Townsend Harris High School at Queens College

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Variety Show works its magic for a worthy cause

by Andrea Gav scour

The auditorium was filled with cheering fans and supportive teachers, par- ents and friends at the first annual Free the Children Variety Show on the evening of March 5, 2004. What began with plastering many colorful posters with clever slogans on school walls ended with the grand finale of raising a great sum of money for a worthy cause while putting on a great show at the same time.

Hosted by juniors Kristopher Imperial and Isha Smith, the Variety Show, entitled “Life is a Cabaret,” combined the talent of Townsend Harris stu- dents with a fundraiser to cause money to accomplish the club’s goal of building a school in Sierra Leone. Since Sierra Leone is one of the most unstable countries in West Africa and was recently labeled the poorest and worst place to live in the world by the United Nations Human Development Index, club members chose to donate their funds to this country. By choosing to build a school there, “we are attempt- ing to help break the cycle of poverty and exploitation of children through providing education for both boys and girls,” said junior Nessa French, the founder and director of the THHS chapter of Free the Children.

The Variety Show was a two-hour melange of various acts ranging from instrumental performances, singing, and dancing to comedy and a documentary starring THHS students from all grades, some of whom are part of the club and others who just came to show off their skills and help a good cause. “Most of the acts in the talent show were very unique,” said junior Sara Corbett. “I never knew how funny or talented many of my peers could be.” While the auditorium was packed with many students eager to support their friends, some attendees were doubtful of the event’s potential success. “Person- ally, I was not at all interested in the show that night was going to be dis- sastrous,” stated freshman Linda Li. “But boy, was I wrong! I hope Free the Children will do another Variety Show next year.” Overall, senior Sara Hochrad enjoyed the show, saying, “All the acts were great, but I was particularly fond of the Cartoon Tawk Tank. It was hilarious.”

Everyone who attended the Variety Show agreed that the performance was as much a fundraiser as it was a night of fun and entertainment. “I feel like I helped accomplish something,” said junior Michael Frenkel. “Not only did our school collect money, but we also spread a message that helped eliminate poverty and proved that kids like our- selves really can help improve the sta- tus quo around the world.” The Variety Show had such a good turn out because “everything just kind of fell into place,” said Nessa. “THHS students and staff were determined and they just needed a chance to display their talent.” While Free the Children needed an opportu-

nity to raise money.

In total, $1,800 was raised from ticket sales, the bake sale during the intermission, and pledges to the “Giving Tree,” which allowed guests to place a donation and have their name added to one of the tree’s many leaves. Free the Children has now raised a total of $4,380 from their proceeds from the Variety Show and their booth at the Winter Carnival, leaving them just shy of the $5,000 needed to build the school in Sierra Leone.

While the show turned out great, there was a lot of work put into creating the final product. One major prob- lem that the club faced was time. “There was only about a month to plan it,” said Kris. “Imagine what the club could do with oh, five or more months?” In addition to time constraints, there were other diffi- culties. According to freshman and club member Carolyn Santiago, “The hardest part of putting the Variety Show together was selling tickets. One person said to me, ‘Why should I pay just to go see bad karaoke?’

Despite the numerous obstacles faced by the club, everything worked out in the end. “It was proud of the way the club was able to put together such a profes- sional-looking show in such a short time frame,” said math teacher and club ad- viser Stephen Mazzu, who together with science teacher Rosemarie Eaton, ad- vised the show. The club members were unanimous in saying that the show was a big success. “I thought that the Vari- ety Show went really well, especially with the time restrictions we were given,” said freshman and club member Alexandra Stark. “Everyone really helped out and gave it their all in the end. It really did go well.”

The Variety Show, while a first-time event for THHS, hopes to become an annual fixture and perhaps even attain the same fame, acclaim, and standing as the Festival of Nations and Sing! Ac- cording to Mr. Mazza, “The Variety Show was a success on two levels. First of all, the club was able to raise a great deal of money for a great cause. How- ever, even if no money had been raised, the show was a success because it went well and a lot of people had a good time.”

Festival of Nations travels around the world...in two days

by Jennifer Bhuiyan and Alexis Sierra

Students, faculty members, relatives, and friends flooded the auditorium and fastened their seatbelts as they experi-enced the annual Festival of Nations and circumnavigated the globe in a mere six hours. Organized by Asst- ant Principal of Foreign Language Lisa Maas, the event took place on Wednes- day, March 31, and Thursday, March 31 in order to accommodate the many stops on a tour of global proportions.

The grand, Star Wars-inspired opening by co-hosts Windell Cadelina, jun- ior, as well as Thursday’s free-style rap performance by co-host Shinyay Freeman, senior, gave a unique twist to the annual show. A creative skit by co-hosts Shvraj Bhosle and Prat Malik, seniors, which was presented on both nights via video projector featured the two stu- dents, dressed in traditional Indian garb, garnered many laughs as they simulated an airport right from India to New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport, ultimately arriving at the auditorium in time for the Festival of Nations.

Opening up what was bound to be an interesting and informative Wednes- day night was an original rendition of the African American National Anthem, sung by the chorus and accompanied by their teacher, Florence McKinley, on the piano. Subsequently, the audience was tickled by the humorous skit and medley of the Hebrew songs “Bashanu Haba’” and “Etzri, Eetzri, Eetzri,” by the Hebrew classes, a dramatic interpre- tation of Ruben Blades’ “Lupa Elena” by the Advanced Placement Spanish class, and a musical number by the French class that brought the audience directly to the city of lights and related what “la vie dans un café” is all about. Also, the Hawaiian dance served to soothe the Harrisites and ease them into their near Spring Break, while Edu- cate to Elevate’s performance reminded all attendees of the diverse languages and cultures that can be found in our school.

Wednesday’s show was also a night of Festival of Nations firsts, in- cluding the first-ever presentation of tradi- tional and modern Irish step-dancing. Both evenings’ events captured the spirit of Asia, featuring an assortment of Persian, Uzbekistani, Chinese, Ko- rean, Japanese, Filipino, and Indian cul- tural displays. Junior Melissa Chong, one of the performers in Wednesday’s Chinese Harvest, Dance said, “Particip- ating in the Festival of Nations was a fun experience and, although it was a lot of work, I look forward to doing it again next year.” Several students per- forming traditional and modern Chinese dance, ribbon, and Kung-Fu dancers also continued on p. 7.
"Curiouser and curiouser": Reference policies redefine disciplinary boundaries

A large rose tree stood near the entrance of the garden: the rose growing on it were white, but there were three gardeners who spent their time tending it; and Alice thought this a very curious thing, and she went nearer to watch them... Would you tell me, said Alice a little timidly, why are you planting these roses? Two began in a low voice. This here ought to have been a red rose tree, and we put a white one in by mistake; Carroll’s fantasy world behind the look-

Townsend Harris has been frighteningly similar to the one created in Lewis Carroll’s fantasy world behind the looking glass. The administration has been on a referral rampage, and anyone and everyone is on the chopping block. This school is in the midst of creating five minutes of non-instructional time in the first class of the day. They may argue the insignificance of the five extra minutes that a student would have to wait in the cafeteria, but when those same 300 seconds interfere with class time, they are bound to be perceived as an eternity in the minds of those who are directly impacted by the new regulation.

The scene of that first day during which the new rule took effect has not changed dramatically. The cafeteria is still jam-packed and the students continue to stroll into class at 8:05. One main difference, however, is that the initial confusion has turned to hatred and defiance. Students were originally late because they did not know better, but now their tardiness stems from anger and defiance. In a school that attracts students from virtually every corner of the city, one could think that time would be a larger window of time during which students may arrive. Instead, those who arrive late are punished and forced to wait in crowded conditions. The rules of this school have become so ridiculous that the concept of having no more pernicious would be to follow them.

Students are well aware that much is asked of them in a school of such high standards. We may acquiesce or jokingly complain, but each time the administration moves closer and closer to the brink of full-time anxiety, it may ultimately affect a student’s potential. Many students feel unprepared because they are already carrying so many other books. In addition, many students have forgotten their books by accident cannot retrieve them without running the risk of receiving a referral. This often hampers a student’s educational needs.

The locker policy is supposed to ensure that students don’t linger in hallways by chatting with friends or showing public displays of affection with their loved ones. They should be in class. This regulation, however, is open, ready to learn, not outside socializing.

...Nix. Nonetheless, student opinion manages to get lost in the shuffle. If lockers could be accessed during passing time, it may also decrease the hallway chicanery because students will be occupied with their books rather than talking.

"I have to climb four flights of stairs. When I visit my friends in the hallway, we sometimes talk, but my arms are hurting the whole time," remarked Vivian Shibata, sophomore.

"It would feel so great if I could just put all my books down and stretch first."

It is a reasonable argument that longer classes generate better-educated students, but “donating” one minute to each class will likely be punished as a demerit for tardiness school-wide, they should look to

The ADA is an open forum for the expression of students’ thoughts, feelings, and grievances, and students should not be required to represent them. The event of a faculty or student body as a whole.

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor. Letters should be placed in Mr. Wamsteker’s mailbox in Room 115-1 or at the Classic Class Room 115-1. Letters in excess of 500 words will be edited for length. Letters must contain name and official class. Names will be published unless otherwise noted.
by Jessica Berger

Poor attendance could not slow down the fashion show’s models and dancers as they moved to the quick beat of the stage music on February 27. Participants demonstrated for the third consecutive year that fashion and dance are here to stay at Townsend Harris in addition to an abounding desire to give back to the community. Despite conflicting schedules due to SING! Mid-Winter Reces, and other school activities that hindered the organizational process, Co-ordinators Nina Moster and Grace Lu, seniors, raised approximately $500 for the Rachel Cooper Foundation, a charity for children with heart disease. The event began, as Nina whimsically said, “sublimely late,” at 7:30. Very pleased with the final production, Nina said, “I was really nervous, but very happy. It really pulled together.” Grace added, “The audience was great. They had a lot of energy, which definitely gave my models a little more confidence. I am so glad that we were able to raise a good amount for the charity.”

The show, which featured clothing donated from The Tux Shop, Bang Bang, Oz, and Estelle’s Dressy Dresses, as well as original designs by Grace Lu and senior Carla Gusther, lasted for approximately an hour and a half. “I wish the show could have been longer, but obtaining extra merchandise would have been too difficult,” said Nina. Though only approximately 50 students and parents were in attendance, senior Jonathan Kahan, an audience member, said, “If the show took place in Manhattan, one would think it was put on by professionals. It was that good. More people should have come, though, because it was a great show and it was for charity.” Senior Kristin Angelopoulos, comparing this year’s show to previous fashion events, commented, “Though attendance was somewhat lower this year, the models and dancers turned out much better.”

The production of a show of this magnitude presented several obstacles. Mr. Nina and Grace, who assumed responsibility for running the show after the departure of organizer and 2003 graduate Sara Koeing. Grace noted, “Finding stores to lend us their clothing was definitely difficult, but I have to thank all of the stores that helped out.”

The creativity of Townsend Harris students is always in abundant supply and the show offered audience members the chance to view their peers’ original designs. Grace, who submitted seven designs, said, “It was just so cooperative while the kinks of the show were being worked out.” Also deserving of thanks are Coordinator of Student Activities Adam Stonehill, Assistant Principal of Foreign Languages Lina Mars, and the stage crew and tech squad.

This year’s ceremony was slightly different from those of previous years in that teachers were given a more prominent role; they were seated on stage and they named the students being inducted. “I wanted teachers to be more involved. ...[They are] integral to the mathematics program and they deserve more honor than was given before,” said Ellen Fee, AP of the Mathematics Department.

The ceremony was also more casual in comparison to many other similar events. According to Ms. Fee, “Mu Alpha Theta is historically less formal than other induction ceremonies.” Since part of the honor society’s mission statement is “promoting the enjoyment of math,” the ceremony tried to show that math can be fun and entertaining. To achieve that message, the night’s program included events such as the raffling of gifts like elevator passes, Math Team t-shirts, and calculator keyboards. Musical presentations included “Fantastic #2” by Georg Philipp Telemann, performed on the flute by senior Nina Moster; and video segments of alliterative tunes like “The Square of the Hypotenuse,” written by Tom Lehrer, “one of Mr. Brown’s favorite silly singers,” according to Ms. Fee.

“I thought it was a nice ceremony,” said Ms. Fee, noting however, her disappointment with the “ turnout on a weeknight.” A number of students did not attend the ceremony for various reasons. “I had a mock trial competition that day,” said one anonymous senior, “The competition got canceled so we had a meeting instead.” “In the future, we’d like to adjust the time so more students feel comfortable attending,” stated Ms. Fee, suggesting that a Friday afternoon ceremony might attract more students and better acknowledge their achievements and maximize the honor bestowed upon them.”

Model Behavior: Fashion-savvy Harrisites hit the runway for charity

by Tina Wu

Math was the theme of the evening on February 24, as 158 Harris students were acknowledged for their achievements in mathematics in the annual Mu Alpha Theta induction ceremony. Each of the invited students (171 in all) displayed distinction in math by completing Math B or Course III, having at least a 93 average in math, and a 90 average overall.

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Mu Alpha Theta celebrates precisely calculated achievements in math

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What’s old is new! Students and alumni make connections

By Alexandra Stirgios
In an ambiance of coziness and familiar camaraderie, this year’s alumni gathered on March 20 in the cafeteria to share experiences and knowledge, bridging the gap between the “old” and the “new.” This formal gathering organized by the Townsend Harris Alumni Association (THAA) and the school’s Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The highlight of the welcoming remarks was the PTA’s presentation of a plaque thanking the Alumni Association for funding the Hebrew language program in the school. The plaque now hangs in front of the Foreign Language Department. The string ensemble also got into the mix, performing a medley including “The Impossible Dream” from Man of LaMancha and "Spring Brossee," a Taiwanese folk song.

Praise for the event stemmed from all corners of the cafeteria. Dean Wanda Nix stressed that it is important to “...keep this connection between the old and the new,” while Principal Thomas Cunningham said, "This is the first event like this. I hope there are many more."

David Herzschwartz, President of the THAA and graduate of the class of 1990, said, “What current students don’t realize is that there are almost five thousand alumni who are willing to be their friends simply because they go to Townsend Harris. The feeling was that there was a resource not being tapped to the fullest.”

Lani Muller, class of ’89, who coordinated the event, said, “The PTA was concerned that students were overburdened by their workloads, an issue that gave birth to the dinner event.

Academic achievement in science recognized by Science Honor Society

by Samara Ammons
Academicians, sans test tubes and microscopes, gathered on the evening of March 10 to celebrate the induction of high-achieving Harrisites into the 69th Chapter of the New York State Science Honor Society.

Membership was awarded to selected juniors and seniors with a minimum GPA of 90 and cumulative averages of 90 in math and science. Inductees must also have participated in science or technology-related activities and have received two recommendations from Science Department faculty.

The evening was kicked off with greetings from Susan Brustein, Assistant Principal of the Science Department and advisor to the Townsend chapter of the NYSSHSS. Ms. Brustein proudly welcomed the first and second year inductees, as well as the school’s record of academic excellence in the fields of humanities and science. Subsequently, Principal Thomas Cunningham congratulated the new inductees and advised them to “use [their] imaginations wisely.”

After a musical performance of “Primo Amor” by flutist Nina Mores, senior, Ms. Brustein and science teacher Rosemarie Eaton, Adel Kadamar, Katherine Ludvik, Irwin Steingorm, and John Tsai announced the inductees and presented the awards.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Brustein recognized the passing of a “phenomenal year” and voiced anticipation for “many more successes,” giving way to a reception for the students and their parents in the lobby.

Pride abounded as teachers and students alike celebrated the event with enthusiasm. Mr. Steingorm said, “I think it’s very nice for the students to be so honored. I’m really glad that their hard work is being rewarded.” Senior Jennifer Arcila added, “I feel proud to be a part of the science community in our school.”

Harrisites honored in annual Archon ceremony

by Tiffany Cheng and Annette Chou
Volunteers and serving the community have always been the exemplifying qualities of an Archon member.

The ceremony started promptly as members of the Executive Board ushered in the new inductees. “I was a little intimidated at first before the ceremony,” said first-year member Penny Chak, sophomore, “but I felt more and more comfortable as the night progressed.”

Outgoing Archon President Amanda Chen, senior, said, “For the past two years, Archon has been shifting towards a direct hands-on approach - one that has more of an immediate effect on our community. We feel that helping others encompasses more than just monetary contributions.” Tiffany Cheng, the incoming Junior President, expressed her hope for the future, saying, “I am thrilled to be the new Junior President of Archon. For the next two years, I hope to increase the membership of Archon and uphold the traditions that I have promised to keep.”

As the ceremony drew to an end, the Ephesian Oath was recited by the Archon members as a reminder of its influence on the Archon ideal of service for the betterment of society.

Adam Stonehill, Coordinator of Student Activites and Archon Director, was pleased with the achievements of this year’s Archon members. “We raised money for the Penny Harvest this year, and recently added a hospital visit,” said Mr. Stonehill. He added, “The ceremony went smoothly,” but in the future, he hopes to allow four guests per student instead of two.

Mr. Stonehill also hopes that more students will take an interest in Archon, which meets every other Monday in traditional fashion. The Oath ceremony will be postponed.

A grim awakening: the surprising lessons of March 11, 2004

by Nataliya Binhuyen
Like most of us, we got up to find a day of nuclear threats and terrorist cells, bombs often seem to speak louder than words. In fact, their voices have become increasingly more pronounced as one latent forms of terrorist activity explode into mainstream life, leaving behind carnage and chaos. In the wake of the September 11 tragedy, the ongoing war in Iraq, and daily reminders of the need for heightened security, Americans have become eerily accustomed to a social and political climate of fear. We no longer twinge at the sight of armed guards patrolling airports and subway stations, concerned by emerging threats of new attacks. Illuminating what is perhaps the most telling indication of our alarming comfort level with terrorism worldwide, few Americans grasped the magnitude of Europe's brush with fury on March 11, 2004. The bombings that killed 188 people and injured several hundred sent shockwaves that rattled the world. Everyone major network in New York City carried images and reports of the events unfolding at Ground Zero, extending their commitment into the months that followed the attack with 24-hour coverage that offered a justifiably thorough recapitulation of past and present events. The media's tireless dedication to covering tragedy from every conceivable angle did not reappear, however, when news of Madrid's own terrorist catastrophe came into focus.

With the exception of news giants such as CNN and MSNBC, most stations confined their coverage of what is arguably one of recent history's most heinous attacks to a brief synopsis that warranted a mere glimmer of its aftershocks and little in-depth insight into its catalytic impact. In keeping with this trend of tacit numbness, no moment of silence was observed in Harris' halls nor were there any school-wide announcements alluding to the mass destruction and loss of life that Spain had endured; in fact, student awareness seemed to be at a chilling standstill.

As Harris students, we are routinely tunneled into our own personal priorities, the tireless pursuit of academic success, hurrriedly studying on buses and trains with the ease of seasoned multitasking professionals. It is perhaps with this all-absorbing lifestyle in mind that we often fail to look beyond the confines of our own lives, escaping the self-evident truth that students much like ourselves were probably hunched over their own notebooks halfway around the world when tragedy struck. It is not altogether improbable that the mundane routines and traditions of our lives are echoed in the experiences of those from whom we are presumably so far removed; a commonality of values tends to resonate throughout the world, irrespective of geography and political alliances. Perhaps in recalling that there were students much like ourselves who never reached their classrooms we can offer more than a mere glimmer of recognition to the less fortunate voices that fell flat in places we rarely consider; after all, we all bleed the same color.
New faces grace new places, part II

by Michelle Boutis

It is a fallacy that there can never be an equal balance between athletics and academics, and Timothy Cunningham, as both a teacher of M$2 and Advanced Algebra and the Girls’ Varsity Track Coach, is just one example of how sports and academics can coalesce.

During Mr. Cunningham’s freshman year at SUNY Oswego, he realized that his passion was teaching, which led him to the Robert F. Wagner Jr. secondary school for arts and technology, where he taught Year Three mathematics. At the start of his coaching career at Harris, Mr. Cunningham was still teaching at Robert F. Wagner, but he officially joined the Harris Math Department in February.

“I enjoy teaching mathematics and coaching track equally,” said Mr. Cunningham, “and I believe that Townsend Harris students generally have the same drive and determination in athletics as they do in academics.” He encourages both his students and his runners to strive for their personal best and never accept mediocrity performance. Proof of this mantra can be seen in the recent successes of the Cross-Country, Indoor, and Outdoor track squads, which compete in the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons, respectively.

At home, Mr. Cunningham lives with his wife Elizabeth and his baby daughter Alexis. He relieves the stress of balancing two jobs by running. “However,” he said jokingly, “the new baby takes up the rest of my leisure time!"

Mr. Cunningham plans to stay at Townsend Harris for the remainder of his career, which he estimates to be another 15 to 25 years. His advice to Townsend Harris students who wish to become good teachers is “Learn the topic that you want to teach as well as you can. Know, appreciate, and understand people and their differences.”

by Don Cerrito

With seven years of teaching experience under his belt, Spanish teacher Don Cerrito said “Hola!” to Townsend Harris at the start of the Spring semester. Mr. Cerrito has already begun to appreciate “the atmosphere of the school and the way the students are self-motivated” while teaching Spanish 4 and 6, and Spanish Literature.

Since childhood, Mr. Cerrito has wanted to become a teacher, saying, “Most of my family members are teachers - my dad, my wife, and my aunts and uncles.” However, he did not choose to enter the field solely because of his family background. Instead, he relied on the pleasure that his father derived from teaching to help him make his decision. In addition to dedicating himself to studying and teaching the Spanish language, Mr. Cerrito also devotes his time to many other activities. He is a practicing martial artist in Jiu-Jitsu, and laido and an avid guitar player.

Mr. Cerrito predicts that a decade from now, he will still be teaching. His ultimate goal is to “help people become open-minded,” an objective that he feels cause a teacher or an expert has one passion was teaching, which led him to Townsend Harris. Mr. Cerrito discovered the atmosphere of to have received this job. Mr. Cerrito said: “I know, appreciate, and love sports; it is a popular class among students,” he added.

A graduate of CUNY Hunter College in Manhattan, Mr. Adamkiewicz cited the opportunity to work with kids as the driving force behind his decision to become a teacher. “It [teaching] is very rewarding, but also challenging at the same time,” he said of his experience thus far. Claiming that “Sports was [his] life,” Mr. Adamkiewicz felt that teaching physical education was a natural fit. As coach of the Boys’ Varsity Soccer Team, and Girls’ Varsity Softball Team, dean, physical education teacher, and volunteer teen division soccer coach, Mr. Adamkiewicz was an extremely active member both in and out of Erasmus Hall High School. As the current Boys’ Varsity Baseball coach, he also plans on becoming involved in the Townsend Harris community through the revival of the Boys Varsity Soccer team in the Spring athletic season.

Smiles abound in photos, audience at unveiling ceremony

by Sangsso Kim

Commemorating the accomplishments of renowned alumni, a Wall of Fame dedication was delivered in the lobby on Wednesday, February 25. The wall was presented by the ceremony’s key speakers as a reminder of the achievements of the past, the progress of the present and the potential for the future of former and current Harrisites.

Principal Thomas Cunningham delivered the welcome speech to the approximately 50 alumni, parents, teachers, and students who attended. Chairman of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association Gerald Halpern, President of the Alumni Association David Herzenehrn, and Principal Emeritus Dr. Malcolm G. Largmann also spoke in keeping with the theme of past, present, and future.

“I thought it was a wonderful combination of old and new,” said Mr. Cunningham of the ceremony. Indeed, various age groups were present at the event. It served as an inspiration to the young graduates and students present, a chance to reminisce about the past and exchange stories with old friends.

“If I’m very excited to see the culmi-nation of the dream that came true for

by Priti Shah

Hoping to share her love for her subject with her students, new English teacher Nieves Moy joined the Townsend Harris Humanities Department mid-way through the fall 2003 semester due to the departure of Herbert Mushmone and the lack of coverage for Ilsa Cowen, who is on study leave in Boston. Ms. Moy, who taught English 1 and The Writing Process during the Fall semester, currently teaches English 2 and Linguistics, and feels “fortunate” to have received this job.

Ms. Moy, formerly a freshman English teacher at Long Island’s Amityville High School, emphasized her love for teaching at Harris because of her students’ “thirst for knowledge.” Ms. Moy is also very impressed not just by the “high caliber” of the student body but also that of her colleagues in the Humanities Department. She tries to incorporate vocabulary and her love for literature into her lessons, and some of Ms. Moy’s favorite writers are Mark Twain, William Shakespeare, and Charles Dickens.

Ms. Moy, who lives with her husband and three children, has an extensive repertoire of extra-curricular activities ranging from swimming to camping and gardening.

Ms. Moy hopes that the greatest lesson she can impart to her students is to “always think for themselves. Just because a teacher or an expert has one opinion, it does not mean it is the only opinion or the correct one.”

Dr. Malcolm Rosman, [for whom the wall was dedicated]” said Marvin Lutsky, former liaison between Townsend Harris and Queens College, and graduate of 1944.

The wall itself, constructed by art teacher Anthony Morales, distinguished 48 greats who made significant contributions to the re-founding of Townsend Harris and to society. Jones Salk, who discovered the Polio vaccine, is among the honorees. During one of the speeches, it was mentioned that Townsend Harris probably has more Nobel Prize winners among its graduates than any other high school, college, or even university. Many graduates have impacted New York, the whole of the United States and even the world.

The presentation lasted from 7 pm to 8:30 pm and featured music from the string ensemble led by teacher Paula Zarmon.

by Priti Shah

Nieves Moy

Raymond Adamkiewicz

by Diana Bell

For new physical education teacher Raymond Adamkiewicz, change is good. Transferring in from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn, he describes Townsend Harris as “a drastic change...the other side of the spectrum.” Although he refused to comment on the reasons behind his transfer, he did say the staff has been very supportive during the (sometimes difficult) adjustment period. “They (the faculty) are welcoming, warm, and will help you wish any difficulties or questions you might have.”

He finds the students “exciting and inquisitive” and all around eager to learn. “Kids love sports; it is a popular class among students,” he added.

A graduate of CUNY Hunter College in Manhattan, Mr. Adamkiewicz cited the opportunity to work with kids as the driving force behind his decision to become a teacher. “It [teaching] is very rewarding, but also challenging at the same time,” he said of his experience thus far. Claiming that “Sports was [his] life,” Mr. Adamkiewicz felt that teaching physical education was a natural fit. As coach of the Boys’ Varsity Soccer Team, and Girls’ Varsity Softball Team, dean, physical education teacher, and volunteer teen division soccer coach, Mr. Adamkiewicz was an extremely active member both in and out of Erasmus Hall High School. As the current Boys’ Varsity Baseball coach, he also plans on becoming involved in the Townsend Harris community through the revival of the Boys Varsity Soccer team in the Spring athletic season.
Beloved QC liaison, Harris alum finally graduates

by Tina Wu

After 10 unforgettable years of service, College Preparatory Program Director and liaison between Queens College and Townsend Harris, Dr. Marvin Leiner bids goodbye to his students and peers as he departs from his extensive work in the liberal arts and public school system. He announced his retirement with one eye toward the future and the other looking back on his remarkable career.

An alumnus of the class of 1940 of the first Townsend Harris High, Dr. Leiner brought "a love and a passion for Townsend Harris and its history" to his position in the College Preparatory Programs, which he characterized as, "the culmination of my life's work in education."

One of the many innovative programs initiated by Dr. Leiner is the now annual, school-wide Election Simulation Project. "To work with children in dealing with the apathy of young people and the lack of knowledge about the electoral system...we came up with an exciting program that now has rippled to other schools," said Dr. Leiner. Today about 20,000 students nationwide, including Townsend Harris students, are exposed to the political process through creative simulation projects.

Dr. Marvin Leiner, College Preparatory Program Director is all smiles in Harris' halls.

Harris seniors. Throughout the year, the program invites different Queens College professors to speak about the literary works read concurrently in the Humanities Seminar. This program promotes interaction between teachers and students. Another project brought to life by Dr. Leiner is the Dialogue of the Imagination, created in collaboration with Townsend Harris, Richard Lewis, director of the Touchstone Center, and teacher and artist Elizabeth Crawford. The program unites teachers, administrators, and students in a series of seminars and workshops to explore imagination and its importance in our lives and in academic disciplines," as said Dr. Leiner. He added, "What we're doing here in this Queens College - Townsend Harris collaboration is a tremendous education...we come up with ways of opening new doors for high school students."

Currently active around Townsend Harris and Queens College, he is part of a "Think Tank," along with two other Emeritus Professors and Mr. Lewis. They will focus on improving public education through a coalition between university faculty and parents by de-emphasizing the current preoccupation with standardized testing. The team wants to shift attention to teaching and learning while fostering the arts and the imagination.

In his professional history, Dr. Leiner has been presented with numerous honors and grant awards, including two Social Science Research Council Grants, the "Queens College Presidential Citation for Superior Teaching, Service to the College, and Scholarship," and the "16th Annual Distinguished THHS Alumni Award" at this year's Founder's Day for his dedication and contribution to the Townsend Harris community.

Upon retiring, Dr. Leiner is interested in returning to photography. Magazines such as The Saturday Review have published his photographs. He also enjoys film, theater, languages, politics, as well as literature. Dr. Leiner anticipates traveling abroad and spending more time with his two grandchildren, Matthew and Lucas.

Newspaper exec fills principal's shoes for a day

by Jessica Berger

Sharing her knowledge with members of the journalism class, Queens Courier executive Victoria Schneps filled the shoes of Principal Thomas Cunningham as Principal for a Day on March 31. During the morning meeting in the Principal's Conference Room, Ms. Schneps spoke of her career experiences and the importance of community service.

Due to her current position at the Queens Courier, Ms. Schneps was a helpful resource for Harris' budding journalists. Sophomore Diana Bell said, "[Ms. Schneps'] success in such a variety of professions is inspirational to those of us who do not yet have a career in mind."

Student Loan Council congratulates science teachers John Tsal on the birth of his son Samuel and Shi Bing Shen on the birth of her daughter Cate!

Visiting artist shows Art Club members how to color their world

by Christine Choe

The brushes worked furiously and the pain flowed freely as members of the Art Club received their own private watercolor lesson in the school's art studio after school on March 3, courtesy of Mary Jo Anzel, professional artist and wife of Townsend Harris chemistry teacher Michael Anzel.

Ms. Anzel, whose medium of choice is watercolor, offered her time to give advice as to how to create successful works of art. During her presentation, the art room was transformed into a gallery full of paintings of flowers, figures, and scenic landscapes. Not only were the students able to view the artwork of a professional, but they were also shown how to create their own masterpieces and improve their techniques. Sophomore Erin Bloom, one of Ms. Anzel's pupils for the day, said, "The things that she taught us were very interesting. I learned a lot about using watercolors and making my paintings better."

The event proved to be successful with more than 40 students attending the lesson and painting demonstration. "It (the event) was great," said a freshman attendee. "I learned about different techniques that I had never thought of before!" Art Club President Carla Gunther, senior, said, "It was a great presentation. Ms. Anzel's work was very impressive and made me want to work more with watercolors."

In addition to teaching the students about watercolor painting and techniques, Ms. Anzel hoped to help the artists to find their own sense of style. She said, "It's important to find what you're comfortable with and really let that show in your work."
Multicultural celebration makes for a weak week

by Sangoo Kim

Carefully planned to boost student pride in their nationalities and cultures, Multicultural Week highlighted the diversity that characterizes the school community. Harrisites are encouraged to sport flags and traditional garb to celebrate heritage. The week-long event commenced on March 29 and culminated on April 2.

Including region-themed days such as North American/African day, South American/Caribbean day, European day and Asian day, Multicultural Week failed to meet expectations for participation, as only a few flags were present in the lobby, lockers, and on students themselves. Offering a reason for the lack of participation, senior Mollie Laffite-Rose said, “Students have too much homework to prepare special outfits and cultural activities.”

Those who participated with genuine enthusiasm were applauded for showing pride in their nationality and an eagerness to embrace different cultures. The fascinating clothing and vibrant colors caught the attention of many in the hallways. Junior Vice President Grace Lee commended students, saying, “The colors of multicultural week were beautiful. Not only were the performances of Festival of Nations unforgettable, but the unique days of the week made me appreciate the students’ willingness to show their culture. However,” she added, “I definitely think there should be more participation.”

Junior Brian Na agreed, stating, “The kids who participated did it really well, but overall I didn’t feel the school spirit... the school’s diversity was not fully shown at all.”

Though this year’s participation in multicultural week was low, events such as the Festival of Nations, karaoke, and Food Day were major successes. Students felt that Food Day offered a close connection to the plethora of cultures that are present among the student population. During lunch bands, there were a variety of items at a relatively low price, ranging from Asian fried rice to Italian penne pasta served with marinara sauce. Though competition was stiff between the multiple stands, a large variety of foods was offered to supplement cafeteria lunches.

The success of the annual Festival of Nations, which impressed a large crowd, wrapped up an otherwise low-spirited Multicultural Week. Many enjoyed Festival of Nations and felt that they got their money’s worth. “Festival of Nations is one of the most important events of the year because it shows the rich cultural traditions of our student body,” remarked senior David Bass.
Motivational tactics frighten, boost performance

by Christopher Amanna

The doors are locked. The lights are off and the shades are drawn. You look up and find a pair of piercing eyes staring directly at you. Your ears pick up as her lips begin to move. Suddenly, with a glass-shattering shriek, she cries, "Get to work!" while slapping a yardstick on your desk. Who is this mysterious woman and where are you? She is history teacher Charlene Levi, of course, and you are in Global History 3. Unbeknownst to her students, she is leading a motivation exercise designed to recreate the conditions under which workers slaved during the Industrial Revolution.

She starts the class by innocently drawing a chair on the board. As students begin questioning her motives, she coldly ignores them, refusing to answer. Ms. Levi then hands out seven sheets of paper, one for each student in the first row. Still clutching the yardstick, she sternly orders, "I want you to tear the paper into enough pieces for each person in the row. Don't just sit there looking at me, start!"

"Ms. Levi, there's an odd number of people in my row," a student protests. Once more the teacher is deaf to the voicing of her students' concerns. "Raymond, Chris, and Alex, close the shades all the way," she brusquely requests. She slowly starts to make her way toward the door, slamming it shut and producing a sound loud enough to make some of the students jump out of their skin.

"Now I want you to draw thirty of the chairs I sit on the board. See if you can do it in two minutes. They must be three inches by three inches. Get to work!" she demanded. "Ms. Levi, my paper is only two and a half inches wide," one student groans aloud. "James, c'mon pass the papers back!" another yells. "What? You haven't finished tearing the papers yet?" Ms. Levi shouts, causing a threatening glare at a student. Slamming the yardstick on his desk, she roars, "What's up with you?" She continues to stroll across the front of the room, occasionally hanging on a student's desk as he tightly grips his pencil, furiously trying to complete the impossible task. Ms. Levi's incessant verbal harassment further enveloped the dazed and confused class.

There is a method to her madness. The lack of light, the verbal abuse, the draining labor, and frustrating working conditions all alluded to the experiences early factory laborers had to endure. After the three minutes ended, Ms. Levi put the lights back on, explained herself, and asked the class to share their feelings about the exercise. "It was really creepy," sophomore Nancy Kurien said in a serious tone. "I literally felt like I was in a sweatshop."

And that is exactly how she was supposed to feel. Although they may initially provide a laugh, or even a scare, motivation exercises do serve long-term purposes. Studies have shown that a more hands-on approach to education helps students better understand their work. In her book, Tools for Teaching, University of California at Berkeley professor Barbara Gross Davis stresses that students learn "by doing" since passivity can only dampen curiosity. In addition, motivational exercises add a much-needed break to the monotony of teaching. Role-playing, debates, discussions, and demonstrations all reawaken the students' interest in the course. John D. Bransford, author of How People Learn, states that motivational exercises help elucidate the material's usefulness, relevancy, and impact on others, all of which further engage learning.

Ms. Levi is not the only faculty member to employ scare tactics in her motivational exercises. To help her biology students experience first-hand the result of the endocrine system, science teacher Rosemarie Eaton surprised them with a pop quiz. She watched as the fight-or-flight mode kicked in and students frantically rushed to cram in whatever facts they had learned. Though there was no real trip in store, the class was about to translate the tales of some films. The ancient and stuffy image of the language was shattered as students learned that "Neminem Inventions" meant "Finding Nemo." Teachers will go to great lengths to motivate their students. Their exercises can be visual, musical, cinematic or just downright underhanded. So the next time your teacher goes further than the textbook, enjoy it and remember, it is with your best interests at heart. In fact, maybe it is time to apply yourself more; the textbook is still in her hands. Sources: Bransford, John D. How People Learn: Brain, Mind, Experience, and School Washington D.C.: National Academy Press, 1999.

Course selection rides the wave of online convenience

On Career Day, students registered online to choose the careers they were interested in learning more about. The school received positive feedback from this approach and decided to replace the elective sheets with an updated system.

"Students can change their minds as often as they like and can appeal to the chairman of the class that they are not qualified to take but would like to take," said Susan Brustein, Assistant Principal of the Science Department. "These are the two things I really like about this system. It gives students more control."

One thing is for certain: programming director Arthur Boulanger will no longer need to scout through big piles of multi-colored papers filled with white-outs, crosses-out and arrows.

Many students are pleased with the new online registration procedure, despite some technical difficulties. "Although I had some problems registering online, I feel that it is overall a much more convenient system," one student said. "I can register at home and can change my decision if I change my mind," said Bonnie Leary, sophomore. However, others are disappointed and do not have much faith in the new system. "It's not as good as it should be. There are many flaws and errors. Many things are still going to have to be done by hand, so it does not really make a difference," stated Amanda Phoeman, sophomore. Even junior Arika Anam, who has had a faulty program almost every fall/spring term, said, "I think that the new course request system online is much more convenient. I don't think this system will result in less confusion and better organization when the fall term arrives."

Tiffany Cheng

With the formerly arduous process of elective selection, an easier and faster method of registering for classes online has lightened the loads of students and administrators alike. Officially beginning on April 28, the system was originally intended to be locked on May 4, but due to a foreign language elective snafu, the system will be locked for registration on April 29. Students have the option of changing their elective choices by logging in to the THHS website with a custom username.
Cracking down on compulsive knuckle cracking

by Nataliya Binh-thuy

It spreads like wildfire, advancing along its designated path and varying from loud to soft, soft to loud. Suddenly, it stops, as fingers extend outward and joints fall back into place. The hand relaxes, freely making voluntary movements. Yet, though it is seemingly harmless, the act of "knuckle cracking" is a frequently troublesome one, often arousing emotional irritation in those who hear it and making many squirm. Despite conflicting views on the subject, one thing's for sure—no one's cracking up.

Though enemies of the habit are often inclined to criticize knuckle cracking, few truly understand the process or its potential effects. "Knuckles" are the metacarpophalangeal and interphalangeal joints located at the meeting points of two separate bones held together by connecting tissues and ligaments. The joints are surrounded by synovial fluid, a clear liquid containing about 15 percent sodium and containing about 15 percent of carbon dioxide in solution and a smaller portion of nitrogen. "Cracking" the knuckle actually involves pushing the joint into or out of its normal position. When fingers are twisted to produce the desired sound, a low pressure zone within the synovial fluid is formed. According to the most widely accepted hypothesis, the decreased pressure removes carbon dioxide and water vapor from the solution, creating a bubble in a process referred to as cavitation. The rapid collapse of the bubble produces the "cracking" noise heard during the action, which can't be repeated on the same joint for about 15 minutes due to small bubbles of carbon dioxide in the synovial fluid take time to be reabsorbed.

The energy of the distinctive cracking sound is estimated to be 0.07 mm/ mm, while the energy required to cause cartilage damage through the process of chondrocyte death is approximately 1 mm/mm, leading many members of the medical community to believe that no permanent or debilitating harm can be provoked by the habit and dispelling the popular belief that it can result in arthritis. "There is no evidence that habitual knuckle-cracking leads to arthritis. This, however, doesn't mean that people can't injure their fingers joints in their popping enthusiasm by snapping capricious ligaments and/or cracking cartilage in the knuckle. The joints are very small and casual habitual popping doesn't appear to lead to anything much more than more knuckle cracking," stated chiropractic reformer John Badanes, D.C., Pharm.D.

Two studies involving large groups of people found no definitive link between knuckle cracking and arthritis. In the first of these investigations, research involving 28 nursing home patients failed to reveal a connection between "habitual knuckle cracking" and osteoarthritis. The second study reaffirmed what the first had indicated, as the 300-patient experiment disclosed that the prevalence of osteoarthritis in those who compulsively cracked their knuckles was no greater than in those who did not. The "crackers" however showed signs of "decreased hand function," a weaker grip, and swollen joints, lending support to the possibility that prolonged cracking may lead to the onset of some damage, such as the inability to properly hold an object.

Such impairments may stem from the stretching and snapping of the ligaments themselves, which is known to cause damage to the arms and shoulders of baseball pitchers. Though the strain on ligaments in the knuckle is far less great, such ligaments are also smaller and thereby weaker. Additionally, research suggests that after "pushing your joint past its normal range of motion" for an extended period of time, it may become "hypermobile," causing the joint surface to become worn and weak. In response to such an injury, the body responds by unevenly laying down more bone and reworking the joint surfaces, potentially arousing the development of sharp spots in the bone and harmful friction, which is present in arthritis sufferers. Literature also suggests that habitual knuckle cracking may directly affect soft hand tissue and cause damage that can provoke radiologic change. Interestingly enough, the act of cracking knuckles is exclusive to a select few. Certain individuals are unable to indulge in the habit because they have a larger gap between the bones or cannot relax enough to allow for bone separation. In fact, research indicates that people who are double-jointed or have unusually flexible joints are less likely to crack their knuckles.

Mirroring the perceptions of society at large, Harris students have mixed feelings about knuckle cracking. While senior Radha Patel thinks the sound produced is "noseaeating," fellow classmate Nina Moser, senior, stated that she does it "out of habit." Even increased awareness of the habit's potentially harmful effects doesn't deter knuckle cracking addicts. "It doesn't make me feel any better and sometimes I regret doing it," said senior Jessica Berger.

Affecting an estimated 25 percent of Americans today, knuckle cracking is fast becoming one of the most prevalent habitual trends in modern society. Though many strongly oppose the practice and cite its potential negative effects on the structural argument against it, the lack of a conclusive correlation between permanently debilitating damage and the popular habit keeps most addicts coming back for more.

Sources: 

April proves to be a sweet month for Phoenix Poetry Reading

by Jooselyn Wright

Capitalizing on its past success during the fall semester, a revamped Phoenix poetry reading entity titled "April is the Cruelst Month" opened its doors to literary enthusiasts on Friday, April 16, in bleachers Library. For three dollars, members and guests spread out in the fresh air to listen to the varied poetic selections and original compositions of both students and faculty members.

The event opened with the reading of the theme's namesake "April is the Cruelst Month," the opening line of T.S. Eliot's poem "The Waste Land." It featured foreign poems, including history teacher Michael Green's partial translation of two selections by Khhalli Ghran.

The wide-reaching appeal of the poetry reading enticed the busiest of Harrises to make a note-worthy appearance. Freshman Kristian Hartley and junior Kristopher Impresso, both hard at work rehearsing for the school play The Seven Ages, took the time to drop by and eliven their audience with a taste of both powerful and comedic poetry, including Kristopher's own poem about the desire to eat "Nadia" and Kristian's recitation of Sojourner Truth's " Ain't I a Woman,

Cubbert, proved her talent despite the direc- tor's reservations about her ability to fit the needs of this particular role. Rather than playing the stereotype of an adult film star, she gave the character a soul. Emile Hirsch, as Matt, reminds viewers of Tom Cruise from his Risky Business days, with the same naive nature that develops through the movie.

"Call me 'Ruthie'." Emile Hirsch, as Matt, reminds Jooselyn Wright, "April is the Cruelst Month" opened its doors to literary enthusiasts on Friday, April 16, in bleachers Library. For three dollars, members and guests spread out in the fresh air to listen to the varied poetic selections and original compositions of both students and faculty members.

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The poetry reading was a great opportunity to express myself."

This teen comedy is more emotional than most films of its genre. It may be considered offensive by some, but it is truly heartfelt and charming.

At the conclusion, Matt answers the question that has been lurking all along. He, along with everyone who has seen this film, "will always remember 'the girl next door'."
Ancient sands conjure scenes of a mystical past

by Mary-Grace Papatheodoro

Since the beginning of time, mankind has considered the lands of Egypt to be the "gift of the Nile." Indeed, this mystical place of ancient buildings and quiet sands is most fascinating when it comes to uncovering the past and discovering a whole new part of the world.

Our journey began at the port of Alexandria, where the famous Lighthouse of Alexandria once proudly stood and was considered to be one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. This beautiful city was founded by Alexander the Great during his conquests across Egypt and the Persian Empire. It is located along the southern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea and serves as the main port for Egypt and the nation's second largest city with a current population of approximately 3.9 million.

While driving through the city, it became obvious to me that Alexandria was once a place of elegance, culture and riches. It is a lively, clean city and attracts residents of cities such as Cairo during the summer with its beautiful beaches and coastal resorts. Via a modern highway, we drove about three hours southward to Cairo, the capital city of Egypt.

We took a sharp turn on the highway, and found ourselves next to the proud, eternal, and powerful Pyramids of Giza. It was an exhilarating feeling to be faced with such a spectacular view: Cairo, the city of 1,001 Arabian nights. However, the city that once communicated with wonder, riches, and fascination is no longer "the mother of the world." She is an old lady now and her days of glory have faded away. The Nile River runs through Cairo and along the river bed, one can find anything from piles of garbage to the rotting carcasses of dead animals. As the guide drove us through Cairo, I can clearly recall the murky color of the water and the body of a dead horse lying on the opposite bank. Driving through this city is a unique experience. There are neither traffic lights nor lanes in the roads but, miraculously, people drive, bike, and cross the streets. I remember a lot of miraculously, people drive, bike, and cross the streets. I remember a lot of small streets that branch off from the main roads gives a view of the lifestyle in the "real" Cairo. One day, when driving in the back streets, I felt as if I were in a time warp. There were rows of doorless, small stores, camels "parked" in front of the stores, and carefree children running everywhere. I saw a shopkeeper tossing clothes with an iron full of coals, the barber sharpening a knife, and another vendor carving an inlaid box. The produce in the grocery store lay in big baskets and the meat was hanging by the sidewalk covered in flies. Farther down the road, a large group of men in long robes sat around a sheesha (water pipe) and smoked quietly. Despite such "unsanitary" conditions, the residents of the poor quarters of Cairo manage to live their lives as normally as possible, and the population of the city remains at about 15.9 million. They can eat meat once each week, if they are lucky. The general hospital of Cairo also offers free surgery once a month. Of course, the list for the service can be expected to be very long.

Thousands of tourists come to Cairo each year just to see the spectacular Pyramids of Giza. These magnificent structures tower above the city and are an amazing sight to see. During the day, one can even see the pyramids up-close and climb inside the Pyramid of Khufu. I dared myself to enter this pyramid through a very small opening and stores and that are considered reliable. Also, remember to always bargain when you buy.

A boarder of camels makes a stop while waiting to give rides to tourists located beside the Pyramids of Giza.

One of the most popular associations with Egypt and the Sahara Desert has always been camels. Surrounding the Pyramids of Giza are many camels, and their owners, who try to entice customers into paying for a ride. Though these animals may look cute with all the multi-colored ribbons their owners have tried on them, take caution when approaching them since they have a tendency to spit when you least expect it. Taking such a ride makes you feel as if you've gone back in time and are riding beside the great pharaohs of ancient Egypt.

Egypt is well known for its leather goods, gold jewelry, carpets, inlaid wooden articles, and papyrus. Finely crafted belts and bags made of alligator skins are the most popular, but the richly decorated papyrus sheets make great mementos as well. Using various paints, artists depict scenes from ancient times on the rolls of papyrus. However, one must be careful not to be ripped off when it comes to buying papyrus of the best quality. Dealers on the streets have a tendency to sell banana paper instead of real papyrus and a lot of tourists are fooled. It is always safer to buy papyrus from well-known businesses. The produce in the grocery store lay in big baskets and the meat was hanging by the sidewalk covered in flies. Farther down the road, a large group of men in long robes sat around a sheesha (water pipe) and smoked quietly. Despite such "unsanitary" conditions, the residents of the poor quarters of Cairo manage to live their lives as normally as possible, and the population of the city remains at about 15.9 million. They can eat meat once each week, if they are lucky. The general hospital of Cairo also offers free surgery once a month. Of course, the list for the service can be expected to be very long.

As the guide drove us through the pyramids, I felt as if the walls were closing in on me and I began to gasp for air. Frightening thoughts raced through my mind and I wondered whether the tunnel would ever end as the sweat trickled down my forehead. At last, I reached the burial chamber located at the top of the pyramid that contained the tomb of the pharaoh. Along with the Sphinx, I visited the step pyramids of Saqqara, which were the first "experimental" pyramids built during ancient times.

It is crucial to continuously drink water and keep yourself hydrated in the scorching heat of the Sahara Desert. It is also highly recommended that one can spend a portion of the evening watching the spectacular sound and light show at the Pyramids of Giza. Once the sun sets, hundreds of chairs are set up to a tall sand dune directly in front of the pyramids. A panoramic view of the pyramids and the Sphinx can be seen once the crowd has settled and the show has begun.

With the use of colored lights and music, it is a marvelous way to see the history of Giza and the pyramids. The combination of the lights, the shadows of the pyramids, and the deep voice of the narrator succeed in taking you back to ancient times.

Ships that have been decorated in an "ancient" manner with the statues of pharaohs, walls of hieroglyphics, and more, provide dinner and a great show while traveling along the Nile River. With the belly dancers and elaborate costumes perform for the crowd along with other performers who present the cultural dances of Egypt. The food is spicy and very tasty. Traditional dishes include roast goose, kebabs, melokhia soup (made of deep green leaf), and salted dried fish. Despite the delicious appearance of some items, it is incredibly easy to become sick from eating something seemingly safe. In particular, avoid drinking water, with the exception of bottled water and raw vegetables.

On the banks of the Nile, where the ancient people of Egypt used to grow papyrus, now stand modern hotels and buildings. One of the most luxurious accommodations is the Mena House Oberoi, the old summer palaces of the kings and pharaohs of Egypt. Here, one can enjoy the magnificent views of the pyramids while relaxing in a friendly and lavish environment. At the pool, visitors can escape the scorching heat by taking a dip in the cooling waters while admiring the magnificent ancient architecture.

Among other sites to visit in Cairo are the many mosques, such as the Muhammad Ali Mosque and the Rifa'i Mosque. The Egyptian Museum of Cairo is another popular place to frequent. Here, some of the finest treasures from the excavated tombs of pharaohs are displayed. The most famous exhibits are the relics of King Tutankhamen's burial chamber. It is the largest museum in the world with an area of 50,000 square feet and 850,000 square feet of exhibition space.

In Alexandria, there are exhibitions of the best of Egypt's architectural achievements, such as the Roman Temple and the New Testament Church. In the old summer palaces of the kings and pharaohs of Egypt, one can enjoy the magnificent views of the pyramids while relaxing in a friendly and lavish environment. At the pool, visitors can escape the scorching heat by taking a dip in the cooling waters while admiring the magnificent ancient architecture.

Settling food on the sand of Egypt, one of the earliest and most important of all the nations of the world has ever known, is a dream come true. Treading the same ground as the pharaohs once did, visiting their burial places, and admiring the art and inventions of their time is the experience of a lifetime. One cannot help but feel that Egypt might be a magical land of wonder; it is a place that will remain in my heart forever.
Boys’ Outdoor Track

By Lauren Korzeniewski

A fast-paced outdoor track season for the boys reached its high-speed climax on Friday May 14 at the Queens Championship Meet at Bayside High School, giving members of the team who have recently recorded great times the opportunity to do so again. Junior co-captain Matt Duclca continued to turn in impressive performances this season as he ran a personal best time of 4:54.3 in the one mile race at the PSAL meet at Cardozo High recently. Due to a recent injury, he was unable to attempt the mile, but his time of 5:33 is the personal best of his career to date.

Leading these seniors and freshmen are senior Rosalind Adams and freshmen Sam Ok, Berget and David Bass, and sophomore Kenny Chang and freshman Sam Ok, finished in third place.

One of the highlights of the outdoor track season is running in the Penn Relays. The Hawks did not disappoint, especially in the 4x100 meter relay, where the team of sophomore A’Van Hundley, Duclca, senior Louis Elrose, and senior John Kim all reached their personal best times, including Hundley’s time of 5:19 seconds, and a new school record of 3:40.6 in the event. The 4x100 meter team of Kim, Elrose, Rivera and Ok also ran well and finished with a time of 46.8 seconds. “Our runners all turned in clutch performances in one of the most prestigious track meets in the world,” stated senior co-captain David Bass.

Just weeks ago, as the starting gun sounded, the Boys’ Outdoor Track Team opened up their season with a bang of their own and ran very well in the first outdoor meet of the season on March 27 at Bayside High School when Kim and Elrose recorded great times in the 4x400 meter relay and Duclca ran a strong race as the lead-off leg in the 4x800 meter relay. The other success story at the meet was the freshman team, which collected a total of 19 medals at the meet.

Boys’ Varsity Tennis

By Michelle Montgoris

The Girls’ Varsity Tennis team used their fast forehands, backhands, and serves to win its first round playoff match against Lab Museum United on May 6 by a score of 5-0. The Hawks finished the regular season with a record of 8-2, which placed the team in a tie for first with Cardinal in the Queens A Division. All of the Hawks played well against Lab Museum United. This included junior Jackie Chancer, who played first singles, and senior Alyssa Ng, who played second singles. The team will play Hunter High School in the second round of the playoffs on May 10.

Boys’ Varsity Baseball

By Stephen Berger

Their winning record and solid defense could not prevent the Boys’ Varsity Baseball Team from losing its first game of the season on May 6 to East New York Transit Tech by a singles victory, as did the doubles teams of juniors Chantal Bruno and Chris Tarte and Liz Jones and Katherine Chancer and Laura Schubert.

This year’s team is coached by first year Townsend Harris coach and physical education teacher Shari Basi. The team has an experienced roster featuring three juniors and one senior, Ng. Ng is confident about this year’s squad and foresees a very successful season and a serious playoff push. “We have a lot of team spirit and are always very supportive of one another,” says Ng. She added, “We have fun all the time.”

Boys’ Varsity Volleyball

By Wendy Yan

The Boys’ Varsity Volleyball Team narrowly missed the opportunity to end their 13-year playoff drought after being defeated in the team’s final two matches of the season, against Bayside High School and Cardinal on May 4 and May 5 respectively. The team finished with a 6-4 record, placing it third out of six in the division.

Last year, the Hawks went 6-4. There were only four returning players on this year’s 13-man roster. Of these four, sophomore Kevin Kwak is the only starter. However, the team was not fazed. “We’re all learning from each other,” said Kwak. “We’re hard workers with a lot of potential.”

“We have a new right side hitter in Kenny Yu,” said manager Rachel Acosta. “He quit the track team to join and has been a good addition. Junior Ericphram Cruz is also one of the best passers.”

Although the Hawks fell just short of the playoffs this season, there are reasons to be optimistic next season. The team has many of its starters returning next season, along with a great coach, Elizabeth Dempster.
Elrose slam dunks despite low expectations setbacks

by Elsyee Lee

Last summer at the Five Star basketball camp, a college scout told senior Louis Elrose that he would never be able to play on a Division II college basketball team. However, after a history-making year at Townsend Harris, the co-captain of the Boys’ Varsity Basketball Team proved his leadership, talent, and ability to carry his team to their first ever A Division playoff win. He also simultaneously securing a scholarship to a Division II college. In this year’s PSAL season, Louis averaged 20 points, 10 rebounds, and three assists per game, leading his team to a 9-5 win-loss record in his senior year. With an overwhelming number of seniors on the team this year, each player succeeded in making the Hawks a force to be reckoned with in the Queens A Division. The Hawks had an exciting win over Jamaica High School (3rd place in Queens) with a score of 68 to 62 and then crushed neighboring school and former rival John Bowne High School in two matches. Most importantly, the Hawks unified for a much-needed 63-54 victory over John F. Kennedy High School, in which Louis led his team with 17 points, 13 rebounds, and four assists. Co-captain Kenny Yu, senior, had 15 points, and sophomore Jesse Franco added 14 points. Altogether, the combination of senior starters Elrose, Yu, Franco, Paris Aspriou, and Michael Blake accomplished the greatest athletic success story in Townsend Harris history. The undersized but quick Boys’ Varsity Basketball Team proved its dedication to winning in a league in which they were considered to be the underdogs. The most important piece of advice Elrose would give after this extraordinary season is: “Work hard every day of your life and don’t let anyone stop you.” His words are reflected in the efforts of the team this season as they worked hard to accomplish their goals while refusing to let doubt and disbelief hinder their drive.

Though Elrose is known mostly for his accomplishments and talent in basketball, he is an all-around athlete, participating in cross-country track in his sophomore year and running outdoor track for three years at Townsend Harris. Although Louis received a late start in outdoor track, compared to his early start in the sport of basketball at the age of three, he has nevertheless flourished in field events and sprint relays. He competes in the high jump, long jump, 4x100 meter relay, 4x400 meter relay, and pentathlon. He was selected as the Boys’ Outdoor Track Team Most Valuable Player in his junior year. Recently, Elrose declined his scholarship to Division II Molloy College to attend Division I St. Francis College and fulfill his dream of playing NCAA Division I basketball. Although Louis will have to try out for the team at St. Francis College, he is confident that he will overcome all misconceptions that others may have about him and prove, once again, that he is a valuable addition to any team.

After accomplishing his goal of playing in the NCAA basketball tournament, Elrose aspires to attend medical school and become a sports medicine doctor, preferably for the New York Knicks or the New York Yankees. Whether or not he fulfills his dreams to play basketball at an advanced level, one thing is for certain: Louis will put aside any lingering doubts, setbacks, and discouragement and prove that he can triumphantly accomplish any goal that he sets for himself.

Warm weather keeps teams’ winning streaks hot in spring season

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score of 10-0. Despite ending their undefeated record, the Hawks are currently in second place in the Queens Central B standings with an 8-1 record in the nine games that the team has played, the team has outscored its opponents 101-53. Looking at the current standings, senior Michael Schwartz said it is “pretty definite” that the Hawks will make the playoffs.

Although baseball is a team sport, individual performances are essential to the overall success of a team. Many players on this team are having outstanding seasons, especially seniors Joe Kresse and Nick Kaloudis. Kresse has an amazing batting average of .629, with 22 hits, 19 runs scored, 15 runs batted in and 9 stolen bases in the nine games he has played so far. He has also provided excellent defense behind home plate as the catcher, throwing out would-be base stealers at a high percentage. Kaloudis is also having an all-star caliber season. He is batting .581, with 18 hits, 17 R.B.I and 3 home runs along with his 2.61 record as a pitcher with 21 strikeouts in 9 and 2-3 innings pitched.

The team just wants to win to badly,” added Schwartz.

Girls’ Varsity Soccer

By Elsyee Lee

The winning streak was continued as the team 3rd in the Queens A standings and putting the team in a position where it has a legitimate opportunity to earn a playoff berth.

By earning a 1-1 tie with Francis Lewis High School on April 28, the Hawks rebounded from one of its worst starts in the last four years. Dabowski commented that the season would be even harder now that the team was starting from a deficit. The team’s record dropped to 1-2 with a 3-1 loss to Francis Lewis on March 29 following its forfeited loss against Richmond Hill on March 22. Harris rebounded after its unseating start with a commanding win over Newtown High School, seven goals to two.

The starters this year feature seven returning players as well as four new additions, including freshmen Jen Polish and Cait Kilpatrick, sophomore Ann Elyse Urguidi, and junior Nicole Silva. Polish, the starting goalie, has never played the goalie position before, but demonstrated his valuable addition to any team. The Hawks will use their experience and dedication to compensate for the loss of six seniors, who made up the majority of the team’s starters last season.

From the field: Harris’ athletes spring into the competitive world of sports

Abby Lee

Juniors Art Harper jumps to hit a crushing forehand.

Jr. Keystone Pacheco, seniors, makes the catch.

Jr. Jesse Lewis loses balance to hit an 8-point bucket.

Senior Jason Fox holds victory in the palm of his hands.

Schwartz, along with juniors John Tatti and Chris Guillo.

Guillo has emerged as the team’s number one starting pitcher, posting a 3-0 record with an earned run average of 2.63. He has been an effective hitter, as well, and is currently batting at a .542 clip. It looks as if it will be hard to stop Coach Raymond Adamkiewicz’ Hawks.

Senior Chris Fuchs picks in for a steal.

Senior Stephanie Inwald tries to break away from an opposing teammate to receive a pass.

“The girls’ varsity soccer team, under the guidance of Coach Chris Hackney, won its fourth game in a row on May 7 against Bryant High School by a 3-0 tally. The shutout featured goals scored by sophomore Ann Elyse Urguidi, junior Nicole Silva and senior co-captain Kathryn Dubowski, who recorded her 27th goal in 14 games. The Hawks now have a 10-4-1 record, placing the girls’ varsity soccer team as one of the top teams in the school. As the team goes on to the playoffs, they look to continue their winning streak and make history once again.

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