

# SPECTATOR

May 2013

## THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE OF 2013



Volume LXIV, Issue VIII Berkley High School



Welcome the new  
Editors-in-Chief  
pg. 16



Sports Standouts  
pg. 12-15



Find out where the  
class of 2013 is  
headed next year  
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# 2 THE SPECTATOR

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May 21, 2013



BHS Collaborative Center 7:00 p.m.  
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**Driver Education Segment One: Groves High School (Room B-24)**

MAY 20-JUNE 6, 2013	May 20,21,22,23,28,29,30,31, June 3,4,5,6, 2013 5:30-7:30 pm	GHS513 seg 1
JUNE 10-28, 2013	June 10,11,12,13,14,17,18,24,25,26,27,28, 2013 5:30-7:30 pm	GHS613 seg 1
JULY 16-AUG 8, 2013	July 16,17,18,23,24,25,30,31, Aug 1,6,7,8, 2013 8-10 am	GHS713 seg 1
AUG 5-29, 2013	Aug 5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,26,27,28,29, 2013 5:30-7:30 pm	GHS813 seg 1

**Driver Education Segment Two: Groves High School (Room B-25)**

JUNE 17,18,21, 2013	M, T, F	3:15-5:15 pm	GHS613 seg 2
JULY 16,17,18, 2013	T, W, Th	10:15a-12:15 pm	GHS713 seg 2
AUG 6,7,8, 2013	T, W, Th	3:15-5:15 pm	GHS813 seg 2

**These classes will meet at 6785 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills, Suite 125**

**SEGMENT ONE CLASSES**

**SEGMENT TWO CLASSES**

MAY 13-30, 2013	May 13,14,15,16,20,21,22,23,27,28,29,30, 2013 4-6 pm	BFH513 seg 1
JUNE 6-21, 2013	June 6,7,10,11,12,13,14,17,18,19,20,21, 2013 *Two Choices: 4-6 pm	BFH613 seg 1      1-3 pm BFH613A seg 1
JUNE 17-JULY , 2013	June 17,18,19,20,21,24,25,26,27,28, July 1,2, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm	BFH613B seg 1
		June 18,19,20, 2013      T, W, Th
***2 choices for times: 12-2 pm (BFH613 seg 2) or 4-6 pm(BFH613A seg 2)		
JULY 8-25, 2013	July 8,9,10,11,15,16,17,18,22,23,24,25, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm	BFH713 seg 1

**Driver Education Segment One: Seaholm High School (Room A105)**

MAY 6-23, 2013	May 6,7,8,9,13,14,15,16,20,21,22,23, 2013 5-7 pm	SEA513 seg 1
MAY 28-JUNE 12, 2013	May 28,29,30,31, June 3,4,5,6,7,10,11,12, 2013 5-7 pm	SEA513A seg 1
JUNE 17-JULY 2, 2013	June 17,18,19,20,21,24,25,26,27,28, July 1,2, 2013 8-10 am	SEA613 seg 1      or      2-4 pm SEA613A seg 1
JULY 1-24, 2013	July 1,2,3,8,9,10,15,16,17,22,23,24, 2013 6:15-8:15 pm	SEA713 seg 1
JULY 8-25, 2013	July 8,9,10,11,15,16,17,18,22,23,24,25, 2013 2:30-4:30 pm	SEA713A seg 1
JULY 29-AUG 21, 2013	July 29,30,31, Aug 5,6,7,12,13,14,19,20,21, 2013 8-10 am	SEA713B seg 1

**Driver Education Segment Two: Seaholm High School (Room A105)**

MAY 13,14,16, 2013	M, T, Th	7-9 pm	SEA513 seg 2
MAY 28,29,30, 2013	T, W, Th	7-9 pm	SEA513A seg 2
JUNE 10,11,13, 2013	M, T, Th	7-9 pm	SEA613 seg 2
JUNE 24,25,27, 2013	M, T, Th	9:30-11:30 am	SEA613A seg 2
JULY 8,9,10, 2013	M, T, W	5:30-7:30 pm	SEA713 seg 2

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR OTHER DATES AND LOCATIONS**

[www.appledriving.com](http://www.appledriving.com)

**Note: Class dates and times subject to change**



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## Holly Shifman

### Valedictorian

Josh Radom '16,  
Assistant Opinion Editor



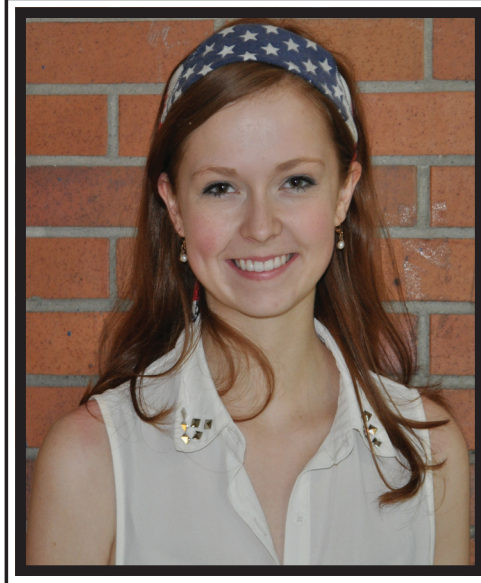
After hard work, dedication, and abundant amounts of time spent on school work and sports teams, Holly Shifman will be graduating as the 2012-2013 class valedictorian. Holly has been a part of BHS's Student Leadership and wants to not only be remembered as someone who got impressive grades, but also as someone who was involved in a lot of school activities. Although she is proud of herself for receiving this title, she says she does not want any special attention for it, saying, "It was more of a personal accomplishment, but everyone's support is nice."

Holly will be attending the University of Michigan as an honors student this fall and wants to learn and gain experiences, so she can one day become a surgeon or some type of physician. She said she chose U of M because, "I really like Ann Arbor and I think that Michigan is a really good school." She does not believe that she would have done anything differently in her high school career and hopes that she can continue to get the best grades she can to eventually get accepted into medical school. She said that she is going to remember her friends and the spirited BHS community the most as she continues to do great things in her life.

## Sarah Michalak

### Salutatorian

Madison Huff '15,  
Bull's Eye Editor



Coming in as a freshman, Sarah Michalak's initial goal was to exceed academic standards, by doing so, she has received the honor of Salutatorian for the class of 2013. Sarah could not have made it to this point without a little care and encouragement so she, "Would like to

thank her parents for all of their love and support throughout her entire high school career."

Continuing her academic excellence, Sarah is heading down to Florida to attend The University of Miami in the fall. Her plan is to double-major in Biology and Marine Biology in hopes of one day becoming either a Marine Biologist or Veterinarian. Other major accomplishments Sarah wishes to be remembered for is being president of National Honors Society her senior year as well as being co-captain of the BHS dance team. Sarah will always remember the friends and teachers she was given the chance to get to know during her time here at BHS. She is very proud of her achievements, hard work and dedication throughout high school and she would not change a single thing. Even though Sarah is leaving the nest and flying off to college, she will continue to demonstrate academic excellence.

## Dugan Fernandez

### Most Involved

Shelby Silver '14,  
Opinion Editor



From his bro shorts, to his flowing hair, when he arrives to cheer on BHS sport teams, everyone knows they are about to have a good time. Dugan Fernandez definitely has a knack for staying involved. Dugan is known for his famous Roller Coaster bit at any sporting event or any assembly since the beginning of his final year at BHS. His all-star involvement includes being a part of and one of the creators of the 2013 Bear Pack, the source of themes for sporting events and the ever-present cheering section during anything and everything. Dugan said, "My favorite memory is when I stored some of the ice when the hockey team won leagues. I'm going to miss celebrating goals and touch downs the most."

In the fall, Dugan will begin his college career at Henry Ford Community College where he will be playing baseball. Dugan will be a hard act to follow with his undeniable talent of being involved and getting everyone else involved too and Berkley will be at a loss without him. As he parts ways with BHS, Dugan said, "Everything I did was for the chicks and of course the student section." You, Mr. Fernandez, have made all the students who attend BHS proud to call themselves a Berkley Bear. So long, Dugan, so long.

## Josh Graff

### Most Likely to Succeed

Aaron Cohen '13,  
Senior Copy Editor



Every once in a while you meet someone who you know instantly is something special. Josh's wit, caring personality and brilliant mind set him apart as a senior standout. After attending Hillel Day school from K-8, he came to Berkley with a clean slate, prepared to take advantage of everything the school had to offer.

Between working sound and lighting for the BHS drama productions, leading the robotics team, and DJing school dances, Josh has left an indelible mark on Berkley High School. Those with whom he has shared classes with, will tell you his unique views and ability to express them clearly makes him an integral part of the class environment. Though he received nearly a full ride to the University of Michigan, Josh will take his talents to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts this fall. When asked what led to his success, Josh answered with a smile, "I do what I love, and love what I do." This sort of mindset will continue to serve him well as he begins his engineering studies next year. Remember the name Josh Graff – big things are coming from this guy.



## 6 THE SPECTATOR

## Zachary Lask Band

Lindsay McFern '13,  
Student Life Editor



Zack Lask has been playing instruments since he was a young lad, starting piano at five and then, in fifth grade, his percussion career. He has been a member of the BHS marching band, jazz band, symphonic band and pit orchestra where he has held the position

of section leader for two years. His favorite memories of marching band include meeting new people, especially upperclassmen. Senior Brodie Burns said, "Zack is very supportive and accepting, his easy-goingness has also helped our band advance tremendously."

Throughout his four years at BHS, he has participated in solo ensemble, receiving high honors and even advanced to the state level. Zack said he was thrilled to be a part of the recent world premiere of the Anne Frank Cantata claiming "It was one of the most unique experiences given to me from BHS." Zack is a three year member of the music honor society, Tri-M, and is also a member of Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Youth Ensemble. Zack plans to continue on playing and furthering his education at the University of Michigan next fall.



## Jake Vincent Choir

Jake Kreinbring '16,  
Photo Editor

To some people, singing is just a hobby, but to Jake Vincent, it is a passion that burns through every fiber of his being. Jake has been not only participating in the choir program, but leading it for a grand total of five years: starting in middle school and continuing through all four years of high

school. Not everybody has the drive to participate in a single program for that long, but Jake said that he "loves the people and staff that are in the program."

This passion for the art of singing that Jake has, has taken him as far as the Big Apple, so he could see shows on Broadway and learn to take his singing talent to the next level. He really hopes to do a lot more with singing in the future, and with the voice Jake has, we should prepare to watch him go far in the music business. Jake will be singing his way to Oakland University in the fall.

## Jennifer Alpert Orchestra

Emma Weisberger '16,  
Circulation Manager



From the moment she played her first note with the viola, Jennifer Alpert fell in love with the unique qualities and sound of the instrument. Since fifth grade, she has been an active orchestra member.

To further develop her passion for music, she has gone to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp for the past several years, joined Tri-M and participated in a Youth Orchestra when she arrived at BHS. Jennifer is currently the section leader of the BHS orchestra and in the Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony as a violist. She has toured with Blue Lake in Europe and started a charity orchestra group. Jennifer said, "Orchestras are made up of a lot of people, and everyone is important in making music." She added, "Being a part of orchestra has given me great opportunities, the orchestra has gone on a lot of trips and a lot of my extracurriculars that I put on my college application [were] orchestra related."

This fall, she plans to continue her orchestra career at the University of Michigan. Orchestra has been about more than just playing notes for Jennifer, it has provided her with many new and amazing opportunities to set her up for the future.



## Izzy Wroblewski Drama

Julia Pompilius '14,  
Freelance Writer

Whenever a theatrical performance is given at BHS, Izzy Wroblewski is bound to be on stage. Having been involved in Berkley's theater department since her freshman year, she is celebrated as one of BHS's most talented and beloved actresses.

Izzy has been acting since she was in the fourth grade, but her career became more serious upon entering the ninth grade.

Since she has joined Berkley, she has played large roles including Asaka, Mother of the Earth in *Once On This Island*, Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, and, most recently, Mrs. Clemens in *David and Lisa*. Izzy claims that her experience in theater has had a positive impact on her life. She said, "Theater has affected my life by allowing me to escape day to day life and become a whole new person every night. I have also grown closer with many people that I don't see on a day-to-day basis." She plans on staying involved in community theater post-graduation and auditioning for plays at Michigan State University, where she will attend this coming fall. Izzy's contribution to Berkley High's theater department has been immense, and she will go down as one of the finest actresses BHS has ever seen.



## Sophie Bruza

### News and Broadcasting

Josh Radom '16,  
Assistant Opinion Editor



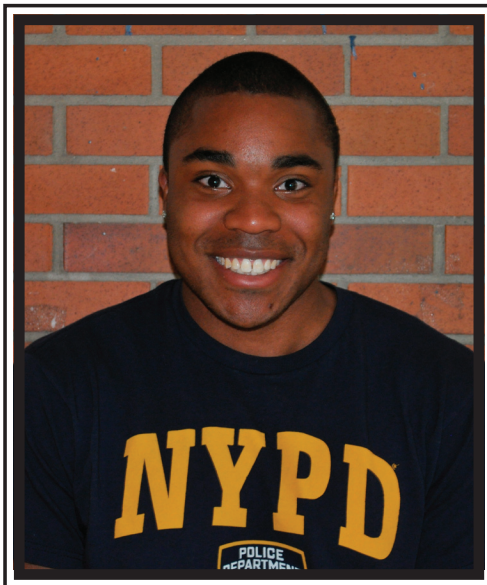
Since sophomore year, Sophie Bruza has been involved in news and broadcasting, and in each year of her involvement she has been promoted to higher positions. From starting sophomore year creating videos for the BHS Film Festival, to now, after climbing the ladder, she produced and directed the Senior Bear Awards. "To put it simply, she does everything," her fellow video classmates commented. Sophie said, "I'm proud of my accomplishments, and I want to leave a legacy of striving for success, [I] and hope to succeed in college as well." She will be attending Loyola Marymount University in California to study film. "My experiences here at BHS, in video, definitely helped me decide that I wanted to major in film."

Sophie says her ideal job would be anything in film but is not sure exactly what specific aspect of the film industry yet. Video teacher/advisor Mrs. Caye Matthews said, "I've had Sophie for film as well as Yearbook, and she has always been very hardworking and has a bright future." She has created many engaging digital works of art at BHS, and she will undoubtedly continue to do great things in Long Beach.

## Nick Borden-Sanford

### DECA

Jake Rothman '14,  
Feature Editor



Nick Borden-Sanford has had a tremendous amount of success during his time as a member of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (D.E.C.A.).

Throughout his two years with the club, Borden has been internationally recognized as one of the top D.E.C.A. performers. For those who do not know, D.E.C.A is connected with the marketing program at BHS, and it gives students an opportunity to interact with kids from all around the globe while participating in business role-playing situations. In his senior campaign, Borden had a sensational year with D.E.C.A. as he attended their highest level of competition, the international conference in Anaheim, California.

Additionally, Borden went to the national conference and was recognized as this year's third best D.E.C.A. participant in the state of Michigan competition. Borden explained as to his continued success in the club, "Something just clicks." Additionally, he can credit his achievements in D.E.C.A. to his great speaking ability. Next fall he will be attending Western Michigan University where he is quite excited to be a part of the collegiate D.E.C.A. program there, while also attending the Bronco's great business school.

## Austen Brantley

### Art

Aaron Cohen '13,  
Senior Copy Editor



Walking through the halls of BHS, it is likely that you have noticed one of Austen Brantley's phenomenal sculptures. You cannot miss them; they look like they belong in museums. Over the past four years, Austen has refined his skills, mastering the ability to create something

out of nothing. A block of clay is all he needs to turn an idea into something remarkable. Focusing on figurative sculpture, much of his work features people in various poses. "Art is about ideas," Brantley said. "It doesn't have to be perfect. Anybody can sculpt or draw. It is about the idealism behind it."

These ideas are what have made his work so unique. Outside of school, Austen works as a caricature artist at the Detroit Zoo—not an easy task, given his subjects are unfamiliar and he does not have endless time to create his sketches. Next year, Austen will take his talents west, continuing his passion at the San Francisco Academy of Art in California. Keep your eyes peeled for Austen's work in the future. As a senior in high school, he has already proven his abilities as an artist, and he is only going to get better.

## Tony Tenaglia

### Most Spirited

Veronica Marchese '13,  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief



"Break spirit down into two words: spear and right. If you want spirit, you throw your spear right and hit the mark, the spirit mark." This is how senior Jack

Shumacher described fellow senior Tony Tenaglia, chosen as "most spirited" of the senior class. Many of us in the BHS clan have seen Tony at sporting events banging the now famous cowbell, and sporting either full suits or costumes, claiming he tried to always wear "as little clothing as I could unless I was wearing a suit...especially in my little fireman outfit – that was cute." Tony came to BHS as a freshman with a legacy to uphold, and as a senior he was always trying to "surpass [his] brothers," which he, and others, thinks he has done.

Tony finishes this year happy to be known as most spirited and advises the class of 2014 and those following to "go back and study the film" of him to "see what he did and do it better." Next year Tony will be attending Western Michigan University and continuing his legacy of spearing right as a Bronco.



## 8 THE SPECTATOR

**Eric Israel**

Veronica Marchese '13,  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

"I play hockey." The so called "pick-up line" BHS girls have heard one too many times. Eric Israel, although not a part of the BHS hockey team, can still use this "pick-up line." Eric has been skating since the age of three and took up the game at five years old. In the first semester of his senior year Eric took his talents to Hill Academy in Toronto, Canada, where he got the opportunity to be on the ice every day. On Tuesday and Thursday, while at Hill, he traveled throughout the east coast to play games. Eric said, Hill is "student first but athlete is still a big part," and the school is for lacrosse and hockey players who aspire to be Division I athletes.

Eric is not sure where he is going to end up next year, but he has tryouts coming up with the British Columbia Hockey League and the Central Canada Hockey Association towards the end of May/beginning of June. He will then hopefully go to a preseason camp, which would take place in August. He hopes to be a part of the BC league, where he would play for two years and then move onto playing with a bigger university. Where ever Eric ends up, he will be a huge asset to any team he is a part of.

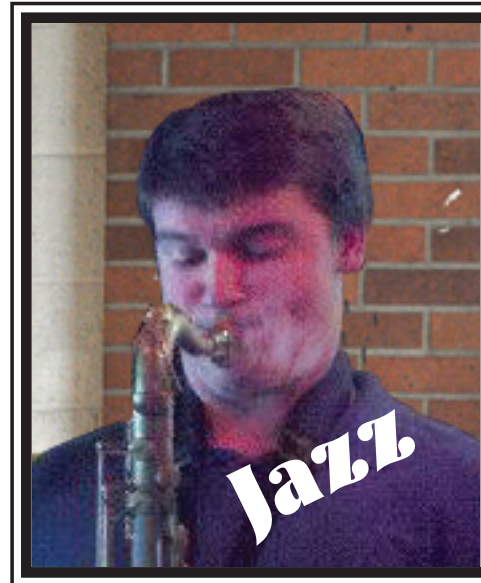
**Nolan Young**

Mitchell Hart '13,  
News Editor

Many young teens aspire to be professional musicians, but for Nolan Young this dream is a reality. Nolan, a Jazz musician, plays "with a variety of ensembles around Detroit" including the CYS Civic Jazz Ensemble which he has played in since eighth grade. Nolan is also a member of the Planet D Nonet which plays all over Detroit. For those who don't know what a nonet is, Nolan explains that it "is a nine piece band."

He also plays at jazz clubs and with various groups at private parties in the Detroit area. As Nolan puts it, jazz has "really been a key factor in my high school experience." He said, "It has really kept me on track and focused on one goal," and that is, becoming a nationally renowned jazz musician.

To accomplish this goal, Nolan plans on moving to New York City sometime in the next four years, and in the meantime he plans to "see what else Detroit is offering me in the next year." He added that "it is very common for people to stick around" for awhile before they attempt a career in New York.

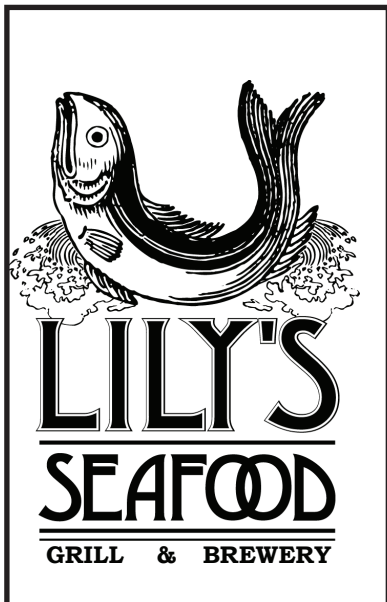
**Madeline  
"Madz"  
Bowen**

Lindsay McFern '13,  
Student Life Editor

Madeline Bowen is one of the most unforgettable people to grace the halls of BHS. Her self-made moniker "Madz," tall stature, and intense involvement have made her a standout through her four years here. She attested "Who else has a four letter name like me?" Madz' height also makes her memorable, yet she



"struggled being the tallest person throughout middle school, but now I [she] loves being tall." She has been heavily involved in theatre, student leadership, and Encore! singing her way through it all. She claims her most unforgettable attributes are her love of music and dancing which she puts on display throughout the halls, planting a smile on each passerby's face. She also focuses a lot on school work which helped her attain a scholarship to Lawrence Tech where she will be studying engineering next fall. Madz ultimately hopes her degree will place her in a work field with what she loves most— music.

**Seniors' futures predicted**

James Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

For many of us, the class of 2013, we are sad (not me) about the end of high school but excited to pursue their higher education. With that, the timeless question of "What do you want to do when you grow up?" is now a reality, and that being said, I am going to predict what some of my fellow classmates' future professions will be.

Let's start with some bright spots. Senior Sarah Michalak has been near the top of our class since the second we walked into BHS, and she will continue her illustrious academics at the University of Miami Florida next year. My guess is that Sarah's first move out of college will be to disprove Einstein's theory of relativity, and after that move on to curing (with ease) that horrid disease of cancer. With the profits garnered from her successes she will start a dance hall from underprivileged inner city children, while promoting her *New York Times* best selling book titled *My Life As a Cat*.

Billy Adler will run a pet store in Little Italy in NYC, whilst Jeffrey Tomaszewski will run an illegal chicken fighting ring in the basement of the store.

Thomas Charles Despard, after years of struggling in the record store business will be signed to Def Jam records, and release rap music under the alias Scalabrino the Second. With his profits, he will start a charity for red headed children based on boosting their self-esteem.

Steven Reinholm, after years of wandering the west coast, will find himself in some sort of pseudo Big Lebowski type world, with him being the Jeff Bridges character. After many trials and tribulations, Steven decides to just go bowling.

Barret Hotz, apparently convinced that a zombie apocalypse has begun, will hole up in his bunker in northern Maine, only coming out to relieve himself and to survey the terrain for impending doom.

Matthew Koerner (affectionately known as Keebs) will win a strong man competition whilst simultaneously starting an international trucking business. He will even preside over the construction of a bridge across the Bering Strait for the express purpose of being the first man to drive from the U.S to Russia.

Alex Gross will sign a 4- year contract with Playgirl magazine, and appear on a record setting 17 covers. After a successful magazine campaign he will run for the office of President of the United States and win in a landslide.

Holly Mayes will become the next Halle Berry, and star in a revival of the Catwoman franchise. She will win an Academy Award for her efforts.

Jack Schumacher will marry his high school sweetheart, Holly Shifman, and while she goes on to become CEO of one of America's largest companies, Jack will enjoy the lifestyle of a stay at home dad. At some point, to validate his own self-worth, he will start a customized golf cart business with Holly's earned money, selling to the likes of Tiger Woods and Bubba Watson.

Some of you may call these predictions absurd, but just wait, they will come true and Alexander Gross will be our 52nd President of the United States because he is so tall, dark, and handsome.



## IAN KOBERNICK

### BASEBALL

Mitchell Hart '13,  
News Editor



When Ian Kobernick first picked up a bat 16 years ago, it became very apparent that he was destined for greatness. Ian, who plays shortstop and center field and occasionally takes the mound for the BHS varsity baseball team is not only a fantastic fielder, but he also holds his own behind the plate. One of his favorite moments from playing on the team was when he hit “two homeruns off of a really competitive pitcher named Michel Tomas,” whom Ian has been playing with his whole life. These hits were made more significant because one of them scored the game tying run in a game the Bears eventually ended up winning.

This season, Ian has constantly hit for a lot of power and has accumulated a plethora of RBIs batting from the third spot in the batting order. Next year he will be on taking his talents to Kalamazoo College where he plans on improving his skills in order to transfer to a bigger school later on in his college career.



## ZACK FINZEL

### FOOTBALL

Bennet Hart '16,  
Business Manager

Zack Finzel is a very committed player, explaining that his favorite part of being on the football team is simply “going out and playing football.” Zack has been playing football for seven years and has been on the BHS varsity team for the last two years. This season, he started every game at right tackle on our strong offensive line.

Zack has definitely enjoyed being on the team, and said “[Football] has impacted my high school experience a lot.” He added, “It was great being able to wake up in the summer every day and play with the guys.” Zack went on to say, “It has kept me out of trouble.”

Finzel has had an amazing football career at BHS, and is going to continue to play football next year for the Bluffton University Beavers in Ohio. He will miss BHS as he explained that “Suiting up and running out of the tunnel in front of all the fans was the biggest rush [he has] had in [his] life.”

## BLAIR BIRNIE

### SOFTBALL

Olivia Wood '14,  
Freelance Writer



For many people, high school is a time for finding their passions and discovering new areas of interest. For Blair Birnie, though, high school was a time for her to delve deeper into her love for the game of softball. Blair began playing softball eight years ago and has continued to hone her skills ever since. Her introduction to softball as a child is a familiar story, however the difference lies in her great love and natural gift for the sport. While she first began on the freshman team, Blair quickly rose to the top as coaches witnessed her talent and dedication. She was soon pulled up to the varsity team within the first week of her sophomore season.

Now on the varsity team, playing many different positions, Blair has the opportunity to demonstrate her stellar softball skills while acting as a mentor for younger players. From tremendous victories to festive team dinners, Blair remarks that her fellow teammates have been an instrumental part of making softball such a memorable experience for her, saying that “softball has given [her] the opportunity to meet new people while doing something [she] loves.” As Blair goes on to attend OCC in the fall, BHS will surely miss her, as will her teammates. Blair does not want to let her talent go to waste and hopes to continue playing softball in the future.



## MADELYN OLIVER

### VOLLEYBALL

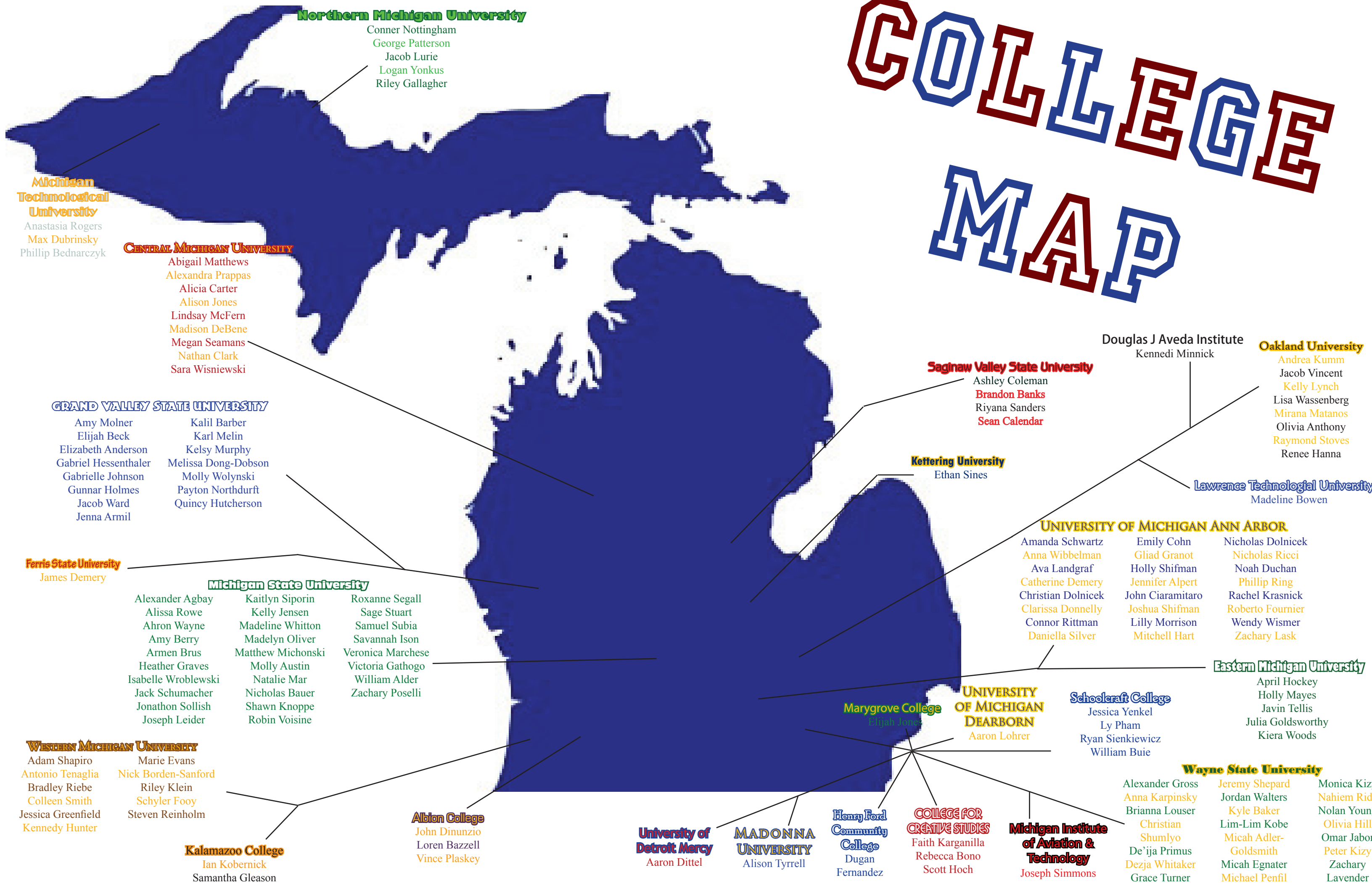
Madison Huff '15,  
Bulls Eye Editor

Madelyn Oliver has been involved in volleyball since the fifth grade when she began her volleyball career at Laselette playing for Catholic Youth Organizations and has continued all the way through her senior year. Madelyn plays the important position of setter, known by fellow volleyball players as the “play maker.” Continuing her family’s tradition, Madelyn will be attending Michigan State University this coming fall. She hopes to one day become an interior designer or landscape architect. Madelyn could not have accomplished all her many achievements without a little help along the way so she, “would like to thank Mr. Meloche for all his help with her college application for MSU as well as all of her volleyball coaches.”

Madelyn’s proudest moments consist of finally beating Southfield High School and winning the district tournament after four long years as well as receiving MVP two years in a row, and not to mention being All-OAA performer for two consecutive years. Even though she is not continuing her volleyball career through college, Madelyn plans on joining a club team so she can keep volleyball in her life.



# COLLEGE MAP



**Northern Michigan University**

Conner Nottingham  
George Patterson  
Jacob Lurie  
Logan Yonkus  
Riley Gallagher

**Michigan Technological University**

Anastasia Rogers  
Max Dubrinsky  
Phillip Bednarczyk

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

Abigail Matthews  
Alexandra Prappas  
Alicia Carter  
Alison Jones  
Lindsay McFern  
Madison DeBene  
Megan Seamans  
Nathan Clark  
Sara Wisniewski

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**

Amy Molner	Kalil Barber
Elijah Beck	Karl Melin
Elizabeth Anderson	Kelsy Murphy
Gabriel Hessenthaler	Melissa Dong-Dobson
Gabrielle Johnson	Molly Wolynski
Gunnar Holmes	Payton Northdurft
Jacob Ward	Quincy Hutcherson
Jenna Arnil	

**Ferris State University**

James Demery

**Michigan State University**

Alexander Agbay	Kaitlyn Siporin	Roxanne Segall
Alissa Rowe	Kelly Jensen	Sage Stuart
Ahron Wayne	Madeline Whitton	Samuel Subia
Amy Berry	Madelyn Oliver	Savannah Ison
Armen Brus	Matthew Michonski	Veronica Marchese
Heather Graves	Molly Austin	Victoria Gathogo
Isabelle Wroblewski	Natalie Mar	William Alder
Jack Schumacher	Nicholas Bauer	Zachary Poselli
Jonathon Sollish	Shawn Knoppe	
Joseph Leider	Robin Voisine	

**Western Michigan University**

Adam Shapiro	Marie Evans
Antonio Tenaglia	Nick Borden-Sanford
Bradley Riebe	Riley Klein
Colleen Smith	Schylar Fooy
Jessica Greenfield	Steven Reinholm
Kennedy Hunter	

**Kalamazoo College**

Ian Kobernick  
Samantha Gleason

**Albion College**

John Dinunzio  
Loren Bazzell  
Vince Plaskey

**University of Detroit Mercy**

Aaron Dittel

**MADONNA UNIVERSITY**

Alison Tyrrell

**Henry Ford Community College**

Dugan Fernandez

**COLLEGE FOR CREATIVE STUDIES**

Faith Karganilla  
Rebecca Bono  
Scott Hoch

**Michigan Institute of Aviation & Technology**

Joseph Simmons

**Marygrove College**

Ethan Jones

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DEARBORN**

Aaron Lohrer

**Kettering University**

Ethan Sines

**Saginaw Valley State University**

Ashley Coleman  
Brandon Banks  
Riyana Sanders  
Sean Calendar

**Douglas J Aveda Institute**

Kennedi Minnick

**Oakland University**

Andrea Kumm  
Jacob Vincent  
Kelly Lynch  
Lisa Wassenberg  
Mirana Matanos  
Olivia Anthony  
Raymond Stoves  
Renee Hanna

**Lawrence Technological University**

Madeline Bowen

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ANN ARBOR**

Amanda Schwartz	Emily Cohn	Nicholas Dolnicek
Anna Wibbelman	Gliad Granot	Nicholas Ricci
Ava Landgraf	Holly Shifman	Noah Duchan
Catherine Demery	Jennifer Alpert	Phillip Ring
Christian Dolnicek	John Ciaramitaro	Rachel Krasnick
Clarissa Donnelly	Joshua Shifman	Roberto Fournier
Connor Rittman	Lilly Morrison	Wendy Wismer
Daniella Silver	Mitchell Hart	Zachary Lask

**Eastern Michigan University**

April Hockey  
Holly Mayes  
Javin Tellis  
Julia Goldsworthy  
Kiera Woods

**Schoolcraft College**

Jessica Yenkel  
Ly Pham  
Ryan Sienkiewicz  
William Buie

**Wayne State University**

Alexander Gross	Jeremy Shepard	Monica Kizy
Anna Karpinsky	Jordan Walters	Nahiem Rida
Brianna Louser	Kyle Baker	Nolan Young
Christian Shumlyo	Lim-Lim Kobe	Olivia Hill
De'ija Primus	Micah Adler-Goldsmith	Omar Jabor
Dezja Whitaker	Micah Egnater	Peter Kizy
Grace Turner	Michael Penfil	Zachary Lavender

**Out of State**

**-ARKANSAS-**  
Claire Hayostek-Harding University  
**-CALIFORNIA-**  
Austen Brantley - San Francisco Academy of Art  
Sophie Bruza - Loyola Marymount University

**-FLORIDA-**  
Sarah Michalak - University of Miami  
**-ILLINIOS-**  
Adam Kopitz - Concordia University  
Da'sha McCrary, Lena McPherson - Columbia College  
Ryan Nast - Moody Bible Institute

**-INDIANA-**  
Anna Aronovitz - Indiana University  
**-LOUISIANA-**  
Aaron Cohen- Tulane University

**-MASSACHUSETTS-**  
Joshua Graff - Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
**-MINNESOTA-**  
Roy Johnson  
Matthew Koerner, Emman'uel Bellamy, Eric Hudson - Ridgewater College

**-OHIO-**  
Alexander Bergsman - Ohio State University  
Autumn Cooper - The University of Toledo  
Kiana Lowe - Bowling Green State University  
Lauren Ceresnie - The Art Institute of Cincinnati

**-PENNSYLVANIA-**  
Alexandra Fahoome - Pennsylvania State University

**-WASHINGTON D.C.-**  
Allyson Abrams - Howard University

**International**

**-CANADA-**  
Eric Israel - Hockey  
**-AUSTRALIA/FRANCE-**  
Robin Collins

**Air Force**

Garry Macka

**U.S. Army**

Kyle Church

**Undecided**

Andrew Siebarth  
Bracha Greenes  
Brandon Asaro  
Caitlin Berger  
Christian Livingston  
Christopher Seibert  
Colin Moran  
Darrien Bentley  
Deshaun Broden  
Emily Craig  
Jamie Weinmann  
Jaylen Bowers  
Jokaylia Hubble  
Jonathan Meyers  
Kelly Render  
Keaira Lamb  
Kyle Baker  
Mallory Bennett  
Michael Vickey  
Naheim Rida  
Nathan Carlson  
Otto Dusseau  
Richard Nelson  
Rory Nickele  
Samantha Boggs  
Samantha Yaldo  
Sara Ungar  
Sergey Yanin  
Serhiy Dukhnyskyy  
Taylor Baer  
Taylor McCree  
Treasure Chind  
Vannassa Kizy  
William Murrell

**Oakland Community College**

Aaron Stierna  
Abigail Brandon  
Alan Cutshall  
Alexander Cantor  
Alexander McLenon  
Alexandra Mozel  
Amy Harnois  
Andrew Middlewood  
Aujinea Thomas  
Benediktas Gaskevicius  
Blair Birnie  
Blake Ross  
Brodie Burns  
Colleen Ward  
Darriell Bentley  
Dennis Dudzinski  
Emily Scott  
Emma Doppel  
Hannah Hockridge  
Jack Reedy  
Jeffery Tomaszewski  
Jonathon Ebert  
Joseph Vredenburg  
Joshua Vanslambrock  
Kevin Bibby  
Kevin Snook  
Kole Bishop  
Laurel Carnovsky  
Mariama Diop  
Max Folsom  
Mitchell Chubka  
Nichole Crook  
Nicole Gardiner  
Quinntin Moore  
Rachel Wojta  
Rachel Allie  
Rachel Spitzer  
Renee Gow  
Ryan McClure  
Ryann Ferguson  
Samantha Collins  
Samantha Nagy  
Samantha Williams  
Shelby Thompson  
Stefan Uhan  
Sydney Oliva  
Taylor Tucker  
Timothy Dalian  
Tyler Wingate  
Valdrin Fazliu



## SAM SUBIA

### BOYS TENNIS

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14,  
Sports Editor

The man. The legend. The European. The European man legend. Sam Subia is an exemplary gentleman who, with his hard work and dedication, earned the recognition for his great talent in tennis. Sam, inspired by his friends, started playing tennis in fifth grade and has been playing ever since. Some of his inspirations are tennis legends Andre Agassi and Roger Federer. Despite a knee injury, Sam still managed to earn his well-deserved spot on the BHS varsity team. Continuing to train hard, Sam soon gained the captain position his junior and senior years. Tennis "has taken away my social life. I play tennis six days a week with only Wednesday off," Sam said.

His commitment to the sport paid off when Sam made it to the regional finals and won the Lakeland Invitational. Perhaps Sam's most grandiose accomplishment in the sport was making it to states and getting to the semifinals. "At states, I fought off seven match points in the first round," Sam bragged. Sam will attend Michigan State University this fall and will be managing the tennis team there.



## JOSH SHIFMAN

### BOYS SOCCER

Corey Lipton '16,  
Assistant Copy Editor

Josh Shifman has been a member of the Berkley varsity soccer team since his freshman year. During his time on the team, he has earned the honor of being named to the Michigan All-State team twice. Josh thought, "[If I hadn't played soccer] I wouldn't have nearly as many connections [with people] and with the school." Josh spoke about how

soccer has taught him how to be a good teammate and what it feels like to play for others. During his soccer career he feels like he was not just playing for himself but for the entire school.

In the fall, Josh will attend the University of Michigan, and he will also be a part of the honors program there. Although he will not play for Michigan's soccer team, he plans on playing for a club team. Josh also said, "[My senior season] was very important to me because it was my last year, and it was my best record. Overall, it was a good way to go out." He is proud of his team's accomplishments this year and will always remember his senior season above the rest.



## ALISSA ROWE

### GIRLS SOCCER

Jake Kreinbring '16,  
Photo Editor

Soccer is an extremely difficult sport in which the person playing must put them on the line in order to win. Alissa Rowe does just that. She has been a member of the BHS soccer program for four years, and has spent every year of that on varsity with the exception of freshman year. Alissa is a rare player who is able to be an exceptional player at two different positions, those being left forward and midfield. Her speed and aggressiveness is unmatched, and her opponents struggle to keep up with her.

Alissa's attitude and work ethic are fantastic, and it will be a bear to replace her last year. After becoming a close knit group of girls over these last few years, all of her teammates will greatly miss having her on the team next year. Throughout her Berkley soccer career, she has received many great achievements, but she said the highlight of it all was winning leagues last year. As she leaves for Michigan State University in the fall, she said the thing she will miss most about leaving the team is "being in a competitive setting with girls who will work hard to win."



## DANIELLA SILVER

### GIRLS TENNIS

Lim-Lim Kobe '13,  
Freelance Writer

Dedicated tennis player Daniella Silver has taken the court every day after school since freshman year. She began on the freshman team in 2010 without knowing the first thing about tennis, but with the help from coaches Waldman and Ciaravino, she took the first steps to becoming a valued member of the varsity team. For the next four years she worked hard at every practice, a trait that is admired by

many teammates. In fact, in 2011 she was awarded Most Improved Player.

Not only is Daniella a committed tennis player, she is also an inclined student. She has an impressive academic résumé including: Spanish Honors Society, Science National Honors Society, National Honors Society (World Language Committee Leader), and Math Honors Society (President). Above all, Daniella is also in the top five percent of the very competitive 2013 class. Daniella's achievements are taking her to University of Michigan in the fall but she is currently undecided about a major. As for tennis, she plays for fun, and intends to continue it as a hobby. According to Coach Waldman, "Daniella will definitely be greatly missed. From her bubbly demeanor to her tenacious gameplay, she always adds an element of fun to our practices and matches."





## JONATHON SOLLISH

### BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14,  
Sports Editor

Ralph Theman, better known as Jon Sollish, has been running races since sixth grade and continued his running career through middle and high school. "I joined the cross country team in seventh grade and I ran all the way through my senior year," Jon explained. Over the span of his running career Jon has claimed victory many times. He was also named Rookie of the Year his freshman year.

Jon has additionally been the cross country team's captain for two years which greatly affected his life. "[The captain position] has giving me direction. It has shown me that I can be a leader and taught me the valuable skills of organization and time management," Jon said. Under his magnificent leadership, the team came in fourth in regionals this year. He said, "We were able to build this team up and make it really strong." One of his proudest moments is surpassing the 17 minute time barrier by one second in the 5K. Jon has yet to choose a college to attend, but he will, without a doubt, continue running. "[In college] there are club options for running which tend to be highly competitive which I plan on doing," Jon elaborated.



## MELISSA DONG-DOBSON

### GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Shelby Silver '14,  
Opinion Editor

Berkley High running legend, Melissa Dong-Dobson is not only an academic superstar but a fierce runner on the track. Starting in the fall, Dobson will be attending Grand Valley State University where she will try to walk onto the GVSU track team or tryout for the team in the fall. She has made her way to the top by practicing all year. Close friend and personal cheerleader, junior Ava Dorsch, said, "Melissa is glorious. I

can't imagine school without her. I'll never forget her long hair flowing in the light breeze when as she effortlessly jumps over all of the hurdles. I'll miss her so much."

Beloved friend to all, Dobson will certainly be missed, especially by her coach and teammates. Leaving all of her events behind including the 100 meter, and 400 meter hurdles and the 4 by 400 meter relay will invoke a feeling of emptiness in everyone's heart. Tear. Melissa said, "I'll miss my coach the most and the constant support from everyone. All my hard work and time paid off and I got to show my talent." She added, "I may not be the fastest or the best, but I've come a long way on the BHS track team." Good luck at Grand Valley. You'll be missed on and off the track.



## KELSY MURPHY

### GIRLS SWIM AND DIVE

Alison Jones '13,  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

When most of us think of swimming, we think of a leisurely day at the pool with the sun beating down on us. But for Kelsy Murphy, swim is less of a luxury and more of a lifestyle. Since the age of eight, Kelsy knew that swim was going to be a huge part of her life for a long time. Being captain her senior year, rookie of the year her freshmen year, and receiving the coaches award twice, it is safe to say Kelsy belongs in the pool.

When recalling her favorite memories, Kelsy said she enjoyed "bonding with the girls and becoming a family." She swam both the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle for the varsity team, and in doing so earned a varsity letter for all four years. Though she said it was tough "balancing school, twice a day practices, and friends" it was all worth it in the end. Kelsy, along with five other BHS swimmers, competed at states this past fall. While not swimming competitively next year, she does plan on swimming club while attending Grand Valley State University in the fall.



## CHRISTIAN DOLNICEK

### BOYS SWIM AND DIVE

Corey Lipton '16,  
Assistant Copy Editor

Christian Dolnicek has been on the BHS swim and dive team for all four of his years at BHS. Christian's main event is the 500 freestyle, and his best time came in states this year, where he clocked in at 4:53:67.

As many know, the swim team is a very close knit bunch, and Christian said, "We all know each other very well, and even the people that join in the team adapt quickly. It is a very nice environment." The swim

team enriched Christian's time at BHS because it was an easy way to build long lasting relationships that he plans on keeping through college. Christian plans on attending the University of Michigan, but will not be able to swim in college because Michigan has one of the top swim teams in the country. He said, "I won't be able to swim for Michigan, but I will definitely swim on a club team in Ann Arbor." The decision to go to Michigan and not swim in college was very tough on Christian, and he plans on enjoying swimming as more of a hobby. Christian will always look back on the memories from the swim team fondly.





## ROXY SEGALL

### GIRLS BOWLING

Josh Radom '16, Assistant Opinion Editor

Roxy Segall has succeeded greatly in all athletic endeavors, the most recent achievement has been on the lanes. She said, "You don't really start bowling until you buy your own bowling ball." She added, "It is more of a mind game, like golf, but yes, it is a sport." Her highest score as of now is 210. Roxy has also won the most improved award as well as academic scholarships for bowling. She will be attending Michigan State this fall and said, "I want to major in communications or advertising because I'm really interested in using the creative part of my mind to reach out to others." Her advice to underclassmen would be to "make the best out of your high school years, do something you're interested in and make time for your friends." Roxy did just that. She exemplifies great leadership and BHS spirit.



## RYAN SIENKIEWICZ

### BOYS BOWLING

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

When Ryan Sienkiewicz came to Berkley junior year, he struggled to find his niche. His search came to a rewarding stop upon his discovery of the BHS bowling team. Ryan had bowled on league teams before—he also stopped using bumpers when he was six, (I'm 17 and I still need bumpers)—but Berkley's was his first school-sponsored team. Ryan has won a multitude of state tournaments and was also named MVP of the bowling team this year. Luckily, his success in bowling hasn't halted his success in school. He said that since bowling practice for the school team was only one day a week, it didn't interfere much with his school work, although he did practice on his own other days in order to achieve his high score of 269. Ryan has made many friends from the bowling team and next year he will attend Schoolcraft College where he will continue to bowl for their team.

## JEFF TOMASZEWSKI

### BOYS BASKETBALL

James Demery '13,  
Entertainment Editor

For Jeffrey Theodore Tomaszewski, basketball has been a love affair that began when he was six and really took root when he began to play organized ball in the third grade. But Jeff's fondest memory from his career of balling was not from his distinguished career as a Berkley Bear, but when he won three, count 'em three, consecutive championships in Berkley Hoops as a member of the Bulls. Jeffrey's favorite memory of his senior campaign of basketball was coming from 18 points down against the heavily favored Oak Park team to tie the game and force an overtime. Although the Bears lost that game, the comeback was a fitting end to Jeff's highlight-packed high school basketball career. As one of only three seniors on the team by year's end, Jeff had to step up to a leadership role even though he was not a captain. Oakland County is privileged to have Jeff in it for a few more years as he will be attending Oakland Community College.



## LISA WASSENBERG

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Emma Weisberger '16,  
Circulation Manager

Lisa Wassenberg is involved in a plethora of sports teams here at Berkley, and she is fantastic in all of them. She found one she especially loves—basketball. She began watching it on TV and decided to try it, and has been playing ever since. She is a self-described "leader," and she personifies this as the captain of the team, or her "second family." Pertaining to tough practices, she said, "I've gained the will to work harder and push through those tough times and keep going." Lisa maintains a healthy balance between school and basketball and is willing to stay up that extra hour to do homework if it means she is able to play basketball a bit longer. She later added, "I'm a different person when I play. I am more outgoing when I play sports than I am as a real person." This fall Lisa plans to join the girls basketball team as a walk on at Oakland University.

## ALLYSON ABRAMS

### CHEER

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

When she was younger, Allyson Abrams danced and did gymnastics, but then she saw the plethora of *Bring It On* movies and decided her talents were better suited for cheerleading. Allyson has enjoyed her past three years as a member of the BHS Sideline Cheer Team and the Competitive Cheer Team. She liked Competitive Cheer more and said that this was due to the increased intensity, and especially the stunting (gymnastics)—she can do a handspring thanks to Competitive Cheer's weekly Tuesday gymnastics. The teams allowed Abrams to make lasting friendships, and it also helped her stay in shape. She said, "I probably would be overweight if I didn't cheer because I'd just go home and well... do nothing!" Even though Abrams will not continue to cheer at Howard University next year, cheer will always exist as a defining and exciting part of her high school career, and thankfully, Allyson says she regrets no part of this cheer experience.



## KAITLYN SIPORIN

### DANCE

James Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

Dancing has been a lifetime passion of Kaitlyn Siporin's as she has been dancing since age two. Her career culminated with her being named captain on the varsity dance team her senior year. "Being a captain was a lot of fun but also very stressful," Kaitlyn said, but her stardom in dance was not always a guaranteed thing. She had to overcome an atrocious knee injury when her knee cap popped out, and she stretched a ligament which side lined Kaitlyn from her beloved sport for two weeks. The injury should have kept her off the floor for longer, but she just couldn't stay away. Kaitlyn will be taking her talents to East Lansing in the spring, becoming a Michigan State Spartan, and although she doesn't know what and if there is a next step in her dancing life, she will always have fond memories of her time rocking the crowds at sporting events and pep assemblies.



**JAMES DEMERY****BOYS GOLF**

Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor

"There's no other game like it; it's a thinking man's game," future Masters Champion James Demery said about his love for the game of golf. All four years of James' high school career has been spent on the varsity golf team— his freshman year as the Bears' number three golfer and his remaining three years as the team's number one golfer. His love for the game commenced from the young age of ten, and ever since it has been his "favorite thing to do in the whole world." Throughout his time on the golf team, James has been named all2-OAA for all four years. The Messiah has also made the regional meet during his junior and senior season. James was additionally recognized as the team's most valuable player and most improved player during his sophomore season. He will be continuing his education and golf career at Ferris State University where he is excited to have his own dorm room and attend the fine dining of the local Mongolian Barbeque there.

**MADDIE WHITTON****GIRLS GOLF**

Alison Jones '13,

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Since age 11, Maddie Whitton has been playing golf, but she only took a serious interest in the game about three years ago. Golf has been a huge part of Maddie's high school experience, she said, "it's great to be a part of a team and see everyone develop throughout the years." Since her sophomore year, Maddie has dominated in every tournament she's been a part of. She has been all-OAA for 2010, 2011, and 2012, while also being MVP 2011 and 2012 season. She was also captain for both her junior and senior years, and also being a top ten medalist for Farmington tournament. Next year Maddie will be attending Michigan State University, and although she is not playing for the university's varsity team, she does plan on continuing with golf for the rest of her life.

**SYDNEY OLIVA****GIRLS RUGBY**

Emma Weisberger '16,

Circulation Manager

This is only the second year that Sydney "Mitchie" Oliva has been a part of the rugby team, however, in this short amount of time she has fallen in love with the game. She enjoys everything about it— from the actual game to her teammate's attitude. Mitchie currently plays the position of fly half, which is similar to the quarterback in football, but at the same time these positions are very different. She said, "It's really fun to see the different personalities on the team." She continued, "The girls can be completely quiet off of the field but amazing when they start playing." Being a member of the team has given her a whole new network of girls to be friends with and "be there for her." This fall, she will attend Oakland Community College, and she plans to play for the nearby Detroit Rugby team.

**VINCE PLASKEY****BOYS RUGBY**

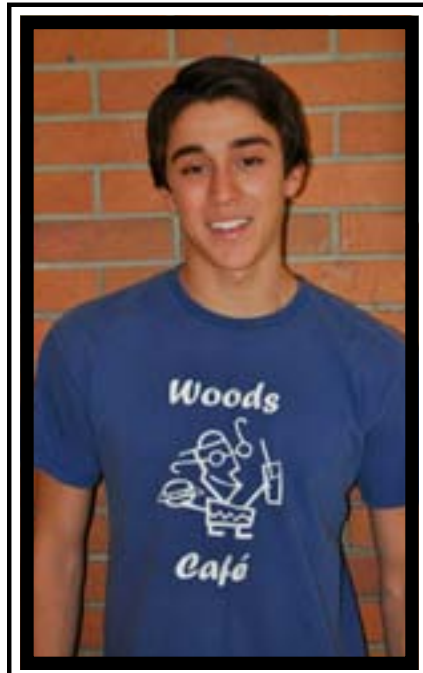
Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

If you have gone to any of the rugby games this year you probably know Vince Plaskey as Berkley's Flanker. He has been playing rugby for four years, and has no intention of stopping now. Vince is leading the team in an undefeated season so far, and he could not be more thrilled. He says that he loves the sport because of its huge amount of contact and the mental aspect of the game. Vince says that he has gained a lot from playing rugby, but one of the most significant things it has done for him is kept him out of trouble. Vince said, "I would be on the streets if it weren't for rugby." As Vince advances in life, he hopes to continue his rugby career possibly playing next year as he attends Albion College.

**JOEY LEIDER****HOCKEY**

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

Joey Leider claims that he has been playing hockey "since he could walk" and that he is a "born natural," both of which are very obvious when you watch him on the ice. His favorite memories about the hockey team involve his acquisition of "chicks" along with the many wins he celebrated with his teammates. His dominance on the ice has been quite apparent by not only his vast repertoire of skills but also the teams' records while he was a member. He was honored by being named a member of the All-state hockey team which came as no surprise to the self-proclaimed superstar. Joey likes to dedicate his many outstanding performances to the moms, and he said "everything I do is for the moms." In the future, Leider plans to "pretty much shred the gnar" in East Lansing where he will attend Michigan State University.

**MAX FOLSOM****WRESTLING**

Bennett Hart '16, Business Manager

For Max Folsom, wrestling has been a huge part of his high school experience. Max has been wrestling on the varsity team for the last two years, and he is now coaching for Sarah Banks Middle School's team in Wixom. Max said, "Wrestling has impacted my high school experience because of the discipline; it keeps [me] focused." Max loves BHS and appreciates the opportunity of being on the wrestling squad. He believes the best part about being on the team is "how close the athletes are," and how "it keeps [him] fit and healthy." Max's favorite part about BHS in general, is all of the "good people here" and the football games. Despite leaving the wrestling team here at Berkley, Max will not give up wrestling as he plans on continuing to be a coach next year and in the future, as he attends OCC.





# Take a snooze in a dresser drawer then tell me how to live my life

Jake Rothman '14, Incoming Editor-in-Chief

I know the first column for the incoming Editor-in-Chief is typically about how honored said leader is to have attained such a prestigious position on staff. Or it could be the typical farewell to the seniors that have taught us so much over their past four years at BHS. However, my first column as Editor-in-Chief will be about neither of those tantalizing topics (I'll save those for next year) but rather about a more serious and heartfelt personal subject.

After I lost one of the closest people to me, my 90-year-old grandpa, the weeks following have been difficult, but I have learned valuable life lessons in the wake of such an awful tragedy. Thinking about what he meant to me is a painful thing to do, but in doing so, great memories have surfaced, but I am not talking about all the memories we made together, and instead about all the stories and childhood tales he told me about his eventful early years. The lesson I have gained from these stories is that we need to find a way to return the unpredictable simplicity back to our lives.

My grandpa told me many stories in our nearly 17 years together about topics ranging from his WWII military service in Panama to how he met his wife of over 65 years. But the underlying theme of almost every single one of his stories, no matter his age, was how simple yet greatly enjoyable his life was. For instance, while he should have been worrying about how to deal with a possible Nazi submarine attack on the Panama Canal, he was instead focused on how to improve his fielding skills at third base for his Panamanian military baseball team. Where has that carefree approach to life gone in our generation?

There is not a day in many of our current lives that we do not worry about what we are going to do about that test we haven't studied for or what our plans for next weekend will be. In comparison, many of our grandparents were not as concerned with keeping up their stellar grades for college because they knew they would be heading into the military service after they graduated. Our grandparents unconsciously exemplified this type of worry-free lifestyle that seems to have defined their generation.

Even as children, our grandparents' lives lacked the predictability and decorum that our lives have. We go through pre-school and take part in enrichment programs because from the day we are born our parents are planning our lives out to ensure we are on the right path for future success. But throughout my grandpa's stories the element of surprise continued to catch me off guard. The kind of stuff that went on in his household was always unpredictable yet in so many ways, blissful in its simplicity. However, in today's over-cautious society these happenings would have quite easily warranted a phone call or two to child services. It sounded to me like fun, and it did not appear complicated in any way.

For instance, for a period of my grandpa's childhood, he was forced to sleep in a dresser drawer (which he said he actually enjoyed) because his family lacked sufficient beds for the amount of bodies in his household during the Great Depression. My grandpa was also obligated to work from the age of six, waking up before the crack of dawn to sell newspapers on a corner of downtown Detroit. These indicate how the course of my grandpa's life took turns that simply wouldn't and couldn't occur today. Having a job at six and sleeping in a dresser are easy examples of what is not socially acceptable today, and this is mainly due to the fact that we are all too predictable in our actions. He and all grandparents' carefree attitudes are character traits that we can all learn from and hopefully apply to our everyday lives. If we all just stopped being so uptight and quit having almost every moment of our life planned out, then sporadic moments like the ones my grandpa had would occur much more often. But realistically, if this type of stuff happened today, parents would be spending 5-10 years in prison instead of being able to joke about such moments.

Even into the later stages of his life, my grandpa was still clearly defined by the same basic value of unpredictable simplicity. One of the lessons that I have learned from observing this trait of his is that rewards come to those who wait. My grandpa had a loving wife of 65 years, his own business, loyal friends that stuck by his side for decades, and many more things that most of us would covet, yet he was a man that frequently enjoyed the act of sitting and shuffling a deck of cards. He employed such simplicity in all facets of his life and attained almost everything most of us dream of, without having every single moment of his life planned out. He certainly had his share of fun but again, those situations weren't at all planned or anticipated, they just happened. That specific lesson is exactly what I learned from the great man that was my grandpa. I've learned that simplifying our lives will add a certain amount of enjoyable unpredictability that we all surely need.

To be honest I could write every single one of my senior columns on the lessons he inadvertently taught me (I won't), for now, the need for some simplicity in our daily lives is of highest importance because having every moment of your life planned and feeling constantly stressed is really no way to live at all.

# Hello, my friend

Shelby Silver '14, Incoming Managing Editor

Welcome to the end of the year, my fellow BHS students. As we get ready to bid adieu to the graduating class of 2013, we must look back and reminisce about our times with them. Don't worry, I'm kidding. Get ready for the new senior class, people. We're big, we're bad and we like to raise the roof and party. Woot woot. Again, just kidding.

This year has maybe been one of the most stressful years of my entire student career, and I hope I'm not alone when I say this, but this year needs to be over. ACT is over, we survived the apocalypse and senior year is only four months away. Until the moment when it is finally our turn to walk through the senior doors feeling like royalty, I guess spending all of our time relaxing and doing nothing during the summer will have to do.

Even though all of my senior journalism friends are saying goodbye, I feel as though I'm obligated to say hello to all of the things I, or rather we, have been waiting for, for what feels like an eternity.

First off, I would like to say hello to the end of junior year. I, like almost 350 other juniors, have been waiting almost nine months for the end to come. None of us ever thought we would all finally be so close to being free of this stressful year. Junior year has been full of rigorous schedules, draining ACT tests and never ending winter weather. No one who has been through junior year will ever look back and miss it—even a little. I'm sorry, but it's really not me, it's you.

Hello to college applications. I know that all of us juniors are excited to plead and essentially beg our way into a school that we have been dreaming about since we were little. I am also positive that none of us can wait to be nervously expecting colleges to tell us whether or not we got into the place we will call home for the next four years.

Hello to adulthood. It is nice to finally meet you. I have been waiting for you for almost 18 years. I cannot wait to get to know you and be able to know what it feels like to buy myself lottery tickets. To be finally treated like an adult is almost mind boggling to me, and I am sure I speak for many of us who are about to enter this new, unknown world when I say this: I'm not ready to be a grown up yet.

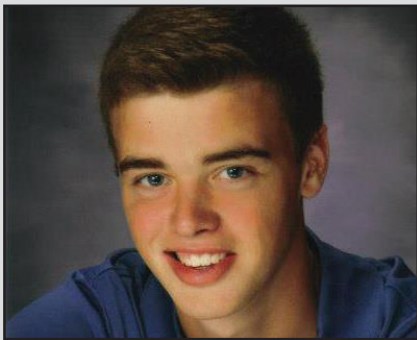
And finally, it is our time to say hello to our final high school year and step into the spotlight as seniors. I, like many others, are so happy to finally be able to welcome you into my arms. For three brutal years, we all have been dreaming of the day where we finally get to paint B-E-R-K-L-E-Y on our stomachs, being able to finally sit in the front row at sporting events and lead all of the cheers. Senior year is what we all have been waiting for. Senior year is where it is, and it is our time to shine and make legends out of ourselves.

Now it is time to say "hey" to all my Spectator seniors. Having all seven of you leave Jakey and me behind is really sad, and I can't believe I only have three days left with you. Next year will not be the same without the sassiness of each of you and all of the returning staff will probably not know what to do without the loud, zany personalities of everyone. I love you all and good luck in the fall.

May is full of bitter sweet moments and it is really sad that we are all saying goodbye to the class of 2013, but with every goodbye comes a new hello. There are countless memories that BHS holds with these soon-to-be-graduates and when we all return in the fall, it is going to be really weird wandering the BHS halls without seeing every single one of the departing seniors. We will all miss you seniors, and we are excited for you all to say "hello" to all of the new opportunities in the college world. While we say goodbye to them, the rest of us are ecstatic to finally say "hey" to being the graduating class of 2014.



## Good night, and good luck



James Demery '13, Ferris State University

I recently learned that I am the only member of the graduating class of 2013 that will be attending Ferris State University. For some people, that would send them into paroxysms of horror, exclaiming, “Woe is me I won’t get to spend even more time with people that I have already known my entire life!” I, needless to say, will not have that problem.

Don’t take this the wrong way; there are some people that I have met in high school that I truly enjoy. But the most of the populace, I’m not going to be driving 90 M.P.H on my first available weekend to see you. There are definitely some people that I will be doing that for (maybe not the first weekend though) such as William Joseph Adler, Alexander Joseph Gross, Thomas Charles Despard, Jack Michael Kyle, Steven Michael Reinholm, Jack Sydney Schumacher, Crazy Tyler, Petey the Kid, and Matthew “Keebs” Koerner. These are my boys, people, who without, I would be a shell of the exuberant, and (somewhat) carefree individual that I am today. From chilling playing euchre to getting up to some schenanigans in a Royal Oak parking structure, this group and I have been through a whole lot of ups and our fair share of downs. Thank you to these fine gentleman, and anyone else I may have forgotten to mention for putting up with me and my sometimes (for lack of a better word) big headedness.

Next up the people who had the misfortune of sharing a last name with me. First, my beautiful mother Margaret, who besides being a world class ukulele player kept me on the straight and narrow (or at least tried her best) and finally taught me how to fold a white t-shirt. The next thank you goes to my father, Brian “Silver Fox” Demery, who introduced me to the game of golf, put up with a whole lot more than he should have had to, and taught me how to be sarcastic (and when to keep certain comments to myself). Third, my lovely sister Mary, who edited my English papers and probably saved my GPA in the long run, and who was always able to knock me down a peg when I was getting a little too outrageous. Last and certainly not least, my sweet brother Joseph, whose time at home I cherish for his ridiculousness and the Nesting of the Eagles. Of course I can’t go in depth about all my equally wonderful family members. Trust me, they all are tremendous people, and I am very lucky to call them my kin.

Since I’ve already named like half of the people in my life, why don’t I give the administrators, teachers, and counselors of Berkley High School some recognition? Thank you for not getting me in nearly as much trouble as I deserved and again for putting up with my smart-assedness. A quick shout out goes to my golf and tennis coach Scotty Baltes; we may not have always been the best team, but we did have the most fun. Although I still disagree with the administration on many, many things (such as the drug dogs- please as a graduation gift, do away with them), I think that due to the fact that we have such a small amount of time remaining together, we can call a truce.

I want to remember the time I spent in high school fondly; I want to remember it as a time where I made mistakes, learned from them and escaped relatively unscathed. I want to remember all the fantastic people who made it possible for me to escape this 2.62 square mile town and move on to different and (fingers crossed) better things.

Sure, it will be a little scary at first to leave the comforts and safety of home, but the only way you can change and grow as a person is if you step outside your comfort zone. Class of 2013, we are about to take that step, and the world ain’t ready for what we ’bout to do baby.

## Life according to Vito

Natalie Taylor, English Teacher



I know none of you know my dad, but he is an amazing man. His real name isn’t actually Vito. It’s actually Witold Sztykiel (we love consonants in Poland), but we all call him Vito. Vito came to America on a boat in 1954. Neither of his parents spoke a word of English. My dad grew up in Hamtramck and eventually moved to Royal Oak. He was the oldest of four and was often told by my grandmother to go beat up the kids who picked on his little brother. He always followed his mother’s orders. Now he is 60 years old and has the most amazing mustache you’ve ever seen. He has been practicing law for 25 years and plays hockey three times a week. In other words, he still thrives on beating people up.

My dad taught me a lot growing up. To me, he is a part of this endangered species of people who believe in hard work—unglamorous and unrewarded hard work. When I think about a guy who knows a thing or two about being successful, I think of Vito. As all of you go off into the unknown, I thought I’d share a little bit of my dad’s wisdom that has always helped me. Here goes:

1. “Work is called work for a reason. If it was fun, they’d call it fun. They don’t. They call it work.” While in college, I always told my parents that I wanted to find a job that I loved. My mother of course applauded this, but my dad reminded me that work is work. And yes, I did find a career that I love, and so did his other children, but when I look at my sister and my brother (both with very nontraditional careers) I realize they are successful because they are so good at the hardest, most frustrating parts of their jobs. So when you do get a job, don’t expect it to be fun. Expect it to be work and act accordingly.

2. “There is no such thing as a short cut.” If I know one thing about my seniors, it’s that they like to take the short cut. But let me remind you people, there is no such thing as a short cut. You think there is, but there isn’t. My dad always reminded me that if I wanted to get better at soccer, writing, reading, or playing piano, it took time and effort. No secret ingredient, no magical solution. Just practice and patience. I know you don’t believe me, but I have confidence that your future life experiences will prove my dad right.

3. “Even though you are an adult, you never have to stop being a kid.” My dad takes his job very seriously, but he also loves to be a kid. He still plays hockey, he recently learned how to windsurf and he loves discovering new places. He recently told me that he wants to spend his retirement building Legos with Kai. Nothing would make him happier. So we know you guys are excited to be in the real world as real adults, but remember that sometimes all of those things you did when you were little—spending time outside, playing games, visiting new places—all of those things are important too.

4. “Do the right thing.” All of us have faced and will face all sorts of complicated moral challenges in our lives. My dad has always told me to “do the right thing,” which sounds basic enough, but has always helped me when I have needed it. When a problem approaches, we typically hem and haw, weigh both sides and are torn and conflicted. But deep down, my dad always says, we know what the right thing to do is. When you find yourself in these positions, and oh trust me you will, do the right thing.

When I graduated from high school (and when my other siblings did too) my dad gave all of us a copy of the poem *If* by Rudyard Kipling. It’s an amazing poem and the opening stanza goes like this:

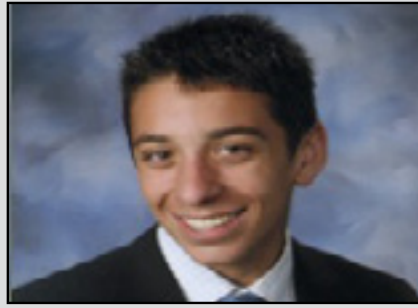
If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,  
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

Go read the rest. Basically, Vito and Kipling, they just spell it out. Yes, the future is exciting and hopeful. Yes, you are nearly free from the shackles of high school. But remember, if you want to be the real deal, well let’s just say it takes some guts. So don’t forget Vito. Don’t forget Kipling. Don’t forget the voices of wisdom, but for crying out loud, go find your own voice, path, and future. We love you and good luck!



## First rule of high school: Don't drop out

Mitchell Hart '17, University Of Michigan



"If I could go back in time to my freshman year I wouldn't change a thing about my high school experience." This has been the cliché message of many high school commencement addresses, but I cannot identify with this message. If I could go back in time to the first day of freshman year, I would do my time at BHS very differently. The following is advice for everybody who wants to make the most and receive the most from their high school career from someone that had to learn some of these lessons the hard way.

**Don't "Drop Out":** This goes beyond the obvious. To me dropping out is not only physically dropping out of high school but also mentally dropping out. More commonly called Senioritis or for some pupils Junioritis. Mentally checking out of school is just the same as dropping out. Don't do it! All it can do is get you in trouble, remember colleges can rescind admission at any time for any reason, so don't give them a reason to do so. Senior year ends early for a reason—hang in there until the senior walk.

**Do your homework:** I know it sounds obvious, but it took me two and a half years to figure out that when homework is assigned (including reading) it is in your best interest to do it. Not only will doing assignments help your grade, but it will keep parents, teachers, and administrators off your back. You can thank me come test day when you remember information that you normally would not.

**Get to know your administrators:** A good reputation can get you a long way. I think you would be surprised as to what you can get away with and what perks you can receive if you befriend Randy, Mike, and Ron.

**The counselors, too:** Imagine a person that controls your whole life. Are you picturing your mother? You shouldn't be. I picture the smiling faces in the Counseling center. Mrs. Helms, Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Bullis, and Mr. Beebe can be both your best friend and worst enemy. They control your scheduling and play a key role in what college you attend. They also nominate people for various activities that can boost your draft stock for college and can improve your experience as a whole. So it is in your best interest to be nice to them.

**Take classes you want to:** Don't let anyone else dictate your schedule, nothing can ruin a year more than a class that is too hard (or too easy). Don't get me wrong: just as in college basketball, strength of schedule is very important, but it is not the only thing. In basketball a win is always better than a loss, so getting an A in a regular class is better than a C in an honors or AP class.

**Have fun:** This one is by far the most important. High school is equal parts education and life experiences, and the best way to get those experiences is through having fun. Attend every BHS sporting event possible. Go to Homecoming, Snowcoming, Spring Fling and Prom; participate in spirit week and (wait for it) actually attend the pep assemblies. Go see your friends and fellow classmates in the musical or orchestra concerts, participate in the variety show (even if you don't have a talent) or even play golf in the hallways. But the fun doesn't have to be contained to the walls of BHS—make friends and spend time with them, go to parties and get out there. Sure, some of you are skeptical, maybe you don't like a lot of your classmates, I was the same way when I walked through the doors freshman year, and I couldn't have been more wrong. Coming into senior year I created a goal for myself: every time I find myself at an event like a party or school dance I was going to meet and possibly befriend one person I have never met before, and I learned one thing—there are so many cool and interesting people here at BHS. If you don't have friends it's not because there aren't any out there, you just have to find them.

Although some of these things may seem obvious, you would be surprised by the number of your fellow Berkley Bears who don't do them. Although it is much too late for me, it may not be too late for you. Underclassmen of Berkley High School, make your time here count, high school is a great thing and it would be a shame to waste it. Get the most out of yourself, your education, and your friends while you're here, it will transform an ordinary high school experience into one to remember.

## The realization of the bittersweet: It'll hit you later

Alison Jones '17, Central Michigan University



Who would have thought this time would come. The time when we can finally count the number of times we have to wake up in order to be on time on just one hand, the number of days we have left to skip until we get a talking to from Mr. Ross (then again, who are we kidding, we're out of here in a few days), or the number of times we see Rick's bright, shining face. The time is here, and it is slowly slipping away.

23 issues. Eight columns. Three years. Countless number of hours spent in room 116. And now, in a matter of days, my senior year will be over and done. It will be just a bunch of memories with a bittersweet ending. I've seen and been a part of some pretty amazing things over the last four years, and now, it is my turn to share some of my high school knowledge with the rest of you.

Senior year is unlike any other and there are a few things you should know. It won't hit you when you wake up for your last first day of school. It won't hit you as you walk into those senior doors for the first time as an official senior. It won't hit you when you cheer at your last homecoming pep rally and attend your last football game. It won't hit you as you go to your last homecoming dance and realize Prom is going to be way better. It won't hit you as you fill out the countless number of college applications. It won't hit you as you write that generic essay that you try to use for all your applications. It won't hit you as your college friends return for Christmas break and give you all their advice. It won't hit you as you celebrate New Year's with the friends you have known since childhood. It won't hit you when you cheer at your own senior night. It won't hit you as you are having the time of your life at your last high school Spring Break. It won't hit you during senior skip day, when everyone, no matter what group you are in, has a picnic.

When May finally comes around and you realize that it is your last Prom, you don't really feel it when you are there surrounded by the same people you started the year with. You may start to feel something as you sit in the auditorium for the last time watching the senior video, seeing pictures and videos of you and your friends from the last 18 years of your life flash before your eyes. The senior walk will be no different; you feel it as you walk out the senior doors for the last time ever as a senior. You begin to feel it at graduation when you look around and realize that you will never see more than half these people again. You will begin to see it more over the summer when everyone is getting their roommates, class schedules and going to orientation. It still hasn't fully hit you when you are sitting in your room, packing up the last 18 years of your life. You might feel it the morning you leave for college, as it is the last time you will see your room, your parents, and your best friends for a good three months. It will finally hit you when you are sitting in your dorm room with a perfect stranger that you have to live with for the next year.

Please, please, PLEASE make every moment of your senior year count; you only get to do it once. College will be a lot of fun, but in the meantime, jump at every opportunity you get to do anything that you ever wanted to do. Spend as much time with friends as possible, for it will not be long until you meet new people and inevitably grow apart. But now is the time for us to shine. The time when our dreams are within reach and possibilities are vast. Now is the time for all of us to become the people we have always dreamed of being, whether it be the teacher, firefighter, or doctor. This is your world. You're here. You matter. The world is waiting.



## Do not fear the unknown: There are limitless possibilities



Lindsay McFern '17, Central Michigan University

Today I walked through the senior doors, late as usual, for the hundredth if not thousandth time. For the last four years, these doors have been my sanctuary yet also my source of pain. Each day I dreaded waking up, knowing my day would be spent within those walls, behind those doors. But I loved knowing at the end of each day I would be able to step down the petite stairs leading to the parking lot, get into my so-called “hot wheels” car and proceed home. But as I reached for the door this morning, knowing it was one of my last, a thought occurred to me, that maybe, just maybe, I will miss this place. As I grew up, this place and the people here have surrounded me without fail. For nearly 18 years, this is all that I have known. And for the first time, as I leave for the last time, I may be scared to exit the senior doors.

This is the end of the beginning. So far, this is what I owe all that I am to. This place. These people. I’m scared to leave the comfort of home, the familiarity of this quaint place we’ve all come to know so well. Each day has been the same routine. My life has been static, every day being equivalent to the next. I attend the same classes and I see the same people, day in and day out. After four years this has become dull and repetitive. But for each reason I have to be overwhelmingly excited to leave this school is the same reason as to why I’m sad to let it go.

To leave the comfort zone of BHS is a step I am anticipating cautiously to make. I know that next fall, I will not be returning back here as I have every year prior. I will be walking through new doors; I will be walking into the unknown. And the unknown is scary. Life is a series of unknowns; we know what is expected, but we do not know what is to come. We are expected to go to school, graduate, get a job, get married, and have kids—the seemingly “normal” events of most people’s lives and stories. But what are we really going to do? That’s to be determined. We will all scour through life searching for what of the unknown is our claim, what will make us happy and what will satisfy us. To each of us, it may be different. We all came from the same path, yet we will not venture on together, because as we depart BHS, we will search for our place in a world bigger than Berkley: the “real” world, and no I’m not talking about six strangers in one house. It is our time to step on the graduation stage, accept our diploma and accept the challenge to make our life extraordinary.

Our success will soon be determined on how we navigate the unfamiliar, with each trial and each achievement, we soon move on to the next, not knowing where it will take us. But isn’t that the fun of it? After walking off the graduation stage we cannot certainly say what is to come of our lives. We have hopes and aspirations, dreams that we are firm believers in, we don’t know how we will achieve them yet but we have time. This is our time. Every possibility is at our fingertips, if we have reason enough to find it, though we might not know just where it is quite yet. This is our chance to search for our part of the unknown.

We will each undertake separate journeys in our quests for a life worth living, and hopefully on our way there, we may cross paths on occasion, but without doubt, we must all know where we came from. As the Berkley High School doors close on us for good, we open the door to limitless possibilities. This is our chance to transform the unknown into something of our own success and achievement.

## 4 ways to make the 4 years of high school the best 4 years of your life



Aaron Cohen '17, Tulane University

I never thought I’d end up writing for the *Spectator*. It wasn’t until I saw the movie *Almost Famous* a week before the start of junior year that I ever even considered journalism. On the first day of class last year, I made the fateful decision to simply not attend advanced marketing (sorry, Mrs. Cameron) and rather, try my luck at convincing a teacher I had never met that I deserved a spot on the *Spectator* staff. To this day, it remains one of the best decisions I made in all of high school.

Writing for the school paper has been fulfilling in every way imaginable. The friendships I have made are those that I will cherish for years, and the lessons I have learned along the way will help guide me through the next stage of my life. But above all, I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given to share my thoughts with you—the BHS student body.

I can’t choose a final message I want to leave you all with. I’ve learned a lot over the past four years. In traditional Aaron Cohen fashion: Here’s Four Ways to Make the Four Years of High School the Best Four Years of Your Life.

### 1. Do what you love

I’ve written it twice, and I will write it thrice, passion leads to success. Pursue what you love. Whether it be a sport, art, dance, technology—find what makes you happy and create an outlet for yourself. As a freshman, I auditioned for the fall musical and have participated in every single show since. Some of my best friends have come as a result, along with the amazing experience theater has provided me. For others it may be a sport or an academic. Regardless, finding something you care about and dedicating yourself to it will provide a richer high school experience.

### 2. Set Goals

Work towards something. Don’t let yourself become stagnant. Whether it’s academic success, a starting spot on a team, or a solo, always work to improve. It’s not always fun. Studying sucks. So do wind sprints, but in order to achieve, you have to be willing to pay the price. There is no better feeling than getting an A on a test you have studied weeks for. You won’t always succeed, but you learn as much in failure as you do in success, and in time the disappointments become lessons for the future. Never stop growing.

### 3. Establish strong relationships

At the end of the day, high school is about the people. Cherish the friends, teachers and mentors that will enter your life over your four years. Be there for those you care about, and know that they will be there in return. Give people a chance. The friendships you establish now may remain with you through the rest of your life—you owe it to yourself to meet as many interesting people as you can.

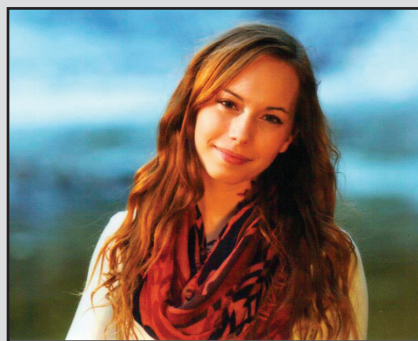
### 4. Be yourself

It’s so cheesy. As a writer, it physically hurts to print something so cliché. But after four years of navigating through the jungle they call high school (there’s another one), I can’t think of any message more obvious and more important. Use these four years to develop into the person you want to be. Stand up for what you believe in and stay true to who you are.

High school is crazy. You can’t understand what it feels like coming to an end until you yourself experience it. Or until you sit down at a computer and try to articulate it. I’ve had an amazing time in high school. To my 40-year-old self who finds this article some day: it was great. Sometimes it was hard. You laughed and you cried and you felt a lot of things you didn’t know you could feel. But you left high school ready for whatever came next. It was a great ride.



## Throw your fists in the air and wave 'em like ya just don't care



Veronica Marchese '17, Michigan State University

You know that closing scene in *The Breakfast Club* when the “criminal,” Bender, thrusts his hand in the air as Simple Minds famous song “Don't You (Forget About Me)” plays? If not, this is the culminating moment in the movie where everything comes together, and it is also my favorite part. Something about that fist being thrown in the air with such ease, the “we made it” moment, is the perfect ending to a truly great John Hughes film. As Brian, the “brain” of *The Breakfast Club* put it, the five students in detention that Saturday morning entered the school with the labels, “a brain, an athlete, a basket case, a princess, and a criminal,” because “that’s the way [they] saw each other at 7:00...[they] were brainwashed,” but they came out of their eight hour detention and learned something about themselves. So, as I sit here, four days from being let out of high school, I’m left contemplating what I have learned, what we have learned and experienced in our four years of trying to “figure ourselves out.” What do we have to throw our fists in the air about?

We may have entered the foreboding brick building of BHS four short years ago as young, naive, wide-eyed fourteen-year-olds, and even though we are still a little naive and wide-eyed about what’s to come, we have indeed learned a lot. We learned that eating baked goods before school functions is not a good idea, we participated in parking lot barbecues—well, some of us — and we earned quite a party animal reputation. We were taught how to beatbox by Gordy, we received infractions for forgetting to wear our I.D.s and we got to experience two amazing years with block scheduling. We’ve seen numerous administrative changes, from a semester with McDavid, to three different athletic directors. We learned how to take shortcuts due to the plague that is senioritis, and we learned that spending less time stressing and more time enjoying senior year is always the better option.

In the future we are all bound to find our own group, while in high school we were given a group, and I couldn't have asked for a better one to experience and learn things with. I've learned that I can't write about anything controversial without upsetting someone, but that with a simple heartfelt apology, all can be well again. I learned how to cram for tests, but more than a handful of times I actually learned the material. I learned that teachers are people too (crazy, right?) and finding one you really like makes school much easier. I learned that high school only brushes the surface of knowledge and to seriously learn something you have to go out and do it on your own. I learned that I don't hate high school, regardless of how much I and everyone else complains about it. I accept that school has its flaws, and I enjoy it anyway. I learned that judging people is stupid. The more I progress through life, the more I realize how stupid being judgmental really is. We all are different people from different parents with different life experiences. I learned not to sweat the small stuff: a bad test grade, a small zit, etc. Life will go on, and the little things will be forgotten. Let go of small details, and you will be less stressed, more peaceful and happier. Try your best, but learn to go with the flow. Don't worry. Everything will work out, maybe not today or tomorrow, but eventually. I learned it doesn't matter what people think about you. No matter what you do, some people are going to dislike you. Accept that, and move on. I learned high school is what you make of it. You decide how much you learn from it and how much you enjoy it. I learned too late that our four years in high school go by quickly and as Ferris Bueller put it, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it,” so enjoy your high school experience, and remember to learn every day. Then you too can thrust your fist in the air because you made it out with some stories to tell and some new found knowledge under your belt.

## *The Catcher in the Rye* corroborates senioritis—oh the irony



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As annoying as some might find required reading, I actually liked most of the books we were forced to read, and I actually think they have some real world value— like Holden Caulfield, remember him? For those who don't (or haven't read about him yet), he's the protagonist in *The Catcher in the Rye*. He's a teenager, he's pretty depressed and he's pretty cynical. Sounds great, I know. Holden's main issue is the phoniness that consumes the adult world. From this, he desires to keep kids as kids, to keep the world as unchanging, honest and as easily understandable as possible.

The place Holden sees as representative of such ideas is the museum of natural history. He liked it a lot as a child, mostly because everything in it stayed constant. The problem with the museum though, is that although the displays stay the same, every time he enters he has changed, and thus he understands the same things differently. For this reason, he avoids going into the museum, fearful that his new understandings of the same things will muddy and replace those older, happier memories.

Holden's understanding of the museum seems to resemble something in all of our worlds: BHS, or really, any high school for that matter. It's this place, this building that has existed for a number of years. And inside of the building, nothing really changes. The classrooms stay the same, the classes offered stay the same, the teachers (for the most part) stay the same, the scents stay the same and how it looks stays the same. Everything in and about it stays the same, everything that is, except for you. By senior year, we're all undoubtedly different than how we entered as freshmen. And because we're different, we perceive all of the things around us, although they've stayed the same, differently. Although we did understand things differently from freshman to junior year, we didn't understand them that much differently. This is because nothing in our lives really changed. For those three years, we were all perfectly content existing in an unchanging, predictable space of adolescence.

But then by senior year, something else happened. We started to apply to college or we enrolled in the army or really anything; we started to map out the rest of our lives. Then as we finalized those decisions, adulthood came closer and closer. Basically, drastic changes happened in other aspects of our lives, but then we still kept coming to this stagnant building. Because of these changes, we understood this building differently (hey PA people, meaning changes when context changes). Usually, we understood it as miniscule, and significantly less important than it was previously understood. We realized though, that we did enjoy ourselves for the most part though these past three years, and we didn't want to ruin the memories we made here, so we avoided coming. Yes, I do mean that we all acquired senioritis. Not just because we were lazy, but because we really did enjoy the past three years of our adolescence, and we just didn't want to replace our good memories with bad memories by doing things sophomoric to us.

So even though we might've despised our sophomore year English teachers at the time, I think we all owe them a great big thanks because they've given us the key to legitimize our lackadaisical (thanks Mrs. Filush) attitude this year. We're not just lazy, good for nothing, fat, American teens—well, some of us are. But some of us genuinely fear tainting our once chipper memories of high school with feelings of resentment and disdain. Maybe the world ahead will be phony and ugly, but the world we exist in now has become somewhat predictable and boring. And maybe once we realize the artificiality of the outside world, we'll long for a place that we once hated and claimed as mundane. Not right now though, but that's okay, because sometimes you have to leave things on a bad note just so you don't miss them too much.