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2020

ANANYA NARAYAN AND LIAM WILL USC PRESIDENTS LISTEN TO EVERY VOICE

By Anna Nowakowski

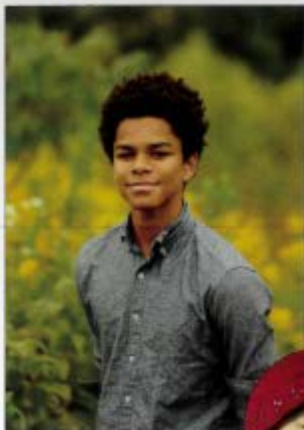
LIAM WILL AND ANANYA NARAYAN hope to leave a big impact on the Upper School Council. Voted into presidency by their peers, Will and Narayan chose to be co-presidents because of their big ideas and commitment to change.

Narayan and Will run meetings for the council, organize initiatives and develop ideas for the Upper School community. They chose to make their meetings and initiatives involve many of the other members of the committee with open discussion and voting. According to Will, one of their strengths as co-presidents is making sure everyone is heard. "The role of co-presidents is to delegate and hold other members of the committee accountable to tasks they have been assigned," Will said.

"USC is a great way to help the community and make some changes that I wanted to see to improve the way we do things," Will said, and that is exactly what he has been doing with his many goals and projects that are all well underway.

Some of these initiatives include resolving snack policy with a new system, further implementing the sustainability program and finalizing the mentor program. One of their largest goals is changing the attendance policy around protests. Their goal is to change the absence from acknowledged to excused to encourage expression and freedom of speech. Will and Narayan also are very involved in the restructured mentor-mentee program. They made the program more personal, ensuring that mentors met with their mentees often and were able to answer their questions. This made students feel much more connected.

Narayan learned many valuable lessons from her years as a representative and finally a co-president. Some of the most important, according to Narayan, are "How to get things done, how to listen to people, how to make sure everyone feels heard and how to be a strong leader."



LATH AKPA



THOMAS BAGNOLI



SAMEER BIJWADIA





TOMMY ALLEN



MASHA AMES



QUINN APPERT



EVAN BARNES



HELEN BARTLETT



AMELIA BATSON



KATHLEEN BISHOP



ERIC BOTTERN



**2020
SENIORS**

**130
131**



MADDY BRETON



HENRY BURTON



RICHARD CHANG



QUINN CHRISTENSEN



LIBBY COHEN

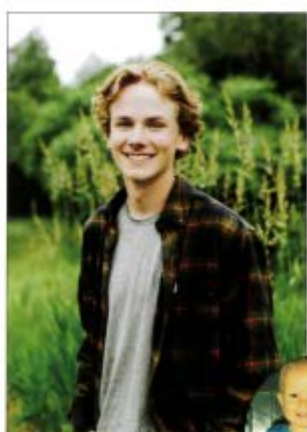


ALESSANDRA COSTALONGA

2020 SENIORS



ZACHARY DYAR



SEAN EDSTROM





HENRY CHENEY



LAUREN DIEPERINK



AUDREY EGLY



RICHARD CHANG'S BETTER LEAGUE

By Colin Will

RICHARD CHANG started playing fantasy football at 11 years old against strangers on the internet. Now, seven years later, he administers two leagues. Despite never having played football in his life, Chang felt drawn to fantasy by how it combined his dual interest in sports and mathematics.

"I like data," he said, referring to the complex system of stats, schedules and projections that players must navigate in order to determine their lineups each week.

His first fantasy season was a defining experience that involved more than a little bit of luck. "I just took every single Vikings player, and that just happened to be the year that Adrian Peterson went off. I got really lucky, and I just had a really good team. And I thought maybe I'd play the next year. I just kept on playing," he said.

Chang didn't create an official league until middle school, when fellow seventh grader (now senior) Nathan Sobotka planted the idea in his head. He ended up forming a small four-team league with Sobotka and two of their seventh grade classmates.

"During English class, he asked me if I'd be willing to start a fantasy football league because he said he wanted to start playing. That night I went on my phone and created a league," Chang said.

Over the years, more people started to join. Senior Amelia Batson started playing in 2018. "I figured it'd be easy and fun," she said.

Chang now hosts a total of 22 teams across two leagues, the larger of them colloquially referred to as "the Better League," taking on all the responsibility that comes with them and acting as the leader, commissioner and public face of both.

"He does just about everything," Sobotka said. "Some years he even ends up playing multiple teams, because people drop out."

According to Sobotka, competition is a prime motivator for many in the league: "None of us really care about fantasy football. We care about beating each other. That's the fun part," he said.

While Chang started out playing just for fun, creating his own league and getting to play against friends added a social layer to his experience. "I do feel that playing fantasy football will help me build connections with people later in life."

QUINN CHRISTENSEN KNOWS CLOTHES

By Tommy Verhey

QUINN CHRISTENSEN spends a lot of time making clothes. She makes skirts, shirts and dresses for personal buyers (usually friends) and even had the opportunity to make Cinderella's dress in last year's musical, "Into the Woods."

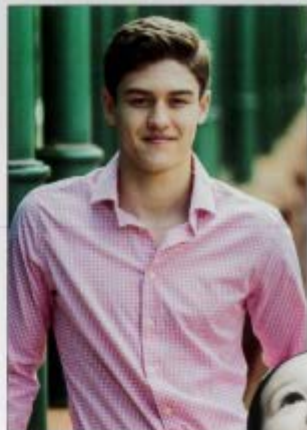
US Theater Director Eric Severson first had the thought to ask Christensen to make the fantastic dress. "For the show, I wanted a gown that wouldn't impede Cinderella's movement in the woods," Severson said. "When I approached Quinn about working on this, she jumped at the chance, and through face-to-face meetings and e-mail correspondence, we found images that became patterns and fabric choices that would work best in the style. I could not be happier or more proud of the end product."

The dress took Christensen a lengthy time to make with the fittings of the actress playing Cinderella, finding the right fabric, and more, but through all of her work and time, she was still able to create an utter masterpiece.

Although Christensen loves making her clothing, it's difficult for her to find time to create and produce new pieces between balancing The Rubicon, Iris: Art + Lit, acting for school plays, choir and other hobbies. Luckily, after several years of pursuing this, she has learned to balance her schedule. "Fashion is just something I do when I have time for it," Christensen said. "During the year it's a lot less, but I'm very productive during the summer with it. I think I made seven pieces this summer, but then during the year, it's the weekend if I have some time, or after school sometimes."

Within and without the life of clothes making, Christensen is widely known as a creative and genuine person. Lori Li, a close friend of Christensen, helps photograph her clothing. "Quinn's personality is mostly the same when she's making clothing and doing normal activities because whenever she's doing either, her creativity shows through a lot," Li said. "Her clothes are very intricate and carefully put together, which I think correlates a lot with the way she thinks in the normal activities she does every day like in school. The way she thinks and approaches things is very complex but simple and innovative."

Even though Christensen cannot spend all of her time making clothes and perfecting old masterpieces, her talent, work ethic, and her great personality still shine through into her clothes making.



ANDREW ELLIS



FREMONT FORSBERG



JACK GUINAN





PETER FINDELL



ANNIKA FINDLAY



DUNCAN FLEMING



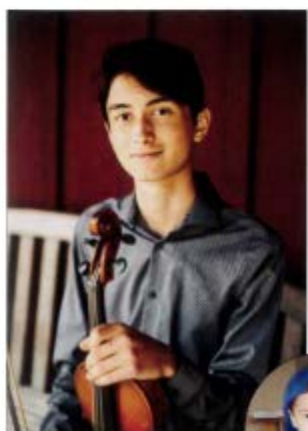
STEVEN FRISCH



CESAR GALLAGHER



VICTORIA GREEMAN



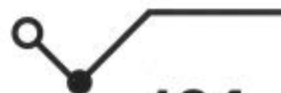
SAM HANSON



ABBY HEDBERG



2020
SENIORS



134
135



SOPHIA HEEGAARD



SONJA HENZE



ALEX HERRMANN



JAKE HOSSZU

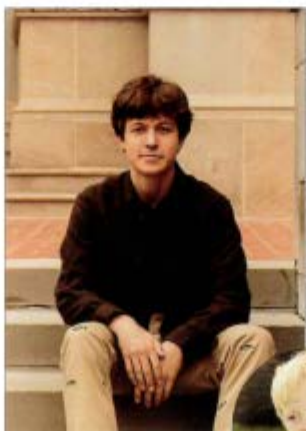


PAIGE INDRITZ



ELIJAH JOHNSON

2020
SENIORS



LOUIS KEMPAINEN



BRENNAN KEOGH



SAM HANSON

COMPOSER

By Jake Hosszu



ELLIE HOPPE



CHARLIE KEILLOR



YONA KETEMA



SAM HANSON began composing music at a young age. He was featured on Minnesota Public Radio for a piece he composed, *Ironie Contrasts*, for cello, trumpet and piano. In an interview with MPR, Hanson said, "I wrote the piece with ideas of contrasting moods of chaos and unity between the parts."

Hanson began playing the violin when his parents signed both him and his brother up for lessons. "I often felt like a sculpture in progress learning the violin, my bow arm and hand position being constantly prodded and corrected by my teacher," Hanson said. "But as the muscle memory was ingrained into me through quasi-torture, I began to enjoy playing more and put more time into practicing."

Hanson was able to learn from his teacher critiquing his form until his technique was sound.

He sees endless possibilities with the instrument. "The violin speaks to me because it has so many potential different ways it can be played," Hanson said. "Technique-wise, the bow can be moved from its regular position towards the bridge, creating a metallic sound, or towards the fingerboard, which gives an airy, thin sound."

Orchestra Director Almut Engelhardt has worked with Hanson for a number of years. She described him as, "a really expressive player with a sweet sound."

Senior Henry Burton has been a stand partner with Hanson on and off for a number of years. "When he plays, the piece is always perfect," Burton said. "I don't know if it stems from hours of practice, or just being gifted at sight reading, but either way, he's a very talented violinist."

Burton described Hanson in the classroom, discussing his ability to impact others in the class. "He's able to be serious during orchestra, which can be rather helpful when everyone's distracted. He sets a good example for the younger students on how to act during rehearsal. His talent always pushes me to play better," Burton said.

Hanson is able to lead the class by example, which is an important trait for a senior student. His ability to tune in and be professional displays his maturity in the classroom.

Overall, Hanson is humble about his abilities. As Engelhardt said, "Someone with Sam's talents could show off, but he keeps to himself."

PIA SCHULTZ HEADS OUTDOORS

By Evelyn Sampson-Jones

PIA SCHULTZ will not sit inside during winter. Some people like to remain within the walls of their home, safe and warm, with a comfortable bed, clean clothes and hot food. Schultz, on the other hand, is not one of those people. "I read somewhere that we spend something like 90% of our life indoors," she said. "That's just insane to me."

Schultz was born in Alaska and lived there for the first two years of her life. Her dad still lives there, and Schultz goes to visit every summer and stays in a cabin in the woods.

"One time we woke up and we heard a creaky noise. This tree, that's kind of connected to the cabin, there was a black bear in it and we didn't really know how to get it down," Schultz said. "They're scared of loud noises, so eventually my dad drove up to the tree and revved his engine really loud, and that scared the bear. That was five hours of just looking at this bear and thinking, 'How are we going to get it down?'"

Schultz has attended Camp Warren, a YMCA camp in Eveleth, Minnesota, since fourth grade and started as a counselor last summer. "Being at camp is like being with a strong community of women. There are a lot of role models that have shown me a lot of qualities I've tried to emulate," Schultz said.

Camp Warren has also given Schultz the opportunity to take canoe trips in the Boundary Waters. Last year, she went on Long Long Border, a 14-day trip through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) designed for campers who have excelled on previous trips. "We did our 14-day trip, and then we did this portage," Schultz said.

The portage Schultz refers to is the legendary Grand Portage, which stretches over 2,720 rods (8.5 miles). It has been used by Native Americans and voyageurs for around 2,000 years and is now one of the toughest portages in the BWCA.

"We were supposed to do half of it in the morning and then the other half at night, and sleep in the middle, but we were super behind that day. So we got to the starting point, and it was around 11 p.m., and we were being picked up at 11 a.m., and we thought it would take 10 hours, so we just did it," Schultz said. "We basically just portaged the whole night, from 12 a.m. to 9 a.m. It was really difficult."

As for advice on getting outside more, Schultz says that the little things count.

"I definitely try to make an effort to get outside, either through trips or just going out on a walk, that kind of thing. It helps me see the bigger scheme of things," she said.



EDWARD KRASNY



LORI LI



ABDELRAHMAN MOKBEL





THOMAS KURISAK



AIDAN LANZ



HANNAH LARSON



MEAGAN MASSIE



JOSHUA MEITZ



PETER MICHEL



ANANYA NARAYAN



MELISSA NIE



2020
SENIORS



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139



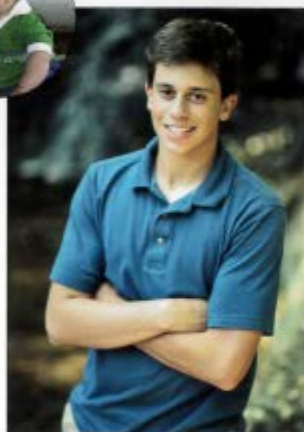
CELESTE PARKE-REIMER



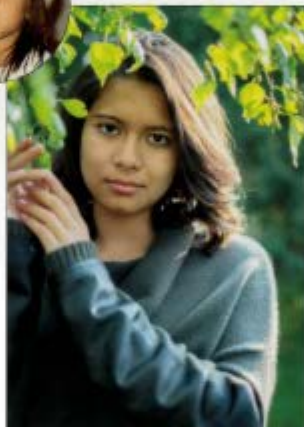
NOAH RAAUM



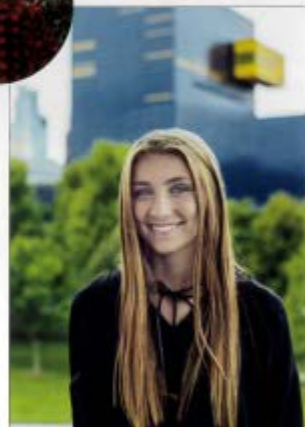
WILL RATHMANNER



ETHAN RICHMAN



SHAREE ROMAN



MARTHA SANCHEZ

2020 SENIORS



PIA SCHULTZ



MARTHA SLAVEN



RYAN STROBEL

FISHTOGRAPHER

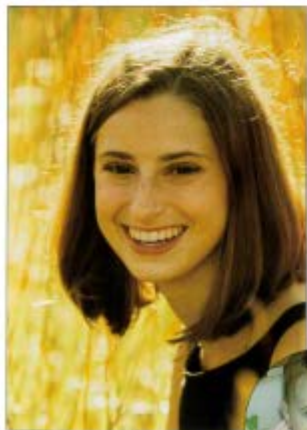
By Adrienne Gaylord



NOAH RICE



HENRIK SCHLEISMAN



NINA SMETANA



Senior Ryan Strobel is not a photographer. He is a fishtographer, and the only one at that. In 10th grade he took a photography class at school, and his love of the art form progressed from there. Now he's got his own camera and a family of fish that need to be photographed.

"I just like looking at the crazy stuff that nature's generated," Strobel said. "I feel like not a lot of people pay attention to stuff like that. They're like, 'Ew it's a cricket' but they don't look at how complex its mouth is. It's just kind of crazy that it all came together in a way, and I think it's neat to show that stuff up close. So it's easier to appreciate."

Strobel seeks to challenge monotony, and bring a new sense of wonder to the known. "I feel like a big part of my vision is that you can appreciate this stuff no matter where you are, because it's always around you," Strobel said.

Much of his photography is of his fish in darkness. "My pictures go for mystery and spookiness," he said.

According to Strobel, his work would ideally be observed while the song "Creeping in my Soul" is playing. The element of fear he attempts to evoke is complemented by the neoclassical metal sounds of Cryoshell.

"I think videography is the future of photography, for me personally," he said.

He has taken a few videos already of his fish. Strobel believes that his aquatic focus sets him apart from other artists. "Nobody else is taking pictures of fish. I'm the only fishtographer in the world," Strobel said, laughing.

Although at least 667 Instagram posts tagged with #fishtography beg to question his statement, no one has publicly claimed his title. Strobel said that his fish have grabbed almost all of his photography interest. Around 65% of his photos are of fish, making them his primary muse. The only other subject that can even come close to his fish are his shrimp. They are incredibly small, almost microscopic to the bare eye, yet when taking photos he can see them closer. One couldn't see it with their bare eye but through a camera lens, they have ten tiny legs, five on either side, and small carapaces layering upon one another.

The story within Strobel's photos is one of appreciation for the unappreciated, finding the fear in the unfearful, but what is the main underlying message? "Come to my house and look at my fish," Strobel said.

TINA WILKENS

KNOWS HOW YOU LIKE YOUR TEA

By Sam Hanson

Routine tasks and long hours aren't usually a recipe for enjoyment, but **TINA WILKENS**, who works at the Sencha in the Mall of America, has found ways to transform monotony into adventure in the 1 1/2 years she has been working there.

"My coworkers are very fun, and they make the job worth it. But there are lots of moments of dullness, especially during the week, a lot of times in the fall and spring," Wilkens said.

Though coworkers provide much-needed entertainment, customers can also be a source. Wilkens finds herself bemused by some orders. "There was the caramel-mango shake, which is one of the worst things I've had," she said.

Her most memorable customers are those who stumble on pronouncing orders. "There's also the people who I guess just don't know how to order or don't know what things are—we get lots of 'alo' jelly. I got an 'aioli jello' once [instead of aloe]. People will have any way to pronounce tapioca pearls: 'Topeka' pearls, 'tropical' pearls, literally anything else."

While behind the bar, Wilkens observed Sencha's role in a busy mall environment and its shopper's varied needs. She was surprised, however, that these needs included grossly overpriced avocados.

"Someone once came in and said, 'Can I get a whole for four dollars?' And on our menu, we have avocados, and under avocados, it says 'whole for four dollars and a half for two dollars,' and someone just wanted a whole for four dollars. I did get permission from my boss to sell a whole avocado sealed in a cup for four dollars if they ask me."

Despite the usually nice crowd of shoppers, the mall can also be home to violent characters.

"We have a few people who come in who have been banned from other malls but haven't been banned from the Mall of America," Wilkens said. "One guy, who actually said something about taking a gun into the Mall."

Ultimately, the pepperings of outrageous orders and events highlight the quirks of working in a mall setting.

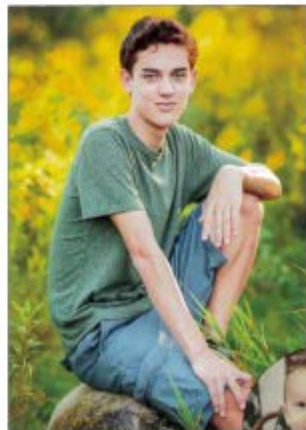
"It's not like working in a regular store; it's just a different environment," Wilkens said.



ANNA SNIDER



CARLY ST. MARTIN-NORBURG



RYAN STROBEL





ASHER SOBOTKA



NATHAN SOBOTKA



MAX SOLL



SAMUEL STEINHACKER



TOMMY STOLPESTAD



AYLA STRAUB



ASHLEY SU



ANJALI TADAVARTHY



SYDNEY THERIEN





GRIFFIN THISSEN



KATE THOMAS



HENRY VLIETSTRA



CLARK WALTZ



ISABELLE WEBER



TINA WILKENS



NAOMI WILSON



PETER WILSON



WILLIAM YUHENG ZHAO



ELIJAH JOHNSON FINDS HIMSELF

By Nikolas Liepins

As a first-generation American, **ELIJAH JOHNSON** blends his family's Ugandan heritage with his experience being raised in the United States. In contrast to the generally passive lifestyle of American society, he was raised to be hospitable. "If someone is coming over to hang out, you're already making food or you are already making tea," he said. He was raised to "make sure that everything is nice and neat, and they can come in and feel welcome and part of a community."

Growing up, Johnson ate classic Ugandan cuisine, including matoke (a plantain dish cooked with onions, peppers and cayenne), making lunch at SPA a new adventure when he started in kindergarten. "I was like 'I don't know how I feel about this,'" Johnson said. "Eventually, I learned that I could still get nutrients in different ways. I learned that I don't have to just get it from rice and beans or whatever I'm eating [at home]."

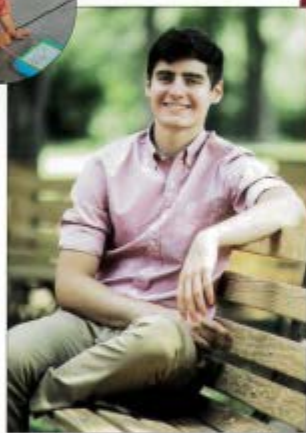
Another difference between Johnson's home and school life is the way he talks. Since English is not his parents' first language, he finds himself using shorter, more direct yet relaxed language with them, while he takes a heightened approach to his lexicon at school, feeling the need to use larger words. Johnson commented on the cultural differences between his home and school life: "I don't know how sometimes I should act [at school]." This code-switching is something that separates home and school life; he shared that he has "slipped up" and used phrases at school that his classmates didn't understand. Though he still finds himself code-switching when he talks, the experience has led him to form an idiolect in which he feels at home.

While Johnson continues to become a man defined by his heritage, upbringing and experiences, he still feels separated from both the African-American and African communities. One community that he found himself easily accepted into, however, was that of other first-generation Americans of his similar age. "Literally all we had to do is just talk about our experiences," Johnson said, "and we were able to make that connection." The shared experience of having parents who were born in another country brought Johnson together with a group of other first-generation kids and helped him understand his identity.

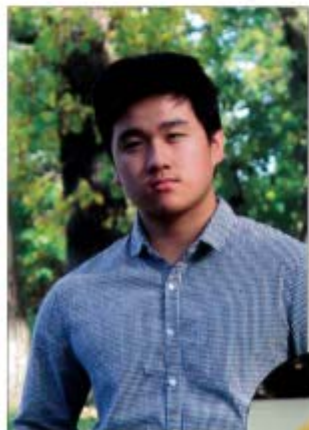
In hopes of helping future generations discover themselves, Johnson offers this advice: "Be you. Don't feel like you have to [create a] persona [just to] fit in because in the end, it'll just ruin you and you'll forget who you are. So you should make sure that you're being authentically yourself, and respect yourself enough to say 'I'm going to do me,' instead of 'I'm going to do what everyone else is doing.'"



ARIE WALKER



LIAM WILL



ERIC ZHENG

