

THE ECLIPSE

WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL | 12400 MELLOW MEADOW DRIVE | AUSTIN, TEXAS | MAY 2014

End of an Era: Another Year Closes

As the school year winds down, seniors reflect on lessons learned and experiences gained during their high school journeys



August



September



October

“High school has been a process of becoming more comfortable with who I am.”
-Haley Rushefsky

“High school didn’t change me much, but it did teach me to try and not skip classes and actually pay attention.”
-Steve Park



November



December



January



February

“Do what you love with great passion and enthusiasm, and the rewards/accolades will come.”
-Naveen Subramanian



March



April



May

photos courtesy of Heritage staff



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TOP LEFT: Junior Sarah Chen and team members create team posters. **ABOVE:** Seniors Morgan Riba, Deepa Rajan, Carolyn Nuelle, Melanie Phillips, and Sadaf Momin express their group's theme. **TOP RIGHT:** IB Student organizations prepare for the Amazing Race. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Senior Jessica Zeng and team members play capture the flag. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior Tiffany Tsai, Jennifer Min, Jasmine Lin, Vicky Chu, and Joyce Tong participate as team Tsaiduck. *photos by lexi jovanovic*



IBSO Runs Amazing Race

“IBSO is my second family. It is a phenomenal group of diverse and unique people who come together in the name of a curriculum, and make amazing friendships and memories along the way.”

Christina Houser,
Senior



Linda Yoo | Editor in Chief

On April 17, IBSO hosted its annual Amazing Race, a competition between small groups within the IB community. After school, teams found clues to different stations and completed tasks in order to move on. The group themes ranged from Pokemon to sports, and each was comprised of six individuals. Students dressed up to best portray their theme and created banners. It was a time for the IB community to bond and relax before the stressful IB and AP testing season. “I love IBSO. Though we

tend to stress about too many things, IBSO allows us to forget a bit of reality and just enjoy the true values of life, friends, and happiness.” said junior David Dam. The Amazing Race was a series of obstacles and activities in a scavenger hunt-like structure. The teams competed in areas all over the school as the IBSO officers managed and planned the event. There was a three-way tie for the winning group of the IBSO Amazing Race. The three teams were Team Sports, Fritch’s Flappers, and Breakfasters Than You Club.

Earlier this year, IBSO hosted the IBSO talent show, volunteer opportunities, and junior-senior partnerships. The club hopes to support students in their studies as well as their overall character. “Everyone is so supportive because we are all going through this intense academic program together,” said junior Natalie Alexander. “One of my favorite things about IB is the people you meet because it seems that everyone is passionate about what they do and really cares about learning and making the world a better.”

SkillsUSA goes to Nationals

Vikas Reddy | Staffwriter

On March 29, members of the SkillsUSA Club qualified for the national competition at Kansas City, Missouri from June 23-27. At the state competition held in Corpus Christi from March 27 to 29, 16 students qualified for nationals by winning their respective events. The events that students qualified in five team events, the Quiz Bowl (teams of 7), Human Service Career Pathways (teams of 3), entrepreneurship (teams of 3) and Web Design (teams of 2) and two individual events, Computer Maintenance Technology and Medical Math. “Last year I competed in entrepreneurship and would’ve got first at state except our team didn’t because of technical issues. Although this year, we didn’t have any and we got first place at state and are now going to nationals in June. I’m relieved that our team did better this year,” said junior Varun Reddy.

SkillsUSA members competed in more than 40 events at the state conference out of a possible 98 events. “It’s been my goal to qualify for the national competition and I’m glad that it happened,” said sophomore Chris Ayoub. This year, the SkillsUSA chapter has qualified its greatest amount of students for nationals. Usually the number of people that qualify are less than 10 but this year the almost double that number. “So many people did so well at state that it’s amazing. Westwood has one of the largest amount of SkillsUSA members in the state,” said freshman Shaili Mehta, “And I’m sure that this number will continue to grow so that when I qualify next year there will be even more people who come to nationals.”

Final Exam Schedule

Friday, May 23	Seniors take exams 1 & 4
Monday, May 26	Holiday
Tuesday, May 27	Regular School Hours 9:05 - 12:05 2nd Block Study 12:12 - 1:55 3rd Block Study 2:05 - 4:10 3rd Block Exam <i>Lunch based on 3rd block</i>
Wednesday, May 28	9:05 - 11:05 6th Block Exam 11:15 - 1:15 7th Block Exam
Thursday, May 29	9:05 - 11:05 5th Block Exam 11:15 - 1:15 8th Block Exam
Friday, May 30	9:05 - 11:05 1st Block Exam 11:15 - 1:15 4th Block Exam
Saturday, May 31	9:00am Graduation at Cedar Park Center

Debate Team Travels to Tournament of Champions

Lexi Jovanovic | Forum Editor

On April 25 to 28, three debaters traveled to the University of Kentucky for the annual Tournament of Champions. Junior Akhil Gandra and seniors Terisha Kolencherry and Linda Yoo participated in the competition. Along with 435 other students, they competed in multiple preliminary rounds of debate on April 26 to 27. The tournament continued with octa-, quarter-, semi-finals, and final round on Sunday, April 28. The Tournament of Champions, which has been held every year since 1972, is one of the most prestigious national debate tournaments in the United States for high school debaters. Its winners are considered among the nation’s best debaters ranging from student from private to public schools. To enter, students must earn at least two “bids” from recognized tournaments, allocated based on the

event’s reputation and the student’s placement. Students with only one bid can qualify to the tournament through an at-large process. These students are notified later in the registration process if they are accepted into the tournament. Other debaters who have qualified for the Tournament of Champions through the at-large process, but were unable to attend were juniors Varun Reddy, Mikaela Manion, Meenakshi Baddela, and senior Varun Jaladi. The Tournament of Champions in April only features Lincoln-Douglas, congressional, public forum, and policy debate competitions. However, there is a separate Tournament of Champions, held on May 9 to 11, for extemporaneous speaking. Students Nicholas Curtis, David Dam, and Darren Pomida will compete in this event. Similarly to the debate tournament, the extemporaneous

speakers have qualified with two “bids” at the University of Texas at Austin Tournament in December of last year. During the summer, the Speech and Debate team will travel to the National Speech and Debate Tournament hosted in Overland Park, Kansas on June 15 to 20. In order to compete at the National Forensic League tournament, debaters must qualify at the district NFL competition. The district qualifier was held on April 4 to 5, and the following student have qualified for the national competition: juniors Adviadh Nair, Rushi Patel, Mikaela Manion, Meenakshi Baddela, Nicholas Curtis, Akhil Gandra, and seniors Linda Yoo, and Terisha Kolencherry. The Speech and Debate team will hold its annual Banquet on May 16.

ROTC Cadets Shine At Interflight Competition

Tristan Seifert | Staffwriter

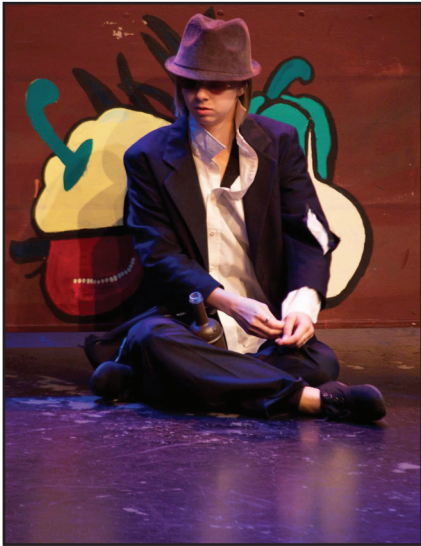
AFJROTC cadets were evaluated by active-duty drill instructors from Lackland Air Force Base at the annual Interflight Competition on April 19, followed by a parade. The Interflight Competition served as a way for cadets to show off not just their marching skills, but also knowledge of the workings of the Air Force. The competition serves as the culmination of the cadets' work throughout the school year, and as a way to bid seniors goodbye. "When the drill instructors came up to inspect me, I was really quite scared at first," said Cadet Master Sergeant Patrick

Canterbury. "The competition was really an exhilarating experience, regardless." Westwood is the only school in the Central Texas area to invite active duty instructors to inspect cadets, as well as the only school who has a competition or parade.

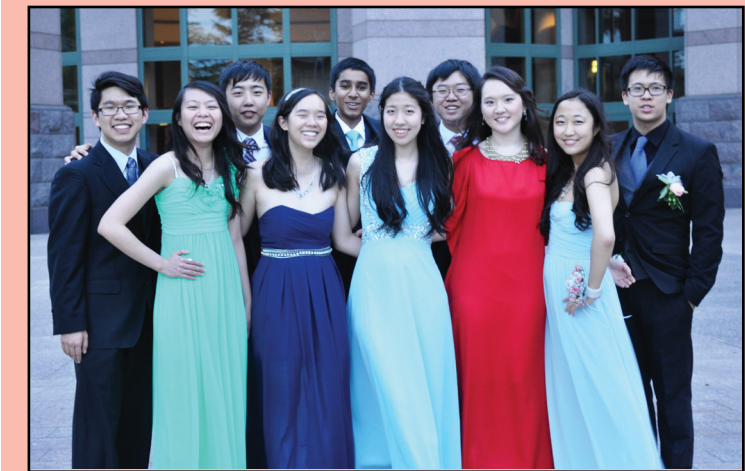


ROTC SUCCESS Far Left: Cadets display their marching skills as part of the inspection process. Left: ROTC will continue practices for the year. Cadets are inspected by active duty drill instructors from Lackland Air Force Base. Above: Senior David Murner gets pied after the competition, as other members of ROTC bid the seniors farewell.

Theatre & Choir Present Musical, *Guys and Dolls*



SONG AND DANCE Far Left: Seniors Ryan Scott and Costa Skevofilax read a paper during *Guys and Dolls*. Left: Sophomore Julia Hillin slumps down onstage. Above: Juniors Hayden McSorley and Andrew Cazares eat fruit during a performance. The musical theatre class performed from May 8-10. *photos by Kevin Kidd*



Casino Night at the Museum

Prom rocks at Bob Bullock Museum

Stephen Chao | Editor in Chief

Prom marks the end to a period of four years that have shaped the lives of our seniors forever. It's a celebration of remembrance and whatever the future holds. The "Casino Night" prom, held on April 26 at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, was a memorable event for seniors and juniors. One of the main attractions was the casino located on the second

floor of Bob Bullock. Students had the opportunity to play games such as Blackjack, Texas Hold'Em, and others. Students voted for prom court nominees through their student emails the week before prom. This year's prom court included Andru Kemp, Justin Lass, Brandon Brown, Ray Lu, and Steven Fuller for prom king and Sarah Biemer, Vinciane Chen, Sydney Hickerson, Hailey Stout, and Alexis Clark for prom queen.

Actual voting for prom king and queen occurred at prom. At the end of the night, Lu and Chen were crowned prom king and queen, respectively. Another student, senior Kuan Sanchez, participated at prom by DJ-ing a set. Sanchez, known by his stage name "DJ Kuantize," initially was not set to perform at "Casino Night," but he was invited to DJ halfway through prom.

Top Left: Seniors pose in front of the Bob Bullock Museum before prom begins. Bottom Left: Junior Sara Mameli photographs juniors Alycia Black and Colin Marks. Before prom, groups of students take photos to preserve their high school memories. *photos courtesy of Joyce Tong and Alycia Black*



Featured Seniors



Adriel Castro
ACC, then Texas State
Counseling

How has high school changed/shaped you as a person?
It's helped me to become more independent and sarcastic.

What's some advice you'd give to underclassmen?
Trying in school actually does help. Take as many early college start classes as possible.

If you could retake a class in high school, what would you take? Why?
Partners in P.E. So many great connections and memories there.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Successful with a consultation firm concentrating on personal empowerment and psychological influence.



Haley Rushefsky
Gap Year
Graphic Design

Why did you chose the college that you're attending?
I chose to take a year off because frankly, I'm tired of school. I need some time for myself, to explore my interests at my own pace.

What was your funniest moment of this year?
Probably during the Scarlet Letter unit of English, when I walked into class and Mr. Chalk was wearing a dress. He's very fashionable.

How has high school changed/shaped you as a person?
High school has been a process of becoming more comfortable with who I am. I've gained the confidence to say "This is me, and if you have a problem, then get out of my way!"

What is some advice you'd give to underclassmen?
Relax, don't stress out so much! It isn't the end of the world if you don't finish that APUSH packet because you fell asleep.



Linda Zhang
MIT
Electrical Engineering and
Computer Sciences

Favorite pickup line?
I hadn't experienced real privilege until I met you. #ActivistPickupLines

What are some of your hobbies?
Curing cancer, taking the SAT, logging CAS hours, building nuclear reactors, Twilight movie marathons

If you could say farewell in five words, what would you say?
Bye bye bye bye bye

What was your funniest moment of this year?
"Capitalism? More like crapitalism, amirite, ladies?" ~ Karl Marx, probably



Steve Park
A&M at Galveston
Aerospace Engineering

How has high school changed/ shaped you as a person?
High school didn't change me much, but it did teach me to try and not skip classes and actually pay attention.

What is some advice you'd give to underclassmen?
If your goal is to go to a prestigious college and you have the ability to do it without losing your social life, then do it, but if you don't, just transfer from different colleges.

Excited to try something new in college? If yes, what?
Surfing, scuba diving, and being free from my parents.

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest) how stressful were college applications, and why?
8.75. Just trying to turn everything in early, having every little detail ready, getting my letters of recommendation, making time for others to take a look at my essays, and searching for scholarships...it was just a pain.



Meg Fernandez
UT Dallas
Computer Science

What is your favorite high school memory?
When I was in a musical, during the week all the kids would eat together at the PAC, and it was a lot of fun.

Anything you hoped you'd accomplish in high school, but never had a chance to?
Taking part in the self defense club. I wanted to do it, but never did.

Your favorite teacher, and why?
Mr. Chalk. he genuinely cares about you and is really cool. Like, if you're having a bad day, he'll ask you if you want to talk about it.

How would others describe you, and why do you think they'd say that?
Tiny, huggable and really nerdy. Really happy, because I'm smiling and laughing all the time.



Jonnie Hontanosas
UT Austin
Undecided

Describe senioritis in 4 words, and only 4.
Lack of any motivation/ lack of any purpose/ disillusionment of public education/ international baccalaureate existential crisis

How would others describe you, and why do you think they'd say that?
Open-minded, carefree, individualistic, sarcastic, and cynical. They would describe me in such a way because that's just how I am.

Your favorite joke?
What do you call a pig that knows karate? Pork chop! Ai-ya!

What myths did you believe as a freshmen, but realized it wasn't true?
I thought that highschool is filled with parties and drugs. Well, I guess this just isn't true for Westwood.



Gaby Vasquez
Texas Tech
Civil Engineering

Why did you choose your major?
I like engineering, and also like to look at structures and see what's wrong with them.

Your favorite teacher, and why?
Señora Llanos and Señora Klein because they are great at teaching Spanish; they keep the class alive and active. They're also really interesting people!

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest) how stressful were college applications, and why?
8. I had to write essays and put my whole life into them. In Apply Texas, it would tell me something was wrong with my essay, and not say what.

If you could retake a class in high school, what would you take; why?
Mrs. Saenz's classes, like Euro or WAS. She knows everything about history and it's really interesting.



Naveen Subramanian
Rice University
Bioengineering

What was your funniest moment of this year?
It had to be when our bus broke down twice on the way to Chicago and stranded us for 8 hours in Waxahachie. I don't want to see a Taco Bueno sign ever again!

Why did you choose your major?
I love biology and math, and bioengineering helps me combine these passions.

Favorite pickup line?
When it comes to looks, you're way above the mean, median, and mode.

What's some advice for freshmen?
Do what you love with great passion and enthusiasm, and the rewards/accolades will come.



Kyle Guerrero
UT Dallas
Film/Cinematography

What is your favourite high school memory?
My favorite high school memory would have to be being on Drill Team in JROTC.

What is some advice you'd give to underclassmen?
I would tell underclassmen to always remember their friends, sometimes your close friends are all you really have to get you through the day. Even though grades and things are important there are times when you just need a shoulder to lean on.

Your favorite teacher, and why?
My favorite teacher would have to be Master Sergeant Janik because all 4 years at Westwood he has supported me and believed in me but he has also always been the first person to give it to me straight when I mess up and he doesn't beat around the bush when I have something I need to improve.

Describe senioritis in 4 words, and only 4.
Senioritis: Unavoidable, herculean, annoying, tiresome.



Kennadee Howard
Prairieview A&M University
Languages and Communications

What are you looking forward to in college?
Meeting new people and the different classes.

On a scale of 1-10 (ten being the highest) how stressful were college applications, any why?
7, because of all the deadlines, essays, and looking at colleges.

How would others describe you and why do you think they'd say that?
A perfectionist because I am constantly trying to make things perfect. Also funny because I have a good sense of humor.

If you could say your farewell in 5 words, what would you say?
Farewell to Westwood High School.

What's been the hardest part of senior year?
Preparing for college.



Noora Raad
St. Edwards University
Undecided

What myths did you believe as a freshman, but then realised weren't true?
Nobody randomly breaks out singing on tables, and lockers have no purpose.

How would others describe you, and why do you think they'd say that?
Loud and friendly (I hope). I've been told I talk a lot, which clarifies why I think I'm loud, and I like meeting new people, so I think that makes me friendly.

What was your funniest moment this year?
The multiple ice days that kept messing with teacher's schedules were pretty amusing to me.

What activities do you hope to continue in college?
Tutoring kids in math and Arabic, maybe mentoring students.

What's been the hardest part of senior year?
Staying motivated.



Kyle McCall
University of Oklahoma
Economics

Why did you choose your major?
I chose my major (economics) because my senior year of high school I took AP Economics and did really well in it. I also realized how applicable it is to everyday life.

What's been the hardest part of senior year?
Maintaining my grades after getting accepted into college. After being accepted, the work I'm doing in high school feels pointless, but my university will see my final transcript so I need to work to keep my grades up.

How has high school changed/shaped you as a person?
High school has made me realise what I really want to do, it helped me discover that I want to study medicine in college, and eventually pursue a career in it as well.

What are your regrets throughout high school?
I wish I had taken more classes that I was interested in. (For me, that would be AP Biology or Psychology.)



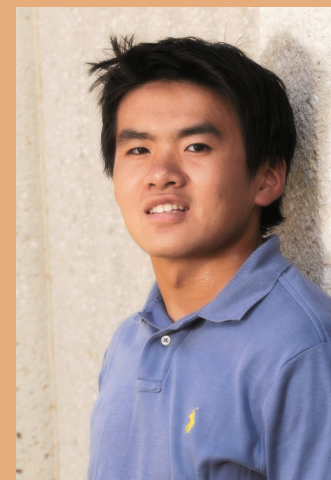
Justin Lai
Stanford
Undecided

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Living in a shed in my parents' backyard with no WiFi.

What is some advice you'd give to underclassmen?
The majority of advice you get from upperclassmen, peers, and parents is wrong. Don't try to be "well-rounded" or take extra classes and sign up for unnecessary courses. People that are unsure of what they're doing love consensus, but what the group does (especially in high school) is very flawed.

Excited to try something new in college? If so, what?
I want to reinvent myself in college by changing the way others say my name. I want to keep the name "Justin" but change the pronunciation so that the 'j' is silent—so that it sounds like "Ustin." It's a more sophisticated and unique name.

How would others describe you?
Messy, juvenile, condescending and rude. Because I frequently get mistaken for my twin.



Ray Lu
Dartmouth College
Undecided

What is your favourite high school memory?
Our first-ever WarriorFest. Our National Honor Society spent months planning the event to get funds to build a well in Uganda for the Thirst Project, and thanks to everyone's hard work, we raised over \$9,000.

What is some advice you'd give to underclassmen?
Validation comes from within yourself. It is impossible to quantify how much of a complete person each and every one of you is, and never believe that you are anything less.

Are you excited to try something new in college? If yes, what?
Anything snow-related—even though I am not a big fan of the cold. Winter Carnival in Hannover will be an awesome experience.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
This is the most difficult question for me. I really don't know; all I can say is I hope I end up where I want to be.



Neha Sukumar
UT Austin
Theater Arts/Dance

Why did you chose your major?
I love acting, dance, music, and fashion, and I've always known I wanted to make a career out of them. I plan on getting a double major or certificate in business marketing as well.

On a scale of 1-10, how stressful were college applications, and why?
10. College is your future, and for a few months, the entire senior class waited for decisions that potentially changed their lives forever.

Your favourite teacher, and why?
My theater and dance teachers Ms. Coats and Ms. Scrudder, because they really showed me my potential and taught me that I can do so many things if I pursue a degree in the arts.

How has high school changed/shaped you as a person?
It's given me confidence and helped me multitask!



Vinciane Chen
CalTech
Electrical Engineering

What was the best advice you got about high school?
"Numbers (grades) don't define you." —Mr. Bray

Who was your favourite teacher, and why?
Mrs. Saenz, the Euro and WAS teacher. She knows more about history than a textbook.

Excited to try something new in college? If so, what?
Ultimate Firsbee and ceramics during my free time.

What was your worst mistake, and the consequence?
None. If I hadn't done everything I've done, I wouldn't be who I am today.

What are you looking forward to in college?
Freedom and finding that one thing I really, really love.

What is your favourite joke?
How do you make an octopus giggle ten giggles? You give it ten tickles.



That's all, folks!

Movie Column Reaches End of Era

Graciela Sills | Features Editor

Everybody is a critic these days. With the renaissance of that newfangled information jungle called the Internet, any old schmuck can post an opinion about a film, and according to the First Amendment, the public must let the aforementioned schmuck voice this opinion. After that, the public may agree with or ridicule the review and the person alike.

Readers rarely fail to criticize a critique to the point of redundancy, particularly where blockbusters are involved. If there's one thing I've taken from three years as the *Horizon's* film critic, though, it's the importance of being true to myself - earnest, if you will. As a junior, my review of *Lincoln* generated some buzz in the journalism room when I gave it a B, provoking reactions such as, "Dude, I would have given it,

like, an A+!" Apart from the fact that my rating scale only goes up to an A, I suppose I just didn't see the same movie my classmates did, because the *Lincoln* I watched was overly long, poorly paced, and often resembled the narrative of a history textbook. That said, I still recognized its merits, and when I discussed the film with others, I found they largely appreciated my nuanced opinion.

Of course, I've been fortunate to express these thoughts in a print medium. Print newspapers may be on the way out (this is the final print edition here at Westwood), but they're not subject to the problems of electronic publications: what to do about offensive comments, whether or not to delete an unexpectedly controversial article, how to remind readers the

publication exists, and so on. Had my review of *Lincoln* been an online story, it would have no doubt provoked at least three *ad hominem* spiels about my lack of taste and sophistication, and I don't know that I would have possessed the self-control to ignore them.

My successors will not have the cushion I did. If they want to express unpopular opinions, they'll have to face a wider and occasionally less sympathetic audience. Luckily, the reviews posted on the blog so far don't seem to be attracting negative attention.

In case any problems do come up in the future, however, I'd like to leave the next generation of *Horizon* film critics with these words: "*Hakuna matata.*" No worries.

Canada's got (middle) class

Vikas Reddy | Staffwriter

It's not a new thing thing for America to lose its grip as the number one country in the world. The U.S. is no longer the leader in technology or even environmental progress. But the U.S. can say that they are leader in middle-class wealth, right? Well, that's not exactly true anymore, either.

Recently, Canada surpassed the U.S. in middle-class income. Canada has been behind the U.S. economically for the past decade, but has now been recognised as the country with the highest earning middle-class individuals. The reason Canada was able to top the U.S. was because of its income growth rate. Canadian citizens saw a 1.4% increase in their income while U.S. citizens only saw a 0.3% increase.

The United States has had a staggering economy the past

couple of years. During this time, the unemployment rate has been high at around 7-8%. Many people were left without a job for a long time until recently. The fact is that the U.S. economy was not in a good spot, making this new position unsurprising. Although the economy did recover, we still felt the after-effects.

With that in mind, our lives will be different from Canadians. Many of the Canadian citizens may have a higher standard of living than we do right now. They have gained a significant amount of wealth compared to us and have a larger middle class now. When compared to us, their middle class citizens have a wealthier lifestyle and greater economic opportunities than we do.

When current high school seniors graduate, some are planning

to attend universities and colleges in Canada for undergraduate majors or even graduate degrees. And when they go they there, they would definitely feel the difference in the standard of living there compared to the U.S. Many of us are used to living in a nation that is considered the most developed country in the world and when whenever we travel to another place, it's harder to adjust to. Yet now that experience would be different. And this would not only affect our seniors, but also students who are moving to Canada or foreign exchange students from Canada who came to study in the U.S. For the first time in history, Canadian students might not have their standard of living met in America and American students would be surprised at the standard of living in Canada.

TSI: a necessary evil

Hannah Canter | Staffwriter

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exam, a five-hour-long comprehensive assessment, might seem like an annoyance, but is important nevertheless, as it determines whether students are prepared to handle college-level classes.

In order to take extra courses at Austin Community College, students must complete their sophomore year of high school and meet college readiness requirements through standardized testing. The TSI is not the only exam option. Students may qualify with ACT, SAT, or PSAT scores.

A five-hour exam is a little much, as it tests reading, writing, and math skills. To take any class, one must pass reading and writing; to take a math class, one must also pass the math section of the test, although, passing math is not

necessary for a reading class.

College classes are more difficult than regular high school classes. The TSI may be somewhat tedious, but failing it illustrates that you aren't ready for college level classes yet, and you need to practice more to be able to take a college course.

The division of the TSI resembles that of the current SAT, with the writing section including an essay component. There is a time limit of five hours, but a student who finishes early is allowed to leave immediately. The best way to prepare for the TSI exam is to study. Studying will not only help you with the test, but it will also teach you skills that you need for a college class.

As much of a pain as this test is, it is a necessity for those who cannot exempt it.

An arm and a leg—and a headache

Lexi Jovanovic | Forum Editor

Why do people go to college? It's not a question Westwood students are trained to ask. Every day, we walk past a giant poster covered with college logos and the ebullient signatures of last year's graduates. Guidance counselors address the question not as "if" but "where." And for the majority of Westwood's population, parental encouragement, expectation, and precedent make the idea of not attending college almost inconceivable. For many, college itself isn't enough—you have to go to a *good* college, however you define that.

There are definite advantages to a college education. According to the College Board, recipients of bachelor's degrees earn two-

thirds more on average than those who finish their education with high school. College has long been considered the "gateway to the middle class," a prerequisite for social advancement, necessary both to reach the higher socioeconomic strata and to stay there.

But tuition fees are increasing at a rate far outstripping inflation, and student loan debts are more massive than ever. The average yearly tuition at a private non-profit university was \$17,806 in the 1993-94 school year but rose to \$30,094 twenty years later in 2013-2014. That doesn't take into account housing, fees, and additional expenses, which together made the average cost of college \$22,826 at an in-state

public university and \$44,750 at a private college.

It's difficult for students and their families to meet mounting expenses without loans. There is some help in the form of need-based financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but not all colleges guarantee to meet all need. Even if they do, the FAFSA-calculated expected family contribution tends to be less "what you can afford to pay," and more "what you *could* afford to pay if you sold your house, your car, and one of your younger siblings." Merit aid is scarce at many institutions, especially with budget cuts due to the recent recession. And with student debt rising to a level

where the federal government is growing concerned, loans are looking increasingly less like a solution.

The benefits of college are undeniable, but so are the constantly-increasing costs. With that in mind, it might be advisable to find low-cost ways of getting an education. Going to an in-state school instead of a more-prestigious out-of-state school might not seem ideal now, but you'll make up for it with a reduced debt load later. And don't forget about Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and community college courses. Going to a school that accepts these credits can shave off a year of college- and a year of college tuition.

Top 10 Most Expensive U.S. Colleges (2013-2014)

1. Sarah Lawrence College \$63,200
2. Harvey Mudd College \$61,660
3. New York University \$61,467
4. Columbia University \$61,116
5. Dartmouth College \$60,198
6. Wesleyan University \$60,184
7. University of Chicago \$60,040
8. Claremont McKenna \$60,010
9. Bard College \$59,872
10. Trinity College \$59,860

Source: money.cnn.com

Athletes Take Talents to College

Brendan Moore

University of Maryland
Major: Business
Sport: Football


Why do you like your sport?
I get to do things that are illegal, like hitting people really hard. It is also a good stress reliever.

What do you think is important in a team?
Good culture, you have to work hard together.

What was your favoite game?
Against Pflugerville I played both ways and we won.

You are stranded on an island, what are three things you would bring?
Scarlett Johansson, a small house, and a crock pot cause you can cook everything with it.

Worst fear:
Brain aneurysm.



Audrey Scott

Seattle University
Major: Biology
Sport: Tennis


Who is your role model?
Maria Sharapova.

Why do you enjoy tennis?
I like staying active and playing tennis lets you do that.

Do you have a lucky charm?
I always use the same tennis racket.

What are some things you'd like to improve in college?
Organization skills for education and staying positive on the court.

Advice for those who want to play sports next year?
Make sure you respect your team and have fun.



Cameron Blockhus

University of Houston
Major: Construction Management
Sport: Golf


What will you miss most about your sport?
I will miss my team and my friends.

How are you preparing yourself for college sports?
Over summer I am working at a golf course so I can use it during my free time.

Who is your role model?
My dad, since he raised me and my sister by himself.

Why do you enjoy golf?
It is an individual sport but also a team sport. Golf is tense and difficult and I gained many friends at the same time as getting fit.

Dogs or cats?
Dogs.



Shelby Hill

Hendrix University
Major: Business
Sport: Lacrosse


What would you like to improve on in college?
My leadership and networking skills.

What makes a great team?
Drive and loyalty. You need to have the will to practice and play hard.

What will you miss most about high school sports?
My friends, especially since I am going out of state.

Worst fear:
Drowning in the ocean.

Say goodbye to high school in five words:
I had a great time!



Sydney Tan

University of Pennsylvania
Major: Business
Sport: Swimming

How long have you been swimming?
10 years.


Why do you love swimming?
I enjoy the competition and swimming with my friends.

Who is your role model?
Rebecca Soni. She's an Olympian in the breaststroke. Also, I am impressed by her work ethic.

Worst fear:
“The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself.”

Deserted island:
Airplane, cell phone, water purifier.

How are preparing for the college swim team?
I swim every day and exerceise to stay in shape.



Andru Kemp

College undecided
Major: Sports Management
Sport: Baseball

Why do you enjoy your sport?
I grew up with it, it's been in my life since I was little.


What would you like to improve on in college?
Staying connected with my family since I will be moving away for college.

What will you most miss about high school?
The teachers and the relationships with them.

What do you thing is really important in a team?
Communication first. Also bonding and being family.

Advice for underclassmen:
Stay healthy, don't get injured and pass your classes.

Say goodbye to high school in five words:
It's been a long journey.



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LINDA YOO
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Goodbye from the 2014 Horizon Staff



“Although I might never publish an article again in college, I will never forget the memories.”

Letters From the Editors

Linda Yoo

After all the all-nighters and the death of thousands of brain cells from cramming before tests, it's now senior year, the one year we should enjoy, and discover our future as we become "adults" in the real world. Leaving high school is bittersweet. Saying good-bye is a conglomeration of feelings: anxiety, excitement, fear, doubt, and nostalgia.

I remember the first day I arrived on the staff. As I walked into a room filled with upperclassmen, I couldn't help but feel different and naive. However, being the youngest and least experienced, countless seniors took me under their wing, teaching me the perfect phone call to advertisers, how to cheat on a layout, and the shortcuts on InDesign.

Although I might never publish an article again in college, I will never forget the memories that the current and past staff had while trying to meet deadlines and stuffing newspapers with ads on Friday mornings. I truly thank each and every one of you. Whether you were holding my hand through my first page layout or writing an article, we have each made our sacrifices and contributions to creating the newspaper. The newspaper staff is a family; we are admirable, bright, and creative. But most importantly, we're passionate.



Stephen Chao

I still recall stepping into the journalism room my freshman year, terrified and intimidated by everybody in the room. However, even before the end of the first day, as we ran around the building, playing games and making pyramids in front of the school, I began to sense that this group of quirky journalists, who slept under tables during class and yearned for queso on a daily basis, would become a family.

Even as the newspaper staff switched rooms and sponsors, I am so grateful that I got to spend the last four years in the caring embrace of *The Horizon*. All of the stresses and worries of my day would fall away every time I came to class. Newspaper has become a second home for me, and I wouldn't replace my experiences here for anything.

To Ms. C: Where do I begin? I do not even know how to thank you for all of your guidance this year. Even with all of the ups and downs, you have been patient and supportive in everything our staff has done.

To Linda: Thank you so much for stepping up halfway through the year to help lead our seventh block staffers. Even with all of your other obligations, you have shown unwavering devotion to newspaper. I would give you a hug, but I know you don't like them, so here's a verbal high five instead.

To my returning staffers: You have all been a joy to work with this year, and I am glad I have had a chance to spend every day with you crazy kids. Every class with you has been a roller coaster ride of lovable insanity, what with Tristan periodically screaming "Obamacare!" and Shreya throwing shade at everybody in school. Your enthusiasm for newspaper encouraged me every single day and always brought a smile to my face. I know that under Mackenzie's leadership, *The Horizon* will continue to grow and thrive.

And, of course, to my fellow seniors: Thank you for all of your support, both in and outside of newspaper. Go fight win!

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