




FAREWELL THOUGHTS: KATHY O'BRIEN

Visual Arts Ceramics teacher, Kathy O'Brien is retiring after more than 20 years at Tam. During that time, Kathy has risen to the challenge of many moves around campus, including teaching in the student center, as well as teaching under nine different principals. She is proud of her students, many of whom have been awarded honors such as Best in Show and who have continued on after Tam to attend great colleges to study art. As department chair for a dozen years, she is most proud of developing Tam's sequential program in the arts where students could work in a rich learning environment and create long-term bonds. The opportunity to have a four-year program created the feeling of family. Every year, she hated to see students, part of the family, graduate and leave the program. She remarked that "Tam felt like such a very special place."

Kathy will miss her colleagues, the kids and working in a great studio. She wants to thank the Tam High Foundation and PATH for all their support funding the Fine Arts. After leaving us, Kathy wants to be more involved in her daughter Emily's school. She also plans to travel, work in the garden, renovate her house and work on her own art. We will miss her dry humor and historic knowledge of the ins and outs of Tam life. 



¡Que Viva La Vida! The life of Señor Cruz

by Emma Talkoff, Reprinted from the Tam News

Almost half a century ago, a young man and his family received a massive stroke of luck: despite limited English, they were granted visas into the United States. On the edge of one of the biggest transitions in his life, the Bogotá, Colombia native sought financial stability, a chance at a higher education, and, he said, "like every other human being—to look for adventure."

Now, after several turbulent and auspicious decades in the United States, Señor Fernando Cruz faces another shift in perspective. Having spent 20 years at Tam as a Spanish teacher imparting wisdom and cultivating respect from students, Cruz is now preparing for what he considers to be the most difficult moment of his teaching career: retirement. *Continued on page 2*

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Cruz's passion for teaching emerged long before his arrival at Tam, and in fact before his own education commenced. "I was three years old, perhaps four, and my grandmother took care of me, so in order to amuse her I used to pick up papers and read to her," said Cruz. "Of course, I was not reading, I was making things up; in fact, the newspapers half of the time were upside down. But she paid attention to me, and I didn't know why." As Cruz began attending primary school in a one-room schoolhouse where a single teacher instructed the entire student body, he continued to share his love of reading with his grandmother and aunts—and soon, he wasn't just pretending. "Everything that I learned, I passed along to my grandmother. I became their favorite grandson against my brothers and sisters, who didn't realize how come I was the chosen one," said Cruz. Eventually, Cruz came to a life-changing realization: "Unknown to me, all those years, I was teaching my grandmother how to read. I was able to read and they weren't. So I could navigate with them and was given preferential treatment."

The idea that teaching others could lead to a better life for himself and his family has stayed with him to this day. "The idea is still there, that I was the chosen one. Not because I was better; because I simply taught my grandmother. And that's how the teaching passion began," he said.

Although the seeds of his teaching zeal were planted early, it would not be for several decades and following a variety of careers before Cruz was able to realize his passion. After attending primary school in Bogotá, Cruz was accepted into an exclusive, nationally ranked high school. But financial difficulties forced him to transfer to a military school, which he attended for three years. Cruz, then the equivalent of a college freshman, was forced to temporarily abandon his education in favor of getting a job at a bank. Entering the bank as a runner, Cruz delivered mail, carried messages, and carried out small errands—"really the lowest possible job I was able to get." From there, he worked his way up through the ranks and eventually became a teller supervisor. While working, Cruz took out a loan from the bank in order to finish building a house that his father had started, but when the family was unable to pay back the loan, the family decided to emigrate.

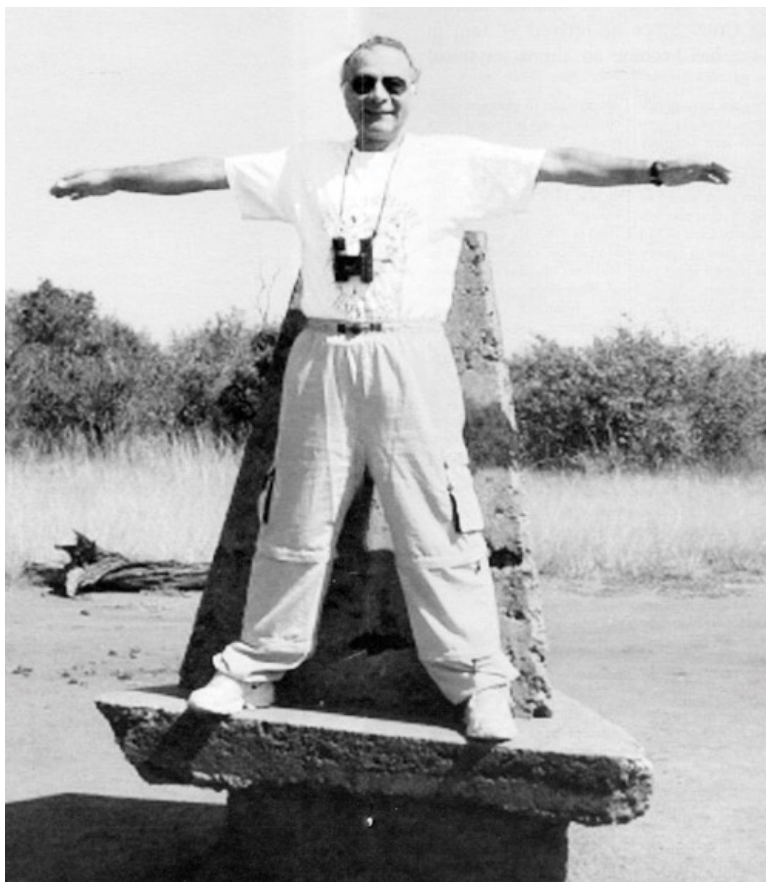
Although he was not able to immediately pursue the life that he hoped for in America, Cruz experienced improvements directly after the move. Working in Connecticut as a turret lathe operator for a metalworking

company, Cruz made \$1.25 an hour—"the equivalent of three days of work in my former country."

In 1973, Cruz enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Although he never served in Vietnam, he "was in the midst of" the conflict, and is considered a Vietnam veteran. In the Air Force, Cruz was finally able to take the first steps towards what would eventually become his true calling—teaching. Cruz became an education specialist and continued his own education on government scholarship at East Carolina University, where he designed his own major. "The translation from the lingo that the university chose is

'how to teach,'" said Cruz. "Not teaching Spanish, but how to teach anything."

In his 20 years at Tam, Cruz has observed many changes, from extensive modernization and renovation of a once "dilapidated, bandaged" campus, to a major expansion in girls sports. Cruz himself is a former Tam girls soccer coach, and in 1998 led the team to then unprecedented victory at North Coast Sectionals. But by far his favorite experience through two decades of teaching at Tam has been just that—teaching. He's held a wide variety of careers and traveled the world, but Cruz's passion for teaching has remained the central aspect of his life. "I've taught at the university level; I've taught at the high school level; I've taught at the community college level," said Cruz, "so to me it has been the greatest job ever. Really, teaching was never



Cruz at the boarder marker between Kenya and Tanzania in 2004. Courtesy of F. Cruz

my profession. Teaching was, and is, my vocation."

Through strict policies and a rigid classroom routine, Señor Cruz has built a distinct reputation at Tam. As sophomore Markita Schulman put it, "Initially, Señor Cruz is really scary. It takes a little getting used to, to figure out what he expects." But although some students complain about having to line up in the hallway before each class and participating in daily "Qué pasó en la última clase?" exercises, in which students are randomly selected by his computer "Paco" to come to the front of the classroom and retell what happened in the previous class, Cruz maintains that these routines are essential to his teaching philosophy. "I can see the level of speaking ability, comprehension, as well as the students being able to be in front of an audience," said Cruz of the "Qué pasó?" exercise. "That is a trademark of my teaching style."

continued from page 2

Sophomore and Spanish 5/6 student Bryce Killingsworth agreed that Cruz's methods are "very structured," and can be difficult, but said that his guidelines help him learn. "The format of his class makes it easier to remember topics," said Killingsworth. "At first it seems like it wouldn't be, but actually being more strict makes it easier to learn."

Sophomore and AP Spanish Literature student August Kiles had similar feelings about Cruz's class. "It's really good for learning," said Kiles of Cruz's teaching style, adding that Cruz "gets down to business."

Cruz said that his beliefs about teaching can be boiled down to three words: "respect, trust, and communication." With these aims in mind, he strives to create an engaging and rigorous learning environment for all students. Cruz views his students as if they were "my own sons

or daughters," he said. "Then, in turn, the students must do the same: respect me. Standards are given the very first day. They are explained to all the students regardless of their age or grade, and they have to follow them."

Students like Kiles have certainly noticed the high levels of respect that Cruz requires from, and gives to, his students. "He does demand respect from students, which I think more teachers should do," said Kiles. He went on to say that Spanish with Señor Cruz was "challenging," but that, by working hard and honoring classroom expectations, "you always come out of it OK."

Schulman agreed. "In other classes the standards aren't as high," she said. But the payoff can make a more structured class worth the effort. "I think I learned more in Spanish this year than in my three previous years of Spanish combined," said Schulman. "I'm very ready for [Spanish] 7/8."

Although Cruz is known as a strict teacher, because of the policies he institutes and the respect that he fosters in his classroom, he said that disorder is rarely a problem. "Once [classroom policy] is established, and I treat the students the same way, I never have any discipline problems," he said. "When we have fun, we have fun, when we talk, we talk, when we need to be silent, we need to be silent." Schulman agreed. "With Señor it's like we're learning and being all intense, and then he's like, 'let's dance!'" she said.

Now, facing the end of his career at Tam, Cruz is reluctant to give up what he sees as the job of a lifetime. But he also has some ambitious plans for the future, and is looking forward to the next chapter in his life. "To me, teaching has been my life ever since I can remember, and now that I'm approaching retirement, I feel very sad that I have to let go of that part of my life, because I am at the top of my game," he said. "But I would like to do something else."

So what does the future hold for one of Tam's most well-known and respected teachers? Cruz says that


his list of plans for years to come "is very long," and includes a variety of creative careers that will play on his strengths as a teacher and Spanish speaker. Cruz would like to establish a travel company aimed at students studying a foreign language abroad, or offer his services as a tour guide to Spanish-speaking visitors to the Bay Area. He's also considering learning how to do basic income taxes for local Spanish-speaking residents, and may even "throw my hat into politics" and run for the Tamalpais Union High School Board so that he "could offer my input as far as how to improve the well-being and success, both academically and socially, of the student population."

Perhaps most interestingly, Cruz hopes to hire an agent in Los Angeles and eventually become "the official announcer of all the movie trailers in Spanish in the whole world." Previously, Cruz created a radio program in which he taught beginning Spanish to thousands of students live over the air, and hopes to parlay his success in that field to future voiceover work. He also will be managing properties owned by his family in Texas and Florida.

Despite a future seemingly full of possibilities, Cruz said that he will very much miss Tam and his life here. "I will miss everything," said Cruz of Tam. But he will miss "interactions with students" the most.

Spanish students at Tam have long been aware of Cruz's passion for teaching, and experienced it in their classes. Kiles reported hearing once that Cruz would be willing to teach for free, and he believes it. "He's not only a great teacher, but an amazing person," said Kiles.

Schulman also noted Cruz's dedication to his job. "He cares so much that you have to put all of yourself into his class," she said.

Cruz leaves behind a 20-year legacy of zealous teaching, love of language, and unique classroom management at Tam, but said that his advice to future students is simple—and it's something that most already know, even if they don't practice it. "My advice to students is patience. Patience happens to be the mother of all virtues." And, as Cruz frequently likes to tell his students: "Patience is like the roots of a tree with very sour roots but very sweet fruits." 



Cruz leads Tam students through Barcelona.

Photo credit: McCall Hoyt

Principal's Message

by Tom Drescher, Principal

Some highlights as the second semester winds down:

We have received great feedback from parents of sophomores ending their second year of CORE program participation. Having the same teachers for two years in a row has benefitted our students in a variety of ways, including building trust and relationships with teachers and fellow students, and overall skill improvement. As one teacher remarked, "I have seen tremendous growth in my students that I never saw before when having kids for only one year."

More than 50 global studies students traveled to France, Spain, Italy, and the UK in April and came back with a new perspective. I really enjoyed my time with the students in France and Spain, snowball fight and all.

Our parent-community-based Drug and Alcohol Task Force, which was formed earlier this semester, is actively working on recommendations that should be implemented for our next school year.

What an incredible season it's been for our athletic teams! Boys' Swimming earned their 4th MCAL pennant in a row; both Track and Field teams won MCAL championship titles for the first time since 1983; Girls' Softball tied for the #1 team in MCALs and continue on to NCS; Girls' Soccer won the first round of NCS playoffs; Boys' Tennis were #2 in MCALs and made it to the semifinals; our baseball team defeated Redwood in MCAL playoffs and is headed to the semifinals; and the Boys' Lacrosse team won their first NCS round.

College decisions are almost finalized and it's a wonderful validation of our public school education that Tam students are accepted to such a variety of excellent schools and programs. Oh, the places they'll go!

We are in the home stretch; keep your eye on the goal and finish strong!



FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Week of JUNE 4-8, 2012

Monday, June 4:

1st period	8:00-9:10
Break	9:10-9:25
2nd period	9:35-10:45
Lunch	10:45-11:30
3rd period	11:40-12:50
Break	12:50-1:05
4th period	1:15-2:25

Tuesday, June 5:

1st period	8:00-10:00 (final)
Break	10:00-10:05
5th period	10:15-11:25
Lunch	11:25-12:10
6th period	12:10-1:20
7th period	1:35-2:45

Wednesday, June 6:

2nd period	8:00-10:00*
Break	10:00-10:15
3rd period	10:25-12:25
4th period	8:00-10:00
Break	10:00-10:15
5th period	10:25-12:25

Thursday, June 7:

Friday, June 8:

6th period	8:00-10:00*
Break	10:00-10:15
7th period	10:25-12:25
*Bulletin read	

Tam High Graduation Ceremony on June 8 in Mead Theatre

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 tickets will be given out only to seniors at the breakfast on June 8. This year, each senior will receive six tickets. The ceremony typically lasts one hour, and is followed by an optional reception in the Student Center. Most activity on campus will be over by 8 pm.

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 on the Homestead Avenue entrance.

Guests in wheelchairs: ONLY those in a wheelchair or their attendants may enter from the bottom of Mead. There is space at the edge of the stage for eight guests with 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 Theater that is reserved for those with limited mobility. These guests may be dropped off at the top of Mead Theater via the Homestead Avenue entrance just past Benefield Hall. 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 1.





Congratulations to April Tucker

April Tucker is the recipient of an Amgen Foundation award, presented in her classroom on May 17. She will receive an unrestricted \$5,000 grant and Tam High will receive a restricted \$5,000 grant which can be used for the expansion or enhancement of a school science program, science resources, or the professional development of the school's science teachers.

SENIOR WEEK SCHEDULE - 2012

Tuesday, June 5th: Senior Trip - Great America (optional)

Meet in the front drop off at 8:30 to board busses. Don't forget your signed permission slip! We will leave Great America at 3:30 and arrive at Tam at approximately 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased in the budget office through Tuesday, May 29th.

Wednesday, June 6th: Senior Check-Out Day

Check out between 9:30 and 11:30 in Ruby Scott Gym according to your assigned Counselor. Bring your Senior Check-Out form!

- Alex Hunt – Check out between 9:30 and 10:00. Arrive at 9:30 sharp.
- Grace Aviles – Check out between 10:00 and 10:30. Arrive at 10:00 sharp.
- Sarah Gordon – Check out between 10:30 and 11:00. Arrive at 10:30 sharp.
- Evelyn Dorsett – Check out between 11:00 and 11:30. Arrive at 11:00 sharp.

Graduation Practice: 12:30, sharp at Mead

Thursday, June 7th: Games on the Field and BBQ

Arrive at Chapman Football Field at 9:30 for games and a BBQ at 11:30.
Graduation Practice: 12:30, sharp at Mead

Friday, June 8th: Senior Breakfast and Awards

Arrive at the Student Center at 9:30 for breakfast.
Each senior will receive six grad tickets at this event.
Graduation Practice: 12:30, sharp at Mead
Graduation: Seniors line up on the road outside Orange Court at 5:00 for gown check.
Graduation starts promptly at 6:00 pm!

REMINDERS:

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AT ALL EVENTS with the exception of Great America. Students who choose not to attend Great America **MUST** come to school.

NON-PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS LEADS TO EXCLUSION FROM GRAD CEREMONY.

Handicapped seating must be arranged in advance by calling 380-3512.

Return books and clear bills before June 4th to prevent problems on Check-Out Day.

Congratulations Class of 2012!

Message from the PTSA President

by Gwen Hubbard, PTSA President

It is hard to believe how quickly this school year has flown by! The Tam High PTSA is proud that we have been able to support students, parents, staff and administration in so many ways ...

- Weekly "What's Up" email blast
- Monthly Tam Family newsletter
- First day packet assembly
- Freshman orientation & BBQ
- Student registration
- Community open house
- New parent orientation
- Holiday plant sale
- Monthly "speaker series" parent education at PTSA meetings
- Teacher appreciation breakfasts
- Annual teacher appreciation luncheon
- Preparation/organization of STAR testing materials
- STAR testing snacks & BBQ
- Campus cleanup
- Parent education fall conference
- All About Tam night for incoming students/parents
- Senior class meeting breakfast
- Proctoring AP exams
- Hospitality for school events, such as Back to School Night & Open House
- Scholarships for graduating seniors
- Senior balloon bouquets
- Graduation reception
- Safe & Sober grad night.

We could not have completed all these things without the generosity of many, many volunteers and donations to the PTSA. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, for helping us make a difference at Tam High. A special thanks to the wonderful PTSA Executive Board, and my VP Peg Baumert, for all of their support and encouragement this year. I was extremely lucky to have worked with such a dedicated and fun group of parents.

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer!

If you would like to get involved in the 2012-13 school year, or have any questions or comments, please contact me at gwenhubbard@comcast.net.



Congratulations to our new Smart Drivers

The PTSA arranged for the CHP "Start Smart" driver education to be presented at the May 2 meeting. Congratulations to all 23 Tam students who participated and earned their certificates.



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Published 10 times a year

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TAM HIGH FOUNDATION NEWS

Major Grant Awards Approved by Foundation Board

The Tam High Foundation (THF) board is pleased to announce the approval of \$214,000 in major grant awards benefitting teachers and students across Tamalpais High School.

Over the last two months, the Grants Committee of the THF board has been involved in an extensive review of major grant proposals submitted to the Foundation by Tam teachers. This year the Committee utilized a refined review process including the implementation of a standardized grant request form.

Co-Chairs Robin Moses and Leslie Wachtel presented the recommendations of the Grants Committee to the THF Board on May 14. After in-depth discussion, the THF board voted to approve major grants reflecting investment in Tam High in the following areas:

\$100,000 in the arts – guest artists and equipment for drama, music and visual arts

Technology that will serve students in all disciplines – laptops (including an increased commitment to flip teaching) and video monitors

Academic support and guest artists for all English classes

Support of the summer transition program to help kids jumpstart to high school

These major grants are made possible through donations to the Tam High Foundation. Thank you from the Foundation to all parents, businesses and community friends for funding these programs for our Tam High students.



L to R: Julie Urban, Nicole Ferguson, Lisa Barger, Tracy Ferra

Tam High Supper Club: A Great Success

Once again, the annual Tam High Supper Club was the event to attend this spring!

The Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club was the venue

7 THE TAM FAMILY JUN 12



L to R: Lisa Barger, THF Events Co-Chair, Julie Kertzman, THF Board Chair, Joyce Porter, former THF Board Chair

for the event, a delightful combination of a time to socialize with the Tam High community, the opportunity to taste and sample delectable food and wine, and the ever inspiring experience of seeing and hearing our talented Tam High students. From artwork to music to drama—multiple talents were showcased and greatly appreciated.

The Tam High Supper Club is the only annual fundraising event for the Tam High Foundation and, again this year, provided vitally important funds to support our Tam High students.


Tam High Student Center Project

This summer, exciting new steps will be taken to improve the Tam High Student Center. When you return to school next fall, the student center will have a new look!

In 2008, Tam celebrated its 100th anniversary with several events including a 100-Year Gala, the proceeds of which were set aside in a special fund designated to upgrade the student center area of the school. A design committee of parent volunteers, including an architect donating his time, has been studying the best approach.

The project will be rolled out in phases. The funds raised during the 100th Anniversary will pay for phase I of the project, to be implemented this summer.

Be sure to visit the student center when school resumes next fall. Summer plans for the Center include painting the floor and walls in warmer and more vibrant colors, installing a laptop bar where students may plug-in and study, new round tables and accompanying chairs and vending machines with healthful snacks.


We look forward to a new campaign for phase two and beyond for additional renovations to the student center and the surrounding landscape. 

2011-2012 You Made The Difference!

Tam High Foundation Thanks Our Generous Donors

This year the Tam High Foundation invested \$400,000 across the campus in every department including:

- Technology
 - Laptops, Ipads, AIM Cameras, photography, autoshop
- Programs
 - Tam News, Link Crew,
- Science & Math
 - Monitors, chemistry probes, bio tech experiments
- Fine Arts
 - Drama, Music, Photo, Ceramics, Drawing & Painting
- Library
 - Extended hours, computers, books
- Basics
 - Textbooks, copying, batteries

THF is grateful to all donors listed on pages 8 and 9. Every student at Tam benefits when you support the Tam High Foundation! 



The Tam High Foundation Thanks our Generous Donors 2011-2012



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tamhighfoundation.org

News from the College and Career Center

by Susan Gertman, College and Career Specialist—
sgertman@tamdistrict.org 380-3582

The class of 2012 will attend colleges and universities throughout the US and Canada. Tam students did extremely well in a very competitive year.

California Community Colleges: Cabrillo, City College of San Francisco, College of Marin, Cuesta, Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley, San Diego Mesa, Santa Barbara City, Santa Monica, Santa Rosa.


California State University: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey Bay, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Sonoma.

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

American, BU, Brown, CalArts, Cal Baptist, Cal Lutheran, CAP21 Performing Arts Conservatory, Chapman, Colgate, Colorado State, Columbia College, Connecticut College, Cornell, Drexel, Eckerd, Emerson, Emory, Emory University's Oxford College, George Washington, Georgetown, Green Mountain, Hampshire, Hampton, Lewis and Clark, Loyola Marymount, Mercyhurst, Montana State, Morgan State, NYU, Northern Arizona, Northwestern, Occidental, Pasadena Art Center College of Design, Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins, Pitzer, Pomona, Queen's University (Canada), Rhode Island School of Design, Rochester Community and Technical College, Rollins, Santa Clara, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Scripps, Southern Oregon, St. Mary's College of California, Stanford, Suffolk, Tulane, U of Arizona, U of British Columbia, U of Chicago, U of Colorado-Boulder, U of Dayton, U of Denver, U of Kansas, U of Kentucky, U of Miami, U of Michigan-Ann Arbor, U of Oregon, U of Puget Sound, U of the Redlands, U of San Diego, U of Southern California, U of the Pacific, U of Vermont, U of Virginia, U of Waterloo (Canada), U of Wisconsin-Madison, Warren Wilson, Washington and Lee, Western Washington, Whitman, Whittier, Willamette and Williams.

THANK YOU

The work of the College and Career Center could not be done without the work of devoted volunteers. Heartfelt thanks to Jill Anderson, Joanne Berry, Kipp Delbyck, Susan Garratt, Deb Patrick, Sarah Pruden and Karen Rosenbluth.

Thanks, too, to the Tam High Foundation for supporting the work of the Career Center. The generosity of the Foundation allows me to attend seminars, stock an excellent reference library, purchase test prep and special interest books and visit colleges of interest to Tam students. This year the Foundation supported visits to Washington University in St. Louis, University of the Pacific, UC Merced and Cal State Stanislaus. 

New Beginnings and Letting Go: CTE Seniors Bid Farewell

by Susan Brashear, CTE Co-Program Director and Lily Rosensweig, CTE student

Spring is a season of rebirth and growth and as spring is at its height, CTE drama students and teachers reflect on the past years' productions as the last of the One Acts are ending. The productions for this year are over, and it's time to pause and think on what was accomplished and where students are going next. CTE seniors are preparing to leave the company, the juniors are contemplating how they will take charge next year and sophomores continuing into advanced drama are eagerly anticipating their chance to finally step up as leaders next year. Teachers are busy organizing the schedule and preparing for the incoming class of freshmen while planning guest artists and shows for next year.

CTE Class of 2011-12

Seniors are taking time to express gratitude and remember their times at CTE. Some students went through the audition process and eight students will be going on to study theatre at a university or a conservatory program. Conner Crockett, a four-year drama student at Tam, was accepted to the California Institute of the Arts in Southern California and is planning to attend as a first year BFA Acting Major. "I wouldn't have made it into Cal Arts without CTE. My monologue coach, Julianna Rees whom CTE provided for me as a part of the guest artist program, helped me achieve my goal to enter a theatre conservatory," said Crockett. Humbled by his acceptance with so much competition to get in the highly regarded program, he is eager to start his education and is grateful for the opportunity.

Other students have also chosen to focus primarily on further theater training such as acting, directing, and stage managing for their college education. Senior Anna Civik will be attending Northwestern University in the fall as a Communications Major with an emphasis in Theatre. Ian Johnston, Abigail Kirn, and Noelle Erskine will all be going to University of Michigan for BFA Acting, Directing and Stage Management. They follow prior students into this selective program where CTE students have been accepted every year. Senior Emily Pathman plans to attend Emerson University in the fall to study theatre stage management after pondering her options from several impressive acceptances. Lily Rosensweig will be attending The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago as a BFA Acting Major; another highly competitive


program. Ivy Ryan will enter Boston University, yet another prestigious conservatory, as a BFA Acting Major. They are all eager to enter these rigorous programs in the fall, but find it hard to say "goodbye" to their CTE ensemble.

Some of the seniors will not be studying theater in college and may find it hard to fit it into their busy academic load. Sami Emory will be going to NYU in the fall. Joe Weber will be going to Chapman to study filmmaking. Robin Weisselberg is off to Reed. Some students will continue their theater habit as their schedules permit or as audience members for their university or college productions.

CTE Year in Review

All CTE students reflect with pride on the work achieved this year with our six main stage productions; The Government Inspector, The Odyssey, A Story that's Never Been Told (Improvisation), Pride and Prejudice, Ash Girl, and Rhinoceros, as well as our two successful winter and spring One Act festivals. Designers, actors, crew and directors have all done outstanding productions this year for a truly satisfying, entertaining body of work with great variety. Several new plays were written this year, either produced at the Spring One Act festival or submitted for playwriting contests. Senior Ivy Ryan's play, Not All About You, was a semi-finalist in Marin Theatre Company's competition for high school playwrights.

CTE Next Year

CTE students are excited to introduce the upcoming sophomores into the Advanced Drama class next year and form the ensemble for the new season. CTE student board elections are underway. Everyone is anxious to hear what plays will be chosen for next year's program. Under consideration are works by Shakespeare, Moliere, and Brecht. American classics and contemporary works are all in the mix. Watch for the upcoming announcements at our website: www.ctetam.org. See you in the fall. 

BOOSTER NEWS



Girls' Varsity Soccer

Another year, another successful season for the Tam girls' soccer team.

The Hawks, who battled late season injuries and scheduling challenges, advanced to the semifinals of the MCAL championships in dramatic style. In the first round, at Redwood, Tam and Redwood played 100 scoreless minutes after regulation and two overtime periods. In the final seconds of the game - already into added time - Tam was awarded a corner kick. Nicole Henderson sent the ball to the front of Redwood's net, McCall Hoyt flicked it to Olivia Heitz and Heitz buried it for the game-winner.

That victory set up a match with top-seeded Marin Catholic. Despite the loss of senior captain Caitlin Firmage to injury, Tam battled furiously. After falling behind 1-0 on a MC free kick, Henderson scored on a penalty kick for the equalizer. It was only the second goal allowed by MC's defense in league play all season. Tam again took the opposition into overtime, before eventual league champion Marin Catholic won on a goal five minutes into the first overtime period.

The Hawks earned the seventh seed in the North Coast Section playoffs. Despite being a higher seed Tam traveled to Oakland to play at Head Royce as they were awarded a home game by virtue of winning its league. Tam, back at full strength, won 2-0. Henderson converted another penalty kick and Heitz added an insurance goal in the second period.

Tam faced Branson in the NCS quarterfinals at College of Marin. Both regular season meetings with Branson ended in ties and the NCS game was more evidence of how closely matched the teams were. But Branson prevailed 1-0 with a second half goal.

The Hawks will graduate nine seniors: Firmage, Henderson, Jane Lee, Lena Geupel, Megan Monroe, Quinlan Cacic, Nicole Amyx, Jenna Lea, and Jessye Baker-Lavine.



Girls Varsity Soccer Team: top row: Coach Shane Kennedy, Jane Lee, Lena Geupel, Lauren Lampl, McCall Hoyt, assistant coach Mike Carbone. Second row: Rachael Firm, Nicole Amyx, Jenna Lea, Elizabeth Archer, Hannah Monroe, Quinlan Cacic, Rachael Ferroni. Third row: Caitlin Firmage, Annie Ganz, Taylor Bontz, Olivia Heitz, Isabella Dahlke, Nicole Henderson. Bottom row: Kaitie Gillespie, Michaela Firmage, Amy Yoeger, Daniela Hunt, Megan Monroe

Varsity Softball

The Tam softball team ended a very successful regular season tied for first place with San Marin. Both teams were 17-1 in league play, handing each other their only MCAL loss. Heading into playoffs, the tie-breaker was determined by a drawn number, giving Tam the #2 seed. After a first-round bye, Tam powered past Terra Linda in the semi-final game, 6-3. Tam had 10 hits in the game, although several TL errors assisted the scoring as well. Kim Scarsella notched 9 K's, while giving up only 3 hits. The Hawks' defense was sharp, including a key double play to ease a 6th inning threat by freshman shortstop Chloe Jacobs. The win set up the final matchup between the top 2 teams. Unfortunately, luck did not hold out against San Marin in the final. Although they staged an exciting comeback in the 6th and 7th innings,

Tam fell short 7-5, taking 2nd place in MCAL. However, the team continued into NCS as the #2 seed, earning a first round bye and the right to a Tam home game. Dropping into quarter-final play last week against #7 seed Terra Linda, the Hawks wasted no time in pursuing the win. The Hawks earned another home game by defeating the Trojans in a hard fought 2-1 game before an excited Tam crowd. Unfortunately their run for the championship was cut short by Bishop O'Dowd in the semi-finals. We look forward to watching this powerhouse team next year.

BOOSTER NEWS *continued*

Varsity Track Tam Boys' and Girls' Track Races To Historic Win

The boys' and girls' Tam track team finished the regular season with an undefeated record of 8-0. The Hawks ended the season on April 26 with an impressive victory over Redwood and Drake, with both the boys and girls notching decisive wins. Two weeks later at the MCAL finals, both teams again cruised to victory. The girls racked up 136 points while the boys scored 135 points, far outpacing their nearest rivals. Following the conclusion of the meet, both teams were awarded MCAL 2012 Track Championship pennants, an event that may be unprecedented in Tam track history. Tired, sweaty, and overjoyed, both teams took a slow-motion victory lap, literally running into the sunset.

Head Coach Kevin Engle chalks up the winning season to "having great senior leadership. The positive energy from our seniors has given the rest of the team the confidence to go out and perform at their best."

Standout field performances at the MCALS include Ren Scypion, who won the long jump and the triple-jump events, Lucas Janetos who took third in the long jump, and August Kiles and Gonzalo Berluzconi, who took first and second in the pole vault, and second and third in the high jump. Zach Knight notched first place wins in the 110 and 300 meter hurdles, Dana Mills won the 400 meter dash, and distance runner James MacDonald came in second in the 800 and third in the 1600 meter run.

On the girls' side, Lilla McMillan won the long jump with a leap of 17 feet 11 ½ inches, the 100, and the 200, and anchored her 4 x 100



Boys & Girls Track Team win MCAL Championships!

team to victory. Jessica Rasmussen took third in the long jump with a personal best of 17 feet 7 inches, placed fourth in the 100, and took second in the 200. In distance events Hallie Brauner dominated the 800 in a time of 2:20.29. Sophomore Kate Wilmouth led the hurdlers to victory with a first place finish in the 100, and a second place in the 300. In field events Isabel Janetos placed second in the shot, and Shoshana Herzog leapt to a fourth place finish in the high jump.

Assistant Coach Bob McClennan notes the contributions made by "the emergence of the freshman girl distance runners Megan Tanel, Kate Bartschat, Gianna Garza, newcomer Morgana Sidhum, and Maddie Kwasny in the 800 and the 4 x 400. Really big breakthroughs came from Isabel Janetos, Kira Collins and Julie Francis in the shot."

On the boys side, McClennan points to the standout performances by sprinters Dana Mills, Haynes Stephens, and Rondall Leggett, as well as contributions from distance runners Andrew Henn, James MacDonald, and Alex Olson. The development of throwers Mike Ma, Chris Sykes, Ben Fritz, and Xavier Caputo has been a "pleasant surprise" according to McClennan.

Watching the team practice for the upcoming Redwood Empire, McClennan says, "It's been an unbelievable season. We thought the Tam-Redwood-Drake meet, which brought together three undefeated teams, would be down to the wire. But we won in a rout, with the boys winning by more than 30 points, and the girls winning comfortably, too."

Looking back at Tam's undefeated season, coach Kevin Engle says simply, "We'll never see a team like this again."

Girls' track team wins 2012 NCS.

Frosh Baseball

Under the direction of Tom Frasier and his crack staff, the Tam freshman team turned it around in the second half of the season to finish with an 8-5 record. During the past month, the team knocked off Novato 6-5 and San Marin 7-2; swept Drake in a double header 9-0 and 6-3; beat Marin Catholic 6-3 and Justin Sienna 5-0. Their only loss was the last game of the season to Redwood (12-7). Pitching was strong all year, and hitting came around in the second half. This team had standout defensive plays and every player contributed in some significant way to the winning season. The team displayed a great attitude and on-field camaraderie that should bode well for the Tam program for years to come. Practicing six days a week for four months, the players wish they could have played a lot more games. As they say in baseball – Play ball!

JV Baseball

The Tam JV baseball team started the season on a role. They pounded Healdsburg 25-6 and beat a very good Alhambra team 7-1 to wrap up the preseason at 2-2. After struggling to find some consistency in the early going of the MCAL season, the Hawks came out of spring break playing very good baseball. They won three consecutive league games to set the longest winning streak of the season. Offensively, the Hawks beat up on opposing pitchers, hitting at a .324 clip as a team by seasons' end.

The highlight of the year came against league rival, Marin Catholic, on a cold, rainy spring day. MC came into the game looking to extend an undefeated season, but the Hawks had other plans. Tam pitchers worked their way out of numerous early jams and kept the team within striking distance. With MC leading 6-3 in the 6th inning, the Hawks rallied. A steady rain continued to soak the field as Tam scored 5 runs and held on to win 8-6.



BOOSTER NEWS *continued*

All 18 student-athletes made positive contributions on the field and the team finished the season with an 8-10 overall record. The boys became a close-knit group, learning to play in close games while showing good sportsmanship and mental toughness when things didn't go their way. We tip our caps to the Varsity team that is making a run in the playoffs, and can see that the Tam baseball program has become a formidable force in the MCAL. Many of the JV players are poised for an offseason of hard work and are ready to take up key roles on next years Varsity team.

The Tam Hawks takes 4th Consecutive MCAL Championship and Breaks 4 School Records.

Boys' Varsity Swimming

For the third time in 4 years, the Tam boys' swimming team took an undefeated conference record into the MCAL championship meet; and for the fourth consecutive year they came away from the meet as MCAL champs. This was the closest of the four championships. Tam topped Terra Linda by only 15 points (386-371) with the help of the boys on the dive team who contributed 28 points to secure the win.

Miguel Mattox won the 500 freestyle in dominant fashion and then took fourth in the 100 backstroke about 20 minutes later. Both of those swims were Tam High records. Joe Weber also broke a school record when he took second place in the 200 freestyle, and then he teamed up with Riley Sykes, Brennan Latimer, and Elliot Ordway in the 200 freestyle relay to break the fourth school record of the meet.

Boys' Varsity Baseball Vies for the NCS Championship

Oakland Coliseum, Saturday, June 2 at 1 pm

On their way to an NCS pennant, the Tam baseball team has already made history of sorts. Should they win NCS, they'll be a triple crown winner. They already have a shared first place season pennant for the first time in 18 years. They've also been awarded the second consecutive NCS Scholastic Champion pennant. The Scholastic pennant is awarded to the three highest GPA teams in the division.

In NCS game competition, Tam, #6 seed, eliminated #11 Albany High School on Tam's home field last week. This was followed by a win against #3 seed Drake in 10-3 night game at Albert Park before a large crowd. The decisive win against Drake propelled the Hawks to a match-up against #2 seed, Miramonte, which they won 11 to 7. This means the boys are headed to the Coliseum for the Division III championship game against Acalanes H.S. The boys will play at the Oakland Coliseum on Saturday June 2 at 1pm. This is the first time the Hawks have been in the finals since 1929. Come out and cheer them on.



Go Hawks!



Members of the Tam Boys Swim Team celebrates 4th consecutive MCAL win.

Girls' Varsity Swimming

What an amazing season the Tam girls swim team had. All of the sweat, 4,000 yard practices, countless streamlines and hundreds of flip turns paid off. The team ended the 2012 season with a 10-2 record beating Redwood and MC in dual meets.

The winning season was followed by a great

showing at MCALs where Kim Baca broke the MCAL record in the 500 yd Free and Brigitte Winkler broke the MCAL record in the 100 yd breaststroke. With a huge group of dedicated freshman this team's future is nothing but bright. To quote Coach Marta Sato: "Congratulations on a great season girls! Jeremy, Ken and I are all very proud of you guys!" That says it all.

BOOSTER NEWS *continued*

Boys Varsity Lacrosse

Tam Boys ended the MCAL season with a 6-3 record earning them 4th place in MCAL and an 8th place seed in the North Coast Sectionals, Division II Tournament. Tam hosted and won their first-ever home NCS game against the number 9 seed, Sonoma Academy with a final score of 9-8.

Kevin Leake had a season high game with eight goals, Graeme Black had one goal and one assist, Erik Rothlind had two assists and Jackson Porter assisted on the winning goal to Leake.

Marin Catholic hosted the 2nd round of NCS. Although Tam was only outscored by one goal in the second half, they couldn't overcome the deficit from the 1st half and lost 14-4. Scoring for Tam was Black (2), Porter and Jake Isola-Henry each with one and Rothlind with an assist.



Honoring graduating seniors: #9 Graeme Black, #13 Cameron Robach, #22 Morgan Denebeim, #30 Maxx Hockenberry and #32 Casey Hogan.

The NCS committee invited only three MCAL teams into Division II tournament this year: Marin Catholic (1), Novato (5) and Tam (8). Making it to the second round of NCS is proof that the Tam lacrosse program is competitive and strong and shows how far our program has come. We look forward to showing what we can do next year. Go Hawks!

Girls' Varsity Lacrosse

The Tam girls' lacrosse team with a roster of 19 players led by Coach Val Feldman and John Vreeland started off the season strong. After a mid-season dip (due to missing key players to the student Europe trip during spring break along with a few injuries and illnesses) the team had hoped to finish strong once everyone was back. However, an MCAL playoff run wasn't in the cards for Tam this year. But the team is looking forward to coming back strong next year as they continue to build the program.

While this is the last season for Senior goalie--and Tam Player of The Year--Baylin Vreeland (after 4 years in goal), we're looking forward to watching her play D3 in college at Washington & Lee University in Virginia. 🦅




Baylin Vreeland

Tam Coach Mike Terry named Outstanding Coach of the Year!

The Tam Union High School District and its Board have long recognized athletic programs as an integral part of its students' educational opportunities. Athletic Directors estimate that 70 to 80 coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteer coaches are involved in delivering these outstanding programs for each school site.

Each year Drake, Tam, and Redwood High Schools each proudly name one outstanding coach to represent all the dedicated coaches at their school. Criteria for selection of the TUHSD Coach of the Year include growth and development of the program over time, knowledge of the rules of the sport, conditioning and strategy, communication with parents and players, consistency in goals and expectations and respect for officials, rules, and opponents.

We are pleased to announce that Head Baseball Coach, Mike Terry, has been selected as Tam's Outstanding Coach of the Year for 2012. Congratulations Coach Terry!

Terry will be honored with this award on May 22, 2012 at the TUHSD board meeting. That is, unless he has a baseball game. As luck would have it, NCS baseball playoffs also begin May 22 and we all know where Coach Terry will be should the conflict arise...leading Tam Baseball to victory. 



L to R: Kenny Rosenberg, Coach Terry, Seth Gillis, Jake Dorfman, Mac Huffman, Will Haight.



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 Tamalpais High School
 700 Miller Avenue
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

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JUNE 2012		
Date	Time/Event	Location
5	SENIOR TRIP (Optional)	
5	FINALS BEGIN (Grades 9-11)	See page 4 for schedule
6 - 8	FINALS CONTINUE (Grades 9-11)	12:25 PM DISMISSAL
5 - 8	SENIOR ACTIVITIES	See page 5 for details
8	6 PM - GRADUATION (Tickets required)	MEAD THEATER - Student Center
11	TEACHER WORK DAY	
12	7 PM - TUHSD BOARD MEETING	Kreps Conference Center - Redwood High
18	FIRST DAY OF SUMMER SCHOOL	REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
26	7 PM - TUHSD BOARD MEETING	Kreps Conference Center - Redwood High
JULY 2012		
18	LAST DAY OF SUMMER SCHOOL	REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
26	9 AM - 2 PM - PTSA VOLUNTEERS ASSEMBLY FIRST DAY PACKETS	STAFF ROOM - Wood Hall
AUGUST 2012		
17	9 AM - 2 PM - FRESHMAN ORIENTATION & BBQ	
20-21	STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TEACHER WORK DAYS	
21	SCHEDULE PICK-UP FOR GRADES 10 - 12	(see summer mailing)-RUBY SCOTT GYM
22	8 AM - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	Staff Room - Wood Hall
22	8 - 9 AM - PTSA BACK-TO-SCHOOL COFFEE	RUBY SCOTT GYM
For details and updates, check the calendar on the Tam High website: tamhigh.org		