising effort contact Jackie Hamilton and she will be happy to sell you one. Remember all proceeds go to support Grad Night 2008. Good Luck and thank you for helping to keep our kids safe!

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Eric has been involved in many Tam programs and community organizations. He is an attorney and board member for the Marin Youth Court. For the past four years, Eric has been a member of the Mock Trial Team and Tam Tennis Team; as a senior he is captain for both teams. Last summer, Eric was honored by the Marin County Board of Supervisors for his outstanding volunteer work for the Public Defenders office. The recipient of many awards during his high school career, Eric won the Brown University Book Award for Academic Excellence and Clarity in Written and Verbal Communication.

Thank you Eric for being a wonderful inspiration to your peers and for all the effort and time you selflessly donated to individuals and organizations.

Kudos Korner

Thank you to Bonnie Freiberg and all the volunteers who helped keep our kids nourished with healthy snacks during STAR testing week and for the terrific Friday BBQ. The kids loved it!

Thanks to Helene Siegel-Fotos for arranging all of the delicious and inviting staff appreciation coffees and luncheons throughout the year.

Also, as this is the last Tam Family of the year, a big thank you to our PTSA Executive Board: Bonnie Freiberg, Executive VP; Cheryl Bronstein, Secretary; Patty Wrench and Sue Vallario, Treasurers; Jayne Greenberg, Communications; Gail Mason, Special Projects (Parent Ed and Campus Beautification with Jill Templeton); Kelli Tonnesen, Special Events; Helene Siegel-Fotos, Hospitality; Ilana Friedman, At Large; and Patty Trick, Auditor. Thank you so much!

A big thanks to the newsletter team for keeping us all informed this year: Jayne Greenberg, Mary Washburn, Hilary Andersen, Linda Wegmann, Kathleen Goldberg, and Joanne Yorio.

Lastly, special thanks to Bonnie Freiberg, undoubtedly one of the most tireless and dedicated volunteers that Tam ever has seen in its 100 year history and who was honored this year by the Marin County School Administrators Association as Citizen of the Year. Among the many hats she wears, Bonnie has been a past Tam PTSA president for a number of years and has been involved in virtually every project in which the PTSA has participated or sponsored. Bonnie's daughter will graduate this year, and sadly that means Tam will lose one of its most devoted parent volunteers. On behalf of the entire PTSA, we thank you, Bonnie for everything you've done for Tam and wish you all the best in the future!

FOUNDATIONS

Businesses, Time is Running Out!

by Cynthia Chiarappa

Your opportunity to publicize your business within the Tam High community is here – but time is running out. Supporting the Tam High Foundation gives you the chance to place an ad in the upcoming year's school directory – as well as help Tam High academic programs. Clearly, a win-win for all.

When a business supports Tam High, Tam High supports the business. Become a Tam High Business Partner today and display a Tam High Foundation "Light Their Minds" logo in your window for everyone to see that you support your community high school students.

For more information on levels of giving – and advertising opportunities resulting from your contribution – please contact Myra Chow at chowallace@sbcglobal.net or Deborah Miller at dl.miller@comcast.net.

You will receive a letter confirming your tax deductible donation. The Tam High Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. For more information and a listing of our funded projects please check www.tamhighfoundation.org.

Tam Centennial Volunteers Needed

The Tam Centennial Celebration taking place over three days on Memorial Day Weekend requires many helping hands. In the next few weeks, the committee will contact those who indicated a desire to help on the volunteer form in the first day packets. But we still need more volunteers. WHEN CAN YOU HELP?

Saturday, May 24

- Morning - 5K Fun Run, help with registration, the finish line or marking the route
- 4:30 to 10 pm at the Community Center, help with set-up for the party.

Sunday, May 25

- 8 am to 5 pm - help with set-up for the party, especially between 2 - 5 pm at the Community Center
- Midnight - Clean up after the party at the Community Center

Monday, May 26 - Music Day on the Green

- 10 am to 12:30 pm - Set-up, help the Music Department move instruments, decorate the field
- 11 am to 2 pm or 2 to 5 pm – Help with directing cars to parking, staff the entrance, help with security or one of the food booths
- Also, for all you artists out there, there's a need for poster signs to be made for the musicians and bands performing on the two stages. The signs will be displayed around the field on the fences.

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Please contact TAM100 Volunteer Coordinator Patti Boston at pj32flynn@aol.com or 381-8959

News from Parent to Parent Connection

by Sandra Tanner Mack and Janet Miller, Parent to Parent Coordinators

Does your child seem intentionally forgetful, unmotivated or deliberately late? Does your child understand information but is unable to communicate it in a logical sequence? Do you have a child who is constantly distracted? If this sounds familiar then join us for "Help! My kid forgets everything and is disorganized!" On Wednesday, May 14, Dr. Barbara Easterlin will speak about executive functioning and will offer some advice to help with planning and time management. Dr. Easterlin will also offer strategies to assist with the transitions into and out of high school. The program begins at 7 pm at Kreps Conference Center at Redwood High School. Doors open at 6:30 pm for informal parent meet and greet prior to the evening's program.

We are currently looking for P2P parent representatives from Tam. Parent reps serve on the Tamalpais Advisory Committee (TPAC), which meets monthly with Carol Eber, Director of Student and Instructional Services, and Karen Mates, Director of Special Education, to discuss the issues and concerns of our IEP/504 students. The reps plan P2P meetings and act as liaisons to their schools to facilitate communication. For more information, please email p2p@tamdistrict.org.

High Notes

from the Music Department



THUMB'S annual fundraiser, the PHONATHON, took place on the evenings of April 22 - 24. Thanks so much to Shirley Berman and Jane

Evan for organizing this event. Thanks to all the music students who volunteered to call and the parents who helped with the mailings each night. And finally thank you, the Tam community, for your valuable support of the music program at Tam.

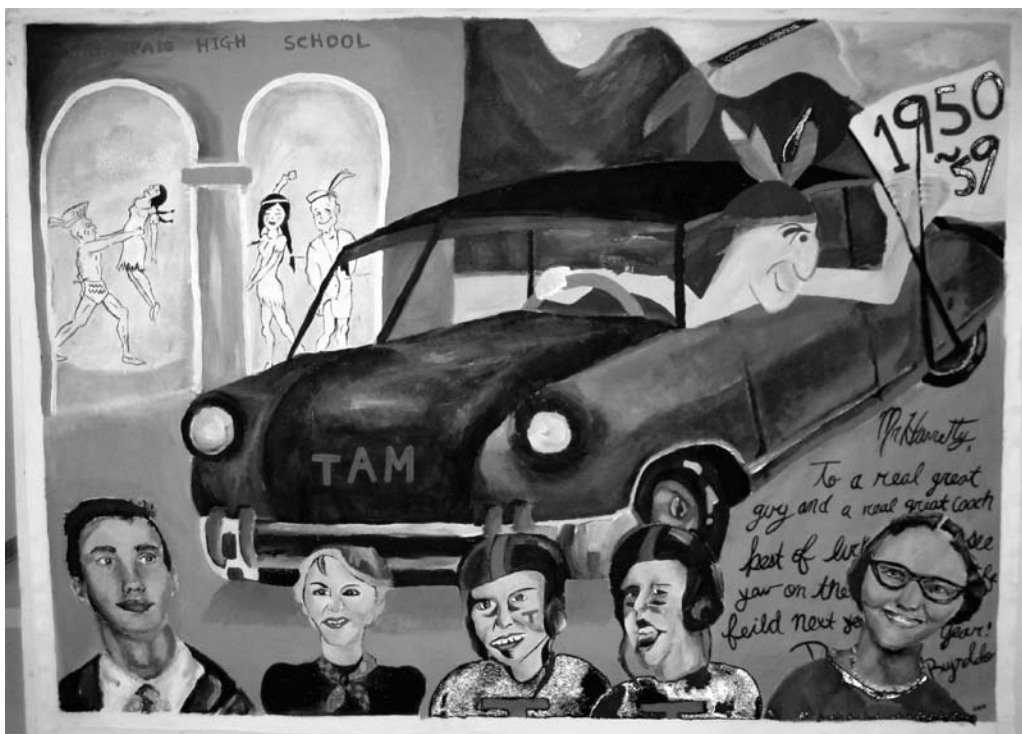
Scholarship auditions were held on April 30 in the Caldwell Theater. Thank you, Debbie Genser, for your help with this function.

Instead of our usual Spring Concert, our music students will participate in the "Day on the Green" on Memorial Day, May 26, part of the Tam Centennial Celebration. The event will begin at 12:30 pm, right after the Memorial Day parade, and will take place on the Tam High grounds. There will be two stages set up with music continuously playing until 4 pm. There will be local bands, alumni playing in the Tam Symphonic Orchestra with our music students, the Tam Concert Choir and the Tam Jazz Band. Scheduled so far to play, in order of appearance, are: Henry Moser Band, MV Philharmonic, Max Perkoff Band, La Luna, 'Til Dawn, Masculine Combo, Tam Jazz Combo, Centennial Symphonic Orchestra, Jim Pettigrew Band, Tam Jazz Band, Rob Ellis Trio, Tam Concert Choir, Chris Jefferies Band, Omar, Dick, Maverick and Tam Jazz Combo.

The members of THUMB, along with Music Director Spiro Tsinigaris, will help to put together the musical part of this event. Thank you members, and Spiro, ahead of time, for all the volunteer time required to make this a memorable event.

The Tam High Centennial Committee will sponsor food vendors to go along with the musical entertainment. Come out enjoy this afternoon of celebration.

STUDENT LIFE



Tam sophomores Rochelle Nisam, "Claire" Jae-Min Shin and Sarah Weitzman created the above mural as a project for their Draw/Paint class. Students researched a decade in Tam history using yearbooks and internet source materials. Then as a team each group developed and painted a mural in honor of Tam's 100 years

Tam Students Take Poetry Honors

Tam students have won 14 of the 32 awards in the 2008 Marin Poetry Center's High School Poetry Contest. (The Marin Poetry Center received more than 700 entries for this year's contest.)

They will be reading their work at the 19th Annual High School Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony, Monday, May 5, 7-9 pm at the Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley.

Third Place

Paige Ogden: *"Where I'm From"*

Honorable Mention

Ajough Grass: *"Opium"*

Chloe Erskine: *"The 23rd"*

Poetry Anthology

Anya Chapman: *"Night Terrors"*

Brittany Crawford: *"Nouveau Flamenco"*

Chloe Erskine: *"Sun Stream Morning"*

Poetry Anthology continued

Jeremy Gardiner: *"These Hands"*

Jennifer Gardner: *"Get Through It" and
"I Stole It from You"*

Marissa Klurstein: *"Mommy"*

Janessa Neugebauer: *"Sometime You Have
to take the Leap"*

Rachael Pozivinel: *"Oliver"*

Sarah Schwartz: *"What She Longs For" and
"The Necklace"*

Marin Poets in the Schools Visit Senior Classes

by Pru Starr, English teacher

Marin Poets Dale Biron and Becky Foust provided senior Poetry students with their expertise last March. Thanks to a grant from the Tam Foundation, each senior Poetry class received two block periods of instruction from the professional poets.

Dale Biron, professional speaker and poet, utilized his love of poetry to help students access their own voices. His quotation, "Harnessing the power of great poetry to learn, change, feel and connect with deeper sources of creativity, insight and courage" aptly expresses his devotion to working with young people.

Becky Foust, currently enrolled in a Master's poetry program, encouraged students to express themselves precisely with language and develop mature editing practices. She later volunteered to assist serious student poets in better crafting their poems.

Tamalpais High School students are renowned for their superb poetry writing and strong showing in the annual Marin County Student Poetry Anthology competition, which occurred this year earlier in March. This year's county poetry anthology winners have yet to be determined.

For further information about what Dale Biron says about poetry, please browse his website, at dalebiron.com.



Poet Dale Biron spoke to students in senior poetry classes in March.

Portrait of Maya Angelou

Woman
Of colored rain
Dew Drops broken trains
Pained eyes experienced life
Adept brutality brought upon
The head of a child yet so young
Abandoned voice for silence deep
Age dawned in reigning sleep
Pieces held by blood bonds
Brother love still strong
Words born of dream fog
Uprooted unearthed
From yough hearth
Bright lights
Life fight
Lovelorn
Trust torn
Child born
Beautiful ties
Wide innocent eyes
Stoked the ashed of a song unfinished
Brought back a fire once extinguished
Ablaze autumn blossom stubbornly untamed
From smoldering stones a bird flew un-caged
Sexuality confirmed with currency and coin
A rose blooming high amidst tree of thorns
Love given so freely never to be returned
Broken pieces hidden within love yearned
A homecoming sweet never deferred
A song now sung in a voice heard

Alesya May Jennings, grade 12

A Life of Transition

Check the clock tick-tock
Bite through the chains pick at the lock
My heads a rock fallen into the sea
No more whimsical thoughts, light and free
Close your eyes and drift away
Lifes only a dream, it'll be okay
Reality is only a place to go
Run away from this place, its time to grow

Emily Rose Peck, grade 12

The Yellow Marker

Have you ever ruined a yellow marker?
You know
If you touch it to any
Other color,
Previously shaded on the page,
The yellow tip will be stained.
And yet you do it anyway,
Tracks of impure color litter the paper

Margot McGrath, grade 12



Tam Student Competes in National Snowboarding Competition

Tam Sophomore Gabe Bram headed to Copper Mountain, Colorado, last month to compete in the United States of America Snowboarding Association National Championships. He competed in both the half pipe competition and boarder cross competition. To qualify and be invited to participate in Nationals, Gabe had to compete and place first or second in each of a series of regional competitions throughout the season for each event.

At Nationals, Gabe competed against kids from 40 states throughout the country. Thirty-six regional series are established from coast to coast. Gabe is a member of Team Tamarack of Tamarack Resort, Idaho, part of the Payette River Mountain Districts.

The half pipe saw competitors doing 1080s, while the boarder cross ran six across on a narrow technical course, advantaging the local Copper Mountain racers. All in all, it was great experience to compete against the entire country of racers. Although not placing this time around, Gabe will be back and continue to compete at the top of his age group, and will focus on boarder cross primarily.

To note, just prior to nationals, Bram placed third in Boarder Cross – Open Class (including any age professional rider, including those competing in the US Grand Prix, US Open or FIS World Cup) at the Stomp Games at Schweitzer Mountain in Northern Idaho, after qualifying in four different heats that day.

Besides snowboarding, Gabe is a dedicated Tam High football player and a lacrosse athlete (Tam High JV Most Valuable Player 2007).

Reel News

News from the Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media

AIM Students Get “Close Up” With Life Outside Marin; Annual Film Festival Coming Soon

By Chloe Erskine, AIM Student Author

In mid-March, sixteen AIM students traveled to Washington, DC. While the trip was billed as a chance to get “close up” with our national government, students found that the real education was with the other students from around the country. Tam High students shared hotel rooms with students from Nebraska, Texas, Rhode Island, and a Native American high school located on a reservation in Minnesota. While reluctant at first to mingle with red-state teens, our blue-state students ended up saying this was an eye-opening and valuable education that they could not have had any other way. After returning from a week in Washington D.C., senior Charlie Hartford had this to say about the experience:

“I think the kids I met all wanted what was best for the country. That said, a lot of them held totally different opinions from me on issues like gay rights, abortions, the right to bear arms, etc. We had a pretty

intense debate one night where I argued with five pro-life girls from Nebraska. That was awkward, but it was also a really valuable experience – because it’s important to really realize that Marin County is not the world and that throughout your life you’re going to run into people who you strongly disagree with but who you have to learn to live and work with regardless.”

At press time, we are still anxiously awaiting news from the National Student Television Awards, better known as the student Emmys. Over the past four years, AIM students have won more than a dozen regional student Emmys, and we hope to hear continued good news this year. Watch for news on the electronic signboard and Tam website.

While no definite date or place has been established yet, AIM will be holding its 5th Annual Film Festival in early June. Always a packed event, this year’s festival promises to be as interesting as ever with films from a variety of projects, ranging from ten-hour film contests to presidential ads to mockumentaries to our award-winning documentaries. Watch for the date, time and location on the Tam website and electronic signboard.

Tam Mock Trial Takes Third in State

Tam High's renowned mock trial team placed third at the state finals competition in Riverside last month. The team had a photo finish in their fourth and last round of the state competition, being only slightly edged out by the eventual state champions with a score of 50.1 to 49.9 – or 1 point out of a total of 500.

"At this level of competition, every point counts, and this kind of score illustrates just how important everyone's contribution is," says team captain Eric Brandon. "Frank Alarcon, one of our prosecuting attorneys, was so sick he was barely able to stay in the courtroom during that last round, but he's our hero for sticking it out and doing a great job".

Captain Laurel Engbretson says she is very proud of the team and "when you're third out of about 500 schools statewide, it feels pretty good."

Attorney coach David Vogelstein devotes countless hours to the team, and the investment has paid off with a team that is known statewide as "the one to beat." In the last four years alone, Tam has taken a first, second and third place at state finals, as well as winning the National Mock Trial Championship in 2004. This kind of success comes at a price – six months of preparation, meeting from two to five times a week – but is all worth it according to prosecuting attorney IndiAna Gowland, "Because by the end we are all so close, and we've put so

much into it that it makes it so rewarding to celebrate our accomplishments together."

Over the last few years the team has attracted many younger siblings to the program. Gus Stout, Andrea Selby, Ben Harris, Frank Alarcon, Casey Khademi, Carrie Brandon and Brett Russell are all following in the tradition of their older siblings. Says Carrie Brandon, "For two years I saw all of my brother's trials at county and state championships and learned so much just by watching. At first, I wasn't sure I wanted to devote all of the time and hard work I knew it would take, but now I can't imagine not being part of the team."

In addition to David Vogelstein, the team is lucky to have the support of two other attorney coaches, Al Schiffrin and Dennis Cavanaugh, parent coach Rick Brandon and

teacher coach, Aaron Pribble. This was Pribble's first year with the team and now he's hooked.

"I had a great time," said Pribble. "It was nice to step into a program rich in tradition and competitiveness. The kids are extremely talented and thoughtful and I look forward to working with them again next year."



School to Career Partnership

by Nancy Westreich, School to Career Liaison
College and Career Center

380-3558

nwestreich@tamdistrict.org

Summer Opportunities

Internships are a great way to explore a potential career and get work experience.

Internships through School to Career are available in a wide variety of fields such as healthcare, computers, community groups, business, law, environmental, media, and hospitality. Students usually have more time to focus on their internship over the summer than during the school year and often have a richer experience. Some examples of summer internship experiences include seeing courtroom procedures, going on a full day

photo shoot, observing surgical procedures or following a reporter on interviews. During the summer students are required to work a minimum of nine hours a week for the six-week period as well as attend a once-a-week ROP Career Management class at the Marin County Office of Education. The summer program runs from June 16-July 25. Applications are due on May 14 and are available now.



The CTE Motherlode ensemble after performing at the Festival.

2007-08 CTE Season Ends with Original Works

by Susan Brashear, CTE Co-Artistic Director and CTE student writer Alexi Torres

As the year draws to a close, the CTE season plans to premiere many original works that offer the excitement of creativity. An original play drawn from writings in yearbooks will mark the centennial celebration at Tam as the final main-stage production, while many new one act plays written by current students will premiere in the one act festival of all student-written works. This burst of creation at the end of the year promises to bring forward growth for both the performers and the writers.

Tam's Centennial; A Play to Remember

First up is the final advanced production, "A Slice of PAI-100 Years of Tam Yearbooks," adapted and directed by Tam graduate Wendell Willat, who is currently a guest artist with CTE. The play serves to reenact a modern history lesson, incorporating all of the different people, ideas, and events that have accumulated at Tam over the years through their yearbook writings and comments.

Beginning in the early 1900s, when Tam was still a single building, the production follows excerpts and notes from students' yearbook inscriptions, giving the audience a feeling of the changing times and attitudes that have made this school's history so vibrant, and presenting to the audience what Tam has become today. All inscriptions add on to one another, formulating a genuine, touching story of the lives and experiences of Tam's alumni. This story simultaneously reflects many of the issues and events going on today, proving that while the decades may change, the love, friendship, and compassion associated with high school never fades away. Original music underscores the changing moods and shifts of focus.

By drawing on yearbooks from all different time periods, "A Slice of Pai" reflects a wide and diverse array of viewpoints, opinions, and artistic renderings, giving the audience a well rounded experience, to showcase Tam's multi-cultural, worldly aesthetic.

"A Slice of Pai-100 Years of TAM Yearbooks" will be presented at the Daniel Caldwell Theatre, May 7-10, at 7 pm. A special performance on May 24 at 7 pm will coincide with the centennial celebrations for Tam. Visit the CTE website for more information: www.ctetam.org

Student Plays Premiere in Spring One Acts

In recent years, there has been a flurry of playwright activity among many of CTE's students. The Launch Pad series at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco solicits new works from young writers,

and for the past two years CTE students were semi-finalists, finalists and won the top honors! Last season, several students participated in Playground Theater, a San Francisco theater that specializes in ten-minute plays written in a short time period, with the plays performed in staged readings. This year, CTE expanded its canon of new works by setting the goal to produce ALL student-written works in the upcoming Spring One Act Festival.

Guest artist Robert Ernst, who is an award-winning playwright, has worked with student leaders Robbie Bruens, Teddy Hulsker and Casey Hanley to guide about 20 students through the playwriting process including multiple drafts and readings as the students worked to refine their ideas.

Then student directors in the first and second year drama classes were offered the plays for consideration, finally resulting in various plays moving into rehearsals with performances in May. Although not all the works will be in this year's festival, there will be additional public readings of the plays that were part of the workshop in the near future.

The Spring One Act Festival will be May 16-17, 20-22, and 27-31 at 7 pm. There will be matinee performances on May 17 and 31 at 2 pm. All shows will be at the Caldwell Theatre and there are no advanced ticket sales; the box office will be open one hour before performances for ticket purchases. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors. Please check the CTE website for further information about seating and ticket policy: www.ctetam.org

CTE Alumni News

As if CTE didn't have enough to celebrate, there's more good news. Several CTE alumni have recently been honored in various ways that we are proud to acknowledge:

Quintin Gordon (1996) is finishing up his BFA in directing from North Carolina School for the Arts and has just learned that he has been awarded the Lincoln Centers Institute's William R. Kenan, Jr. Performing Arts Fellowship that seeks to provide emerging artists with knowledge of aesthetic education that will prepare them for work as artists in the field of arts and education. Quintin will be moving to New York after he graduates in May.

Amanda Rowan (1997) has produced her first short film, which has been accepted at a number of film festivals around the U.S. Amanda stars in the film entitled "She Pedals Fast for a Girl." She also wrote the screenplay and raised all the money herself. The Sonoma Film Festival, Buffalo Film Fest, Niagara Falls Film Fest, Washington Film Festival, and the Long Beach Film Festival have all chosen the film with Sundance, Telluride and MV Film Festival yet to notify. Amanda lives in Los Angeles where she is a freelance photographer and pursues her acting career.

Other news: Gus Heagerty (2006) is also at North Carolina School for the Arts and has been invited into the directing track there that Quintin is just completing. Ben Snyder (1998), who is already an established playwright, has been invited to University of Texas to complete his Master's degree and to teach. Ben will also receive a stipend and living expenses during his tenure.

Congratulations to all!

Looking for Short-Term Teacher Housing *from Peter Foster, Math Teacher*

Beginning next August, Tam will host Ms. Aparna Naidu, a Fulbright exchange math teacher from Pune, India, for the fall semester of 2008 (I'll be heading to India). I'm trying to find housing for Ms. Naidu and hope someone in the Tam community has a spare studio or in-law unit they'd like to donate or rent out from mid-August to late December 2008. The space needs to have its own bathroom and cooking facilities. It would be wonderful if it had some furnishings but we'll be able to make do with an unfurnished space. Please contact me at pfoster@tamdistrict.org. Thanks for the help.

College and Career Center Services

Susan Gertman, College and Career Specialist

Sgertman@tuhdsd.marin.k12.ca.us 380-3582

UPCOMING EVENTS

TESTING

The last ACT of the school year will be given on June 14. The registration deadline is May 9; late sign-ups will be accepted until May 23. June 7 is the last date for the SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests. May 6 and May 15 are the regular and late registration deadlines. Students must register directly with the College Board at www.collegeboard.com or ACT at www.act.org.

Students who plan to apply to the University of California are required to submit the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT with writing and two SAT Subject Tests. All testing for the UC must be completed by December of senior year.

COLLEGE OF MARIN PLACEMENT TESTS

COM will offer two test dates for students who plan to attend in the fall but have not yet taken the required placement tests in English and math. The test will be given at the Kentfield campus on Thursday, May 1, 3:30-6 pm in BC 101 and at the Indian Valley campus on Thursday, May 8, 3:30-6 pm in Miwok 144. To register, call the COM Counseling Department at 485-9432.

Students who wish to take COM's English as a Second Language test should call 485-9642.

CLASSES AT COLLEGE OF MARIN

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors who wish to take college credit classes at College of Marin this summer or in the fall must register in person. Registration begins May 27. Graduating seniors who plan to attend COM over the summer or in the fall may begin registering in person or online starting May 5.

ROP SUMMER 2008

The Regional Occupational Program will offer a number of free classes to high school students this summer. In addition to a summer internship program, there will be classes in automotive technology San Marin High School in Novato, early childhood education at the Marin County Office of Education and business office technology in Terra Linda. In addition, there will be a construction internship for students who have already taken the construction program. Call the ROP office at 499-5860 to enroll.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Tam seniors have been accepted by a varied and impressive list of schools including the following (reported by students to the College and Career Center as of April 16). A comprehensive list will be posted in late May.

California State University: Cal Poly Pomona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Chico, Humboldt, Long Beach, Monterey Bay, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Sonoma.

University of California: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Merced, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz

Western Colleges and Universities: Arizona State, Biola, Claremont McKenna, Dominican, Gonzaga, Grand Canyon, Holy Names, Lewis & Clark, Loyola Marymount, Mount St. Mary's, St. Mary's of California, Seattle U, Southern Oregon U, Stanford, U of Arizona, U of Colorado, U of Idaho, U of Oregon, U of Puget Sound, U of Southern California, U of Washington and Whittier.

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Leadership News

By Peter Berkhout, Activities Director

May is an exciting month as we look forward to hosting Tam's centennial celebration over Memorial Day weekend!

Kicking off the month on May 2 is our Multicultural Assembly. After a one-year break, it's back and will feature fashion and dance from all of Tam's diverse cultural groups. The assembly will be held during tutorial period in Gus Gym.

The following week, ASB will sponsor the Kusun Ensemble, a Ghanaian dance troupe currently on a tour of North America. Although rooted in traditional African music, the group has developed a new brand of music and dance they have dubbed "Nokoko." They have created innovative rhythms and dances by fusing bass and lead guitar, electrifying jazz and African rhythms, and traditional Ghanaian instruments. These events are not to be missed!

Mid-month brings the Senior Prom, on Sunday, May 18. Set just before a staff development day, the prom will be held aboard the Signature Yachts vessel "San Francisco Spirit" for a dinner and bay cruise. DJ Hightop will run the dance floor, so you won't want to miss the boat! Departure is at 8 pm sharp from Pier 9 in San Francisco. Make your photography appointment online at www.abcschoolportraits.com.

Friday, May 30, will feature the zany craziness of our annual Farewell

Rally. During tutorial period in Mead Theater, Leadership plans to pull out all the stops once again with some games, class competitions, and just general fun in the sun.

Looking back to April for a moment, three members of the leadership class (and myself) participated in the Beacon Center trip to New Orleans over spring break. Olivia Wells, Avery Mosser, and Tess Rockers all lent a hand to build the Habitat for Humanity Musicians' Village. It was a fantastic trip, though somber at times, to a great city that is still struggling to rebuild two and a half years after the devastating hurricane.

On another note, congratulations to Nolan Mattox, Claire Courtney, and Wyatt Frei on their election to ASB positions for next year. Elections were held April 18. Also elected were a slate of class officers from 2009 (Allie Green and Avery Mosser), 2010 (Tess Rockers, Marley Pettigrew, and Emily Behrs), and 2011 (Lauren Milosky and Kristin Cerda-Womack). These are the leaders who will plan the activities program events for the 08-09 school year. Congratulations on your elections!

For more information or to get involved with the activities and leadership program here at Tam, feel free to email me at pberkhout@tamdistrict.org.



Sophomores Olivia Wells and Tess Rockers survey the ruins of a neighborhood in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans.



Junior Gabe Spellberg leans against the now-repaired levee separating the ship canal from the Lower Ninth Ward.

Congratulations to Tam Students on Their Winning Science Fair Projects

First Place—

Emil Barkovich

“What really makes a hitter’s ballpark? —
An analysis of the effect of field area on
baseball offensive statistics”

Second Place—

Adam Berman

“Water Works”

Max Lester

“Chill; Bounce Higher. The Effect of
Temperature on Elasticity”

Third Place—

Rebecca Wheeler

“On Causal Reasoning”

John Toczyski

“The Effects of Age and Other Variables on
Reaction Time”

Christian Jordan

“The Effect Golf Ball Cover Thickness has on
the Distance a Ball Travels”

Kevin Templeton

“Phunky Phresh Phrisbee Physics”

Fourth Place—

Jack Hogan

“Left vs. Right: Who has the upper hand?”

Claire Courtney

“Lets Get Cheesy!”

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Eastern Colleges and Universities: Amherst, Boston College, Boston U, Bowdoin, Brown, Cornell, Gettysburg, Hampshire, Middlebury, Mt. Holyoke, NYU, Northeastern, Princeton, Rhode Island School of Design, Sarah Lawrence, St. Lawrence, Wesleyan.

Midwestern and Southeastern Colleges and Universities: American, Beloit, Johns Hopkins, Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, Northwestern, Rhodes, Tulane, U of Michigan and U of Wisconsin.

This list clearly shows that Tam students are admitted to excellent colleges and universities across the country. At Tam we encourage students to apply to colleges that fit their particular academic strengths, interests and preferences, not for name recognition. These same criteria guide our advice to students in deciding which of their choices to attend or whether to consider a community college, the military, or work. We wish great success and happiness to all of our graduates.

THANK YOU

The work of the College and Career Center could not be done without the help and generosity of devoted volunteers. Heartfelt thanks to regular volunteers Joanne Berry, Kipp Delbyck, Lynette Denison, Susan Garratt, Deb Patrick and Karen Rosenbluth.

Thanks, too, to the Tam High Foundation for generously supporting the work of the College and Career Center. The generosity of the Foundation allows me to attend seminars, purchase books and learn more about colleges that are of interest to Tam students.



Tam auto shop students looking sharp out in front of the Blackhawk auto museum.



Scenes from a field trip: auto shop students at the Blackhawk museum.

Tam Seniors Named Scholar-Athletes of the Year

Athletic Director Gene Ng is pleased to announce that seniors Katie Schlueter, a water polo player and swimmer, and J.D. Rieger, a football, basketball and baseball player, have been named Tam's Marin Athletic Foundation Scholar Athletes of the Year.

Jay Rieger, better known as JD, is the only three-sport athlete at Tam. JD is a "blood and guts" player, meaning he gives everything he has to the game. He's suffered many injuries in the past four years, but he has never quit. Because of his true grit, he has been chosen captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams. JD is also an outstanding student. In addition to his athletic and academic achievements, he has also found time to volunteer with the Marin Community Clinic and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. While volunteering for the Marin Community Clinic, JD and his brother were able to put together a book drive, which netted over 1,300 books for the clinic's literacy program. If he isn't playing or practicing baseball at Tam, he is coaching young boys and girls on the Little League level.

Katie Schlueter is ranked in the top one percent of her class. Her teachers have described her as a highly motivated student who will always put in extra time and work into her academics. In addition to her high academic ranking, she has been on the varsity water polo and swim teams since her freshman year. She was captain of the water polo team this year, and was named the MVP two years in a row. Her leadership has helped the team become highly competitive in the past two years, earning bids to the NCS tournament. Katie was named to the All-MCAL and All-NCS water polo teams, as well as the senior NCS all-star team. Katie has been given countless awards for her swimming prowess.

Katie also participates in many other school extra-curricular activities. She is part of the leadership team, president of the tutoring club, and a member of Link Crew.



JD Rieger



Katie Schlueter

Hawks Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Track and Swimming Teams Among the League's Best

As of our April 18 deadline, the girls' soccer team is surging into the second half of the season undefeated with a Marin County Athletic League record of 8-0-1. But plenty of challenges are in store in this competitive league as the Hawks will again face some of their toughest MCAL rivals including Redwood and Marin Catholic.

Junior goalie Gabby Guaiumi has excelled at keeping opponents' scores to a minimum. Other team leaders include juniors Julia Raney and Jessica Heiges.

The boys' golf team has improved immensely over the last couple of seasons, currently boasting a 13-3 record and a 10-match winning streak. Senior Cory Hamilton recently stunned foes at San Marin by shooting a 33 on the Indian Valley Course. Also starring for the Hawks are sophomores Jackson McDonald and Eddie Scarsella.

The boys' tennis team is thrashing all of its league rivals with the exception of Redwood, one of the top teams in Northern California. The Hawks currently hold a 12-2 record in league matches, with the only two losses, both against Redwood. Leading the charge is No. 1 singles player C.J. Fazekas. Also notable are the doubles team of senior Eric Brandon and sophomore Rob Greenberg.

The boys' and girls' track teams are both in second place with 6-1 records in league meets. Notable athletes on the boys' team include senior sprinter Braden Hoyt, junior middle distance runner Chris Lowell and junior long distance runner Cory Rand. Starring on the girls' team are juniors Monyka White, a long jumper, Molly Maloney, a middle distance runner, and Devin Patrick, long distance runner.

The boys' swim team is off to a 4-1 start led by senior Robert deBenedictis in the 100-meter backstroke, and juniors Nolan Mattox, in the 500-meter freestyle and Nick Sohn in the 200-meter individual medley. The girls' swim team is currently at 2-3 and is led by senior Katie Schlueter, junior Amelia Harvey and sophomore Erin Schlueter.

The softball team is still hanging in the hunt for a playoff spot with a 4-3 record for fourth place. Players to watch are junior pitcher and center fielder Cara Trombadore, and seniors Annemarie Iker behind the plate and Chelsea Heaney at first.

Boys' volleyball also still has a shot at the playoffs with a 5-4 record. The team is lead by senior Mohamed Ismail and juniors Mott Schweitzer and Eli Pearlman.

The girls' lacrosse team is halfway through its six-game season with a 2-1 record. Top players include Lisa Mithun, Kat McNeil and Elizabeth Raney, all seniors. Boys' lacrosse is at 2-4. Leading the team are sophomore Nick Pacula and juniors Johnny Davenport and Dane Holt.

The baseball team is off to a 2-8 start in league play. The good news is that both wins have been in the last four games with four games left in the regular season. The Hawks' top hitters are junior Colton Danz and senior C.J. Doherty. Leading the pitching is junior Gage Haevernack.

Gene Ng will retire at the end of this school year after five years at Tam and a long and memorable career as a coach and athletic director in Marin County.



*Tam's Winning Tennis Team
Front Row: (L-R) Robert Greenberg,
Bryan Lewis,
Gabe Sandrolini, Peter Englander,
Adam Berman
Back Row: Zander Fisher, Zak
Bohegian, Dillon Knowlton,
Alex Kaiser, Danny Sacks, Leland
Grossman, Eric Brandon,
CJ Fazekas, Coach Washauer*



Sophomore Cat Pastuhov #22 beats her opponent to the ball in last month's game vs. Justin Sienna

Freshman Kalia Rothlind #3 wins the ball from her opponent and heads for the net. Tam vs. Justin Sienna

Junior Alyssa Miller #8 leaps to steal the ball from her Justin Sienna opponent.

Jessica Heiges #9 dives at the ball, stopping Drake.

Hannah Boston #24 takes the ball from Drake.

photos by Stephen Blose



AP Classes Offer Advantages, Drawbacks

by junior Oliver Rosenbloom

AP classes allow students to challenge themselves in areas of interest, prepare for and enter college with advanced standing, but some students and staff members are concerned that these advantages may bring with them harmful drawbacks.

The number of students taking AP tests has more than doubled since 2003 and staff opinions differ on the exact effect of this change.

History teacher Augusto Andres said of AP classes, "It's a trade-off, it's a double-edged sword in some ways."

One of the potential consequences of these classes is academic tracking.

Academic tracking is the broad term that refers to the separation of students into different tiers of performance. This separation can be driven by ability, experience, interests and/or socio-economic factors. A concern with AP enrollment rising is that within the seven period system there may be limited opportunities for AP students and non-AP students to be in the same classes, especially in the junior and senior years.

Principal Chris Holleran explained that there used to be three levels of classes at Tam: remedial, college preparatory and AP. He said, "There wasn't much movement." Holleran believes that the existence of only two types of classes has been a positive for the school. He said, "I think it's worked pretty well here, it's increased opportunities for students... I think we're serving any and all students who want to take it."

Andres said, "Whether it's official tracking or nonofficial tracking, it happens anyway."

English teacher Michael Lavezzo agreed and said, "There is kind of a de-facto tracking that has taken place."

The opinion that increased AP class enrollment has caused tracking is not unanimous. Holleran said, "I think it's actually reduced it [tracking]." He explained that the availability of AP classes has prevented tracking, "We don't have any artificial limits, we don't have set caps."

Science Department Chair Jerry Childers said tracking was not an issue with science classes. He said, "It's not even something we've talked about or even had concerns about."

History Department chair Kathy O'Donnell said, "I think there's a good mixture [of students] in most classes."

English Department Chair Patricia Holland teaches a college preparatory American Literature class for juniors and AP Literature and Composition for seniors. She said of her junior class, "It feels very heterogeneously grouped for me." She went on to explain that this meant a range in terms abilities, interests and experiences.

Some teachers believe that tracking occurs in non-AP classes but not by conscious design. History teacher Luc Chamberlin, who teaches both AP and standard level classes, said, "There is de-facto tracking even though it is not the Social Studies Department's fault." Chamberlin explained that even standard level classes, such as government and economics, become full of only AP students for a certain period because those students have similar schedules filled with AP classes during other periods.

History Department chair Kathy O'Donnell teaches government and economics and said that her classes are "not necessarily" divided into those for AP students and those for standard level students.

Junior Zach Lindberg said that his standard level classes show evidence of tracking. He explained that he is in a normal pre-calculus class with a majority of AP and honor students. "Honors and AP students generally tend to have the same type of schedule," he said. Andres said that the increase in AP math participation affects the rest of students' schedules. He said, "[AP math involvement] ends up tracking the rest of the classes."

Holland acknowledged that AP students often have similar schedules but maintained that a range exists within AP classes. She said, "It's a misnomer to think that AP kids are one size fits all." She went on to explain that in the 1990's fewer AP classes led to a noticeable separation of AP students, but the current availability of more AP classes has allowed for wide ranges of students within AP classes.

Childers shared this belief. He said he has "pretty much the full gamut of students [in AP classes]."

Lavezzo claimed that increased AP class availability has not created a minority segregated from the rest of the student body, but rather an equal split. "It [increased AP class participation] creates a pretty severe split down the middle" said

Lavezzo. "There's a range [within AP classes], but that range excludes half of the campus."

Opinions concerning the effect of AP-driven tracking also varied. Chamberlin believes mixed classrooms are essential tools in preparing students for life after school. He said, "I believe in democracy and you need heterogeneous classes to prepare people to work in a heterogeneous society."

Andres also spoke to the value of mixed classroom environments. He said, "I think there is something to be said about the heterogeneous class experience. That's something we value in the history department ... We like a mix of different abilities and that's one of the reasons why we haven't offered as many AP classes."

Lavezzo agreed that mixed classrooms offer advantages. He said, "The English Department wants to keep things as heterogeneous as long as we can. That's why there are no honors classes for grades 9 and 10."

Holland added, "I actually think having the heterogeneous grouping helps everybody."

Lavezzo also claimed that the English Department believes that the AP distinction leads to unequal treatment. In explaining the department's previous reluctance to offer honors and AP classes, he said, "They [the English Department] didn't want to separate kids, they wanted kids to be treated equally."

O'Donnell said, "I don't think it's a bad thing. I think people are afraid of using the word 'tracking.'" She explained that AP classes are responses to student interest levels and provide students with opportunities to learn at an accelerated pace.

Holleran said that separation is caused by choice and that this is better than other forms of separation. He said, "it [AP] does [cause separation] in a way, but it's more by student choice" he said. "That to me is a big difference, students self-select, it's less of a concern."

Others expressed the belief that the opportunity AP classes provide motivated students outweigh any potential risks. Assistant Superintendent Steve Butler said, "Philosophically, if you're a person that's ready to take a college class, would I not want you to do that?"

O'Donnell added, "Should we say to these high-end kids that we should bore you?"

Boosters News

Second Year of Boosters Senior Athletic Scholarships

The Tam Boosters are proud to present two \$1000 cash scholarships, one to be awarded to a senior girl and one to a senior boy varsity athlete. These scholarships will be presented at the senior awards ceremony on June 5. The intent of these scholarships is to encourage and reward high school athletes who are serious about continuing their athletic endeavors at the college level. Applications are available from the College and Career Center or from the Athletic Director's Office in the Student Center. The deadline for applications is May 20.

Annual Boosters Coaches Dinner Including Good-Bye to Gene Ng

All coaches who coached a Tam athletic team in 2007-2008 are invited to the end of the year Boosters thank-you dinner. This year's dinner will take place on Tuesday, June 3, at 5:30 pm at the Mill Valley Golf Clubhouse. Boosters members and parents of athletes serve a catered meal, including providing an always-fabulous assortment of homemade desserts.

We will also say goodbye to Tam's Athletic Director and girls basketball coach of the last five years, Gene Ng, and thank him for his many hours of dedication to Tam's athletic program.

Anyone willing to help with set-up, serving, clean-up or providing a dessert, please contact Patti Boston (pj32flynn@aol.com, 381-8959). We are also looking for contributions for the "Fun Raffle" in which coaches have a chance to win prizes such as restaurant gift certificates or Giants tickets.

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

The Tam Boosters Executive Board is looking for a few more members for the 2008-2009 school year. The executive board works closely with the athletic director to help meet the needs of all sports teams. They meet one evening a month with Boosters members to discuss how best to support all interscholastic sports at Tam High, in the belief that a successful athletic program fosters school spirit, pride and an atmosphere of excellence in all students. With a new athletic director coming onboard, strong support from Tam Boosters will be needed. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Suzuki, outgoing secretary and head of the nominating committee. (suzukigroup@sbcglobal.net, 383-6093)

Be on the Lookout for the Red-Tailed Hawk Logo on New Red & Blue Seat Cushions

The cushions are only \$10, designed to please any sports fan trying to stay comfortable watching from those hard gym and cold stadium bleachers. This is a fundraiser for the Tam girls' soccer teams. The girls will sell the cushions at the rest of their home soccer games and any MCAL or NCS home soccer games. Or contact any of the players, or parent Gladys Blöse (jagsblöse@msn.com, 381-4435) and your cushion will be delivered to your door (in Mill Valley). The girls' soccer team is currently in 1st place. Come cheer them on!

On the Shelf

From the Mill Valley Public Library

Here's what's happening in May for teens at the Mill Valley Public Library. Remember, events at the library are always free.

On Thursday, May 8, from 7-8 pm, we are delighted to welcome "Jazz Ensembles" from Tam High. Then on Thursday, May 15, from 7-8:30 pm, we will present a Teen Writers' Open Mic. New works will be read by local teens including students from Tam High.

For more information or to participate, contact Donna Brown at 389-4292 x125 or email dbrown@cityofmillvalley.org. Be sure to check our website millvalleylibrary.org for more teen events and activities over the summer.

Tam Says Goodbye and Thank You to Principal Chris Holleran

Principal Chris Holleran will leave Tam at the end of this school year, after seven years here. During his time at Tam, Mr. H has attempted to knit together into a cohesive community the various groups at Tam: staff, students, parents and general community members. He has been responsive to the needs and issues of each of these groups. He has organized and provided support for all students, helping them understand and heal after too many tragic events and circumstances. He was responsive to the parent community's questions and issues and worked for resolutions.

Mr. Holleran has also provided Tam with consistency and continuity while having to deal with campus construction almost his entire tenure. He handled construction scheduling conflicts, planning and emergency problems calmly, thoughtfully and with students always uppermost in his decisions. Mr. H. will be missed by the whole Tam community, especially his central focus – the students. Drop in and say good-bye and thank you to Mr. Holleran for his years of dedication to our students.

Thank you Mr. Holleran. Tam would not be the same without your tenure as principal.



PTSA
Tamalpais High School

700 Miller Avenue
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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MAY 2008

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Time/Event</i> | <i>Location</i> |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 2 | 9:45 AM – MULTICULTURAL ASSEMBLY | GUS GYM |
| 2 | LAST DAY TO BUY PROM TICKETS | WOOD HALL, ROOM 120 |
| 3 | 9 AM-1 PM – CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION DAY | ORANGE COURT |
| 5 | 8:45 AM – PTSA MEETING W/ SPEAKERS: TEEN SCREEN PANEL; TAM PILOT PROGRAM | HAWK'S NEST |
| 6 | 7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING | KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL |
| 7 | 7:30 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING | LIBRARY |
| 7-10 | 7 PM – CTE PRESENTS "A SLICE OF PAI" YEARBOOK PROJECT | CALDWELL THEATRE |
| 9 | 9:45 AM – KUSLIN ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE | GUS GYM |
| 14 | 7 PM – GRAD NIGHT MEETING | HAWK'S NEST |
| 16 | 7:30 AM – TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST | HAWK'S NEST |
| 16-17, 20-22, 27-31 | 7 PM – CTE'S ONE ACT FESTIVAL 2 PM MATINEE MAY 17 & 31 | CALDWELL THEATRE |
| 18 | 8 PM – SENIOR PROM | DEPARTS PIER 9 - SF |
| 19 | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL | |
| 20 | 7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING | KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL |
| 24-26 | TAM CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SEE TAM100.ORG FOR EVENT INFORMATION | |
| 26 | MEMORIAL DAY – NO SCHOOL | |
| 30 | 9:45 AM – FAREWELL RALLY | MEAD THEATER |

JUNE 2008

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| 2-6 | FINAL EXAMS FOR SENIORS | |
| 5 | 6:30-8:30 PM – SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT | CALDWELL THEATRE |
| 10-13 | FINAL EXAMS – SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE | |
| 12 | 6 PM – GRADUATION | MEAD THEATER |