

THE SPECTATOR

May 2015
Senior Edition

Class
of 2015:
farewell
seniors

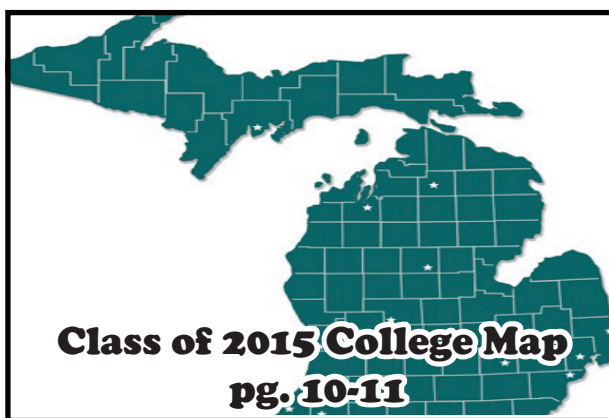


Berkley High School

Volume LXV • Issue VIII



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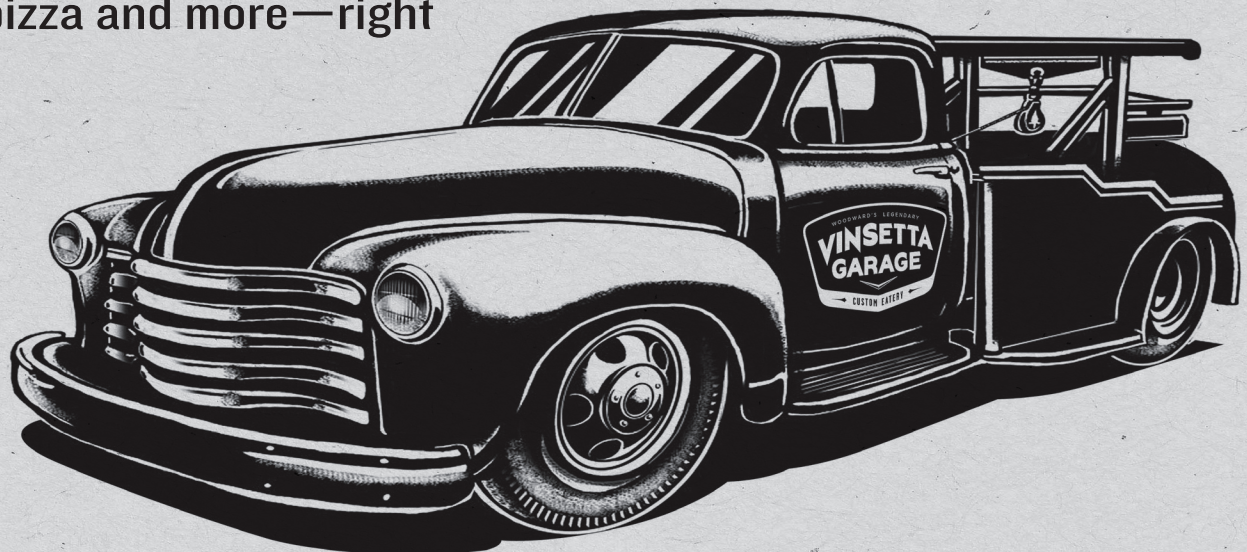
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VALEDICTORIAN

Lily Upp



BHS has been ranked in the top 2,000 schools in the United States, and the top 25 schools in Michigan, coming in at number 22. Among these 1,200 high achieving students is the 2015 senior class valedictorian, Lily Upp. Upp has excelled here at BHS since the first time she walked through the doors four years ago. She has worked hard her entire duration here and refused to take the route of a typical senior. Wanting to make the most of her senior year, she took two honors and three AP classes while simultaneously captaining the BHS dance team. Because Upp is too modest to say how great she is, it is up to her teachers. Mr. Paul Cierpial has Lily in his Project Advance class, an extremely difficult college level writing course. “The greatest thing about Lily is that she always pushes herself to become a

better writer, even if that means inventing new ways to write and think about her writing,” Cierpial said. “First semester, when she had to write a 10+ page paper, Lily invented a whole new outline structure.”

Upp also loves attending hockey and football games (although she is partial to hockey), Snowcoming and Spring Fling. These are a few of the many things that Upp will miss about being at BHS. However, the thing she will miss the most is being able to be so close to everyone she grew up with. Upp’s time at BHS was more than successful, and she plans to continue that success at the University of Michigan in the fall.

SALUTATORIAN

Richard Cheung



From AP exams to hours of practicing for an orchestra concert, senior Richard Cheung managed to find balance in his busy schedule. With a plethora of advanced classes, endless hours of studying and a constant demand from extracurricular organizations, Cheung has successfully juggled his hefty academic schedule during his time at BHS.

Since his freshman year, he has racked up an impressive list of academic achievements including being the president of Science NHS, Leader of Coalition of Teens Against Hunger, Math Committee Leader in NHS, an active member in Tri-M, a rugby player, as well as being a four-year member of Environmental Club and the Symphony

Orchestra. His commitment to the orchestra program has helped him learn the importance of time management and staying dedicated to a class he is passionate about rather than opting for additional advanced classes. “Academically, I would say that Berkley was challenging. But, I liked that they were challenging because it made the class more fun,” Cheung said.

Cheung plans on attending the University of Michigan in the fall to continue his academic career, preferably in microbiology. “I’m looking forward to the independence of Michigan and joining a bunch of clubs there, meeting new people and learning a lot,” he said.

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

Emily Zonder



Emily Zonder is an individual who radiates passion, drive and control, while simultaneously maintaining a strong sense of friendliness. Her unique and favorable character traits open her future up to near endless possibilities. At present, Zonder contributes her talents to worthy causes both in and out of school. At BHS, Zonder serves as the president of the National Honor Society and is an active member of Tri-M. Outside of school, she volunteers frequently and works with PeerCorps Detroit, a mentorship program which works for the benefit of the city and community of Detroit. “I try my best to be a positive person and to motivate the people around me,” Zonder said, emphasizing her commitment to the community beyond herself.

Zonder will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall. She is unsure of what specifically she will be studying, but she has an interest in Global Health, and wishes to take a degree path toward it. Zonder’s friend of nine years, Sarah Vertel, said of her, “Emily is one of the most diligent people I’ve ever met. Anything she sets her mind to, she can and does accomplish. Her success will no doubt come from her unrelenting desire to help better the community and world around her.” Such glowing praise does not come undeserved; Emily Zonder is certain to become a force for good in this world, regardless of the way in which she chooses to do so.

Marshall Deeds



The characteristics that one would immediately notice when being first acquainted with Marshall Deeds are his raw intelligence and radiating confidence. With these traits combined, Deeds is bound to be an extremely successful person, regardless of what he chooses to do with his life. While reflecting on his high school academic career, Deeds said, “The most rewarding [moment] was when I received an ‘A’ in Project Advance, because I felt that I actually had earned it.” PA was just one example of how Deeds worked extremely hard in order to achieve the letter grades that he earned.

While Deeds is very excited to continue his schooling at the University of Michigan, potentially either majoring in chemical engineering or taking the pre-med route, there are things that he will greatly miss about BHS. Deeds believes that the intimacy of the BHS community and the relationships that he formed with teachers are extremely unique and will be harder to come across in a college setting. As senior year comes to an end, Deeds is happy to say that this year he has made many new friends, and he finds it bizarre that his 13 years spent in the Berkley School District is almost over. While this may be bittersweet, everyone is expecting great things from Deeds, and many are excited to see what his future brings.

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MOST UNFORGETTABLE

Amila Rupansigne



There are always students at BHS that leave an everlasting impression on the staff and student body. Amila Rupansigne has permanently left his mark at BHS with his outside the box personality. He had the courage to show off his sick dance moves as a sophomore outside in the BHS courtyard with many of his peers cheering him on as a circle formed around him. This is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Rupansigne's one of a kind antics. "I have done some pretty crazy things in my day, but that's just me. I can be wild and unpredictable a lot, but I am also a likeable and fun guy to be around," Rupansigne said. While attending the 2014 Snowcoming dance, Rupansigne had too much excitement to contain so he danced like Jagger on top of a table for all to see.

Every year BHS holds the special event known as the Senior Bear Awards and the spot for most unforgettable is just waiting to be filled. For the graduating class of 2015 Rupansigne secured the title. The title was reinforced when an unexpected, and impossible to forget onstage kiss occurred between Rupansigne and Evelyn Dikes. In the fall, he will be attending Oakland Community College to study computer science in hopes of one day becoming a computer programmer. However, his "super chill" classmates and teachers will be missed, but he trusts that they will not forget about the eccentric Amila Rupansigne.

Evelyn Dykes



There is not one student in the class of 2015 that does not know Evelyn Dykes. Her personality, along with her actions, has earned her a sizable reputation. As a result, she was voted the "Most Unforgettable" senior this year.

Dykes is not only an active member of Bridges at the high school, but she is also the founder of the Gay/Straight Alliance at Anderson Middle School. Dykes even plays the ukulele, a rare and exotic instrument. Ms. Tanya Thomann, the Bridges club advisor and friend of Dykes, said, "Her ukulele playing in the hallway always brought joy to my life. I like her insight on things, her quirky sense of self, [and] her quirky sense of seeing the world. She's a fantastic artist, incredibly bright, incredibly caring, and I'll miss her."

One of Dyke's defining characteristics is her self expression. She does not care what other people may think of her or whether or not they judge her. She fully embraces her open mindedness and is proud to fight for what she believes in, socially and otherwise. Over the summer, Dykes hopes to be able to go adventuring across the midwest in a hearse. She said, "I figured if I'm going to do anything I might as well go to Gary, Indiana and start a cultural revolution." No matter where her plans may take her, it is safe to say that Dykes will continue to make lasting impressions on everyone she comes across.

MOST SPIRITED

Jason Wingate



The reason behind Berkley High School's lively energy is the students, and most specifically, Jason Wingate. His spirit is what makes this school what it is. Wingate carries a strong, fun vibe that is extremely contagious for the rest of the student body. Without Wingate, BHS would be severely lacking in spirit and enthusiasm. At football games, Wingate spread an extreme amount of spirit that would consistently get the crowd going. Wingate said, "[My favorite memory] was the football game when we all rushed the field, and I was sitting on top of someone's shoulders, screaming at the top of my lungs with a flag on my back. That was really an exciting and memorable moment in my high school career."

Although Wingate's senior year is coming to an end, he will never forget this school, especially how everyone is close to one another. Grace Hammerle said, "Jason is a very nice, attractive and amazing person." Hammerle continued, "he is always bringing people's moods up, and he definitely knows how to work a room of people. He deserves most spirited; he absolutely knows how to get a crowd going and hype even if we are losing."

Wingate is attending Central Michigan University in the fall and hopes to carry on his school spirit to college. Hopefully, Wingate will visit BHS in the future to spread pep and enthusiasm throughout our halls again.

Grace Hammerle



From the start of the year at football games, to the end at soccer and baseball, the senior class is what sets the tone regarding spirit for everyone. They are the ones that spark the chants, run the @bearpack Twitter account, and supply the energy to kickstart the entire school. This year, however, a certain senior stood out from the crowd of spirited students and has earned the title, most spirited. Grace Hammerle, throughout the course of the 2014-2015 school year, has shown extreme effort in creating an upbeat and unified student section at an array of events. Hammerle recounts her favorite memory at a high school sporting event being "when we stormed the field and got really hype at the USA football game."

She will be continuing her contagious spiritedness at Grand Valley State University this fall and says that she is going to miss "how everyone gets so into the games all the time."

From the beginning of her high school career, Hammerle has created a legacy for herself. "Grace is the person everyone looks to, to create a high energy at all of the events," fellow senior Julia Viner commented. Although her time at BHS is coming to end, there is no doubt that Grace has created a perfect model for future spirited students to aspire to be, and her spirit will indeed be missed.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Adam Edery



From prom to kiss-o-grams, BHS would not have the entertaining and creative events that it does if not for Student Leadership. Contrary to how it may seem to the average student, there is a lot of careful planning and hard work that goes into making each school event a success. One of the leaders of these operations for the past four years has been Adam Edery. Edery was the Junior Class President and was a major component of planning the beautiful and brilliant “Night in Gatsby’s Mansion” prom. Edery loved prom so much while preparing for it, mostly because he was able to try a lot of different types of food.

Besides planning prom, Edery also enjoyed being able to set up for the 2013 homecoming dance, the theme which was A Very Potter Homecoming. Student Leadership was able

to make interesting and unique props and set them up to transform the East Gym into a world of J.K. Rowling-like magic. He says that he is going to miss “having an intimate connection to all of his classmates and a sense of friendship.” This fall he will be attending Kalamazoo College, where he plans to follow his passion for student government, if given the opportunity. He plans to study political science and international relations. Student Leadership will miss Adam’s help next year, and his absence will be felt by all at BHS.

Eliza Laramee



From serving muffins on Monday to orchestrating the amazing homecoming dance, Student Leadership has done numerous projects to benefit the school. Nothing would have been possible without Student Leadership’s leader, Eliza Laramee. Laramee oversaw plans such as the holiday family adoption, which provided families in need with money and gifts, and all were a huge success. “Being student body president, I get to pick which projects we get to manage, and I thought: why not try this family adoption program?” Laramee said. She added, “It was really meaningful, and it felt really good to have students that work really hard and are so dedicated to put their use to a good cause that will help people at Berkley.”

Without Laramee, BHS would be a completely different place. She, as the student body president, has made Berkley a better place for students and teachers alike. “I will miss the spirit of Berkley High, and how Berkley has such a tight-knit community.” Laramee said. Her spirit and strong sense of community will follow her next year to the University of Michigan, where she was pre-admitted into the Ross School of Business as a freshman. Laramee has done great things for this school and definitely will be missed by all next year. As she departs from the BHS family, and heads to a much bigger one, Laramee is expected to do great things in her future and leave her great legacy in the Student Leadership class.

CLASS CLOWN

Joe Wolynski



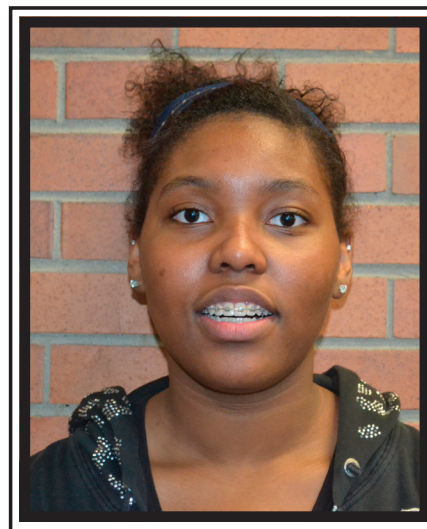
There are good comedians, and then there are great comedians. The great make hundreds laugh just with a slight flick of the wrist. Joe Wolynski is a great comedian, and is by far the funniest person in this year’s senior class. Wolynski’s comedic antics have earned him applause and praise from the majority of the student body.

By taking a look at Wolynski film career in the last year, anyone could see that his career is sure to take flight. With his most recent comedic video for advanced video’s Film Fest, “She looks like a horse”, Wolynski had a whole auditorium of students laughing; one student even said, “It was a satire of capitalism. I feel like Joe really expressed his strong political opinions throughout the film. I got a nice chuckle out of it.” Videos like this have made

Joe a bit of a legend this school year. Unfortunately though, Wolynski will be leaving the halls of Berkley in a few short weeks to begin his real journey.

After high school, Wolynski plans on “goofing around with the bros,” as well as working and attending OCC. It seems these plans are all part of a larger scheme though. While he is not sure what he will do past those two years at OCC, he said that he will either transfer to Harvard or go to a Clown College. “It is pretty much a 50/50 split,” Wolynski said.

Monica Wimbush



We all know that one person who is laugh-out-loud funny and does unexpected things in class. For Berkley, that one person is Monica Wimbush. Without Wimbush in our lives and in our classes, life will likely be very dull. She brings students joy during the school days, cracking jokes and making funny remarks in class to make it more bearable. Wimbush is not only funny, but she works at OTEC in the afternoon at Beaumont Hospital, and was one of the captains on the BHS swim team. “It has been a life goal of mine to get an award from Berkley,” Wimbush said. She continued, “I would like to thank my mother, my father and my classmates for all their loving support.” Wimbush, as the BHS class clown, has done a great job of

causing hilarious chaos in class and always making people laugh.

Her jokes will be missed as she heads to college at Michigan State University to continue her education. “I will probably miss the community and some of the really great teachers here at BHS,” Wimbush said. “My goal is to make money when I get out of college, and maybe, I don’t know, become an actress,” Wimbush stated jokingly. It is true that no one will be able to fill Wimbush’s shoes when it comes to bringing the laughs, but she will likely continue to make her jokes and entertain the people of East Lansing.

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ORCHESTRA

Harrison Saunders



Berkley's orchestras were met with numerous challenges in the 2014-2015 school year, but came out stronger than ever. To keep the orchestra on the track for success, cellist Harrison Saunders stood up and took control of the situation. "We needed a plan and a way to still act as if we were still going to festival... me as a student and me as a musician didn't want to see everything we built up fall apart," Saunders said. With the help of his classmates and the now full-time orchestra teacher, Ms. Natalie Frakes, Saunders got the orchestra back on its feet and to district festival, where they scored all 1's, the highest score a group can receive.

Saunders will be attending Oakland Community College in the fall, where he hopes

to complete his academic requirements in order to focus entirely on studying music in the future. He fondly remembers the orchestra's performance at Carnegie Hall in 2014, his performance in Jazz Band and his time at BHS in general, but he is excited about the future. "A lot of people say, including myself, 'I can't wait to get out of here.' Honestly though, there is a lot I'm going to miss... the arts program was incredible, and frankly, I'm going to miss that," Saunders said with a mixture of sentiment and hopeful optimism. Harrison Saunders poured countless hours into the betterment of the orchestra this year, and BHS will be left wanting without him. The musical world is surely to soon gain a very worthy musician.

BAND

Jaylin Herskovitz



Jaylin Herskovitz was an important leader for the Bears' marching band this year, but she was not always the type of leader she is today. Herskovitz has learned a lot during her time as a Berkley band member. She said, "I have really grown up from a shy freshman; band has taught me to be a good leader."

Now that Herskovitz has completed four years in the band, she has compiled a lot of outstanding memories. "I don't have just one favorite moment," she explained. The memory that Herskovitz said she will remember for the rest of her life is the first time she conducted the fight song at Hurley field for a football game. "There is nothing quite like that feeling of walking on to the

field," she said. "It was amazing."

Next year, Herskovitz will be taking her leadership and musical skills to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She plans to try out for the Wolverine marching band this summer, and she hopes to perform at the Big House on Saturdays next fall. Herskovitz is ready to continue her schooling and musical career next year. She added, "I'm excited to move on and meet new people, but the thing I'll miss most about Berkley is the people here." The BHS band will move on next year, but the student body will certainly miss having Herskovitz atop the conducting ladder next fall.

CHOIR

Noah Matthews



Noah Matthews was in Berkley's elite, audition-only A Cappella choir for his entire high school career. This is a very impressive achievement, as most singers in A Cappella are admitted into the class only after having been in a lower choir. Matthews prides himself on maintaining balance, being that he also played varsity soccer for several seasons. "I've been in choir since fifth grade, and in A Cappella I have sang both tenor and bass. You have to take pride in what you do, and I enjoy choir."

While Matthews was in A Cappella, the group went to the State Choral Festival as a result of doing very well at the District Choral Festival competition. Matthews describes this experience and choir in general as "something that if someone has the opportunity to do, it should definitely be taken advantage of." Ms.

Julie Ann Smith, choir director at BHS, thinks highly of Matthews and appreciates his dedication. "Noah Matthews is an excellent student... he is a leader within this group and is also super excited about the program," Smith said. "He is an absolute joy to have in class." Noah is torn, as he will not be continuing with music in the fall, and instead he is planning to study athletic training at Northern Michigan University. No matter his career path in life, Matthews will forever be influenced by his love for music.

DRAMA

Hailee Halprin



Hailee Halprin has been a part of the flourishing drama department since day one. Halprin has shown strong dedication in drama, as she was involved with Be Drama for all four years of her high school career and having participated in six shows. "My favorite memory from Berkley was opening night for my first show, *Once on This Island*... I was one of the only freshman to get a lead, and that was a really big deal for me, as this was the first real musical that I had ever been in," Halprin said. "Since I was little, I have always been someone who has not really known their own identity, and I was often adapting myself to model different characters that I saw in movies and musicals," she said. "I did not have a way to discover myself. However, through

theater, I found who I was, what I loved to do and what I felt passionate for." Halprin, like others before her, has found a special home in Be Drama.

Halprin's shoes will be hard to fill. Mr. John Hopkins, Be Drama and auditorium director, has made it clear that Halprin has had a big affect on the department. "Hailee was a standout from the beginning. When I first started here, she was even in the running for Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. She has a dynamic stage presence that shines," Hopkins said. Halprin plans to continue her education by majoring in musical theater at Columbia College in Chicago.

YEARBOOK

Malindi Lubinecky



Malindi Lubinecky's outstanding work in the yearbook led to her being the Editor-in-chief this school year. Lubinecky was on the yearbook staff for a total of four years, building her way up from staff writer then to the Clubs and Academic Editor, to Managing Editor and all the way up to her current position of Editor-in-Chief. Spending all of her years at BHS in yearbook, Lubinecky is very experienced in what she does. The last two years she has also been on the Spectator, which has further improved her journalistic skills. This year, Lubinecky was also the Editor-in-Chief on the newspaper.

Lubinecky says her favorite memory from BHS was her first yearbook late night. "My older sister was Editor-in-Chief at the time and

late nights made us bond with each other and the rest of the staff," Lubinecky said. "I will miss all the people I got to meet at BHS and the people I shared many of my memories with," Lubinecky said. Lubinecky will start her Freshman Year at Oakland Community College, and from there, she will take her design talents further to more cultured areas. Lubinecky's four-year career in yearbook and her first summer program helped her to find her passion for the arts and graphic design. With a career in mind, she plans to travel all over the country and even to Europe, hoping to eventually get herself established in New York or California. Lubinecky's future looks as though it will be interesting and bright.

NEWS/BROADCAST

Lexi Bartosik



The News and Broadcasting class of BHS takes on the responsibility of informing BHS of any and all important news with video announcements throughout the year. This class always has one individual that shines amongst the rest and that honor goes to Lexi Bartosik. Bartosik's interest in cinematography was sparked by the film studies class taught by English teacher Mr. Paul Cierpial. "Before taking film studies, I did not realize how much art and complexity goes into making films. I love that each piece of work can be interpreted in multiple different ways," Bartosik said. Film studies then inspired her to take both News and Broadcasting classes and a directed study, taught by her mentor, English teacher Ms.

Caye Matthews. The relaxed environment and easy to talk to staff will be most missed by Bartosik.

This year's Senior Bear Awards was pulled off beautifully by Bartosik, who was assigned the position of head editor on the almost yearlong project. "She has developed a creative lens with things that she creates and really works hard to have an emotional impact from the art produced," Matthews said. Her near future plans include attending Lansing Community College in East Lansing, and she aspires to one day produce horror films, similar to those made by Stanley Kubrick. The one of a kind entertainment created by Bartosik set the bar high for next year's News and Broadcasting team, and her cinematography talents will be greatly missed.

DECA

Valonda Sesi



DECA is meant to prepare high school students for all different kinds of careers in marketing, finance and entrepreneurship. Valonda Sesi is one of the many high school students that partakes in the program. Her favorite memory from her DECA career is when she accepted the DECA medal at the state competition, which is composed of hundreds of schools that have similar marketing classes to Berkley's. It tests the students on the specific career they might be in. There is a marketing competition, where students need to practice promotions; a business competition where they practice human resources; and a finance competition, where students need to work on different things, such as the stock market.

Valonda plans on moving to California for her education. She will be attending Grossmont Community College then transferring to UCLA. Sesi really enjoyed herself at Berkley and claims that she is going to miss "everything" from Berkley High School and the state of Michigan. "She is a very nice person, and she knows a lot about the subjects that we are learning" sophomore and marketing student Joey Berlin said. Valonda Sesi has had many different memories from her four year Berkely High School career, her favorite being this year's pep rally, in which she participated and helped coordinate. From all the experiences Sesi has had, she has definitely utilized all the opportunities that Berkley offers.

ART

Chloe Hill

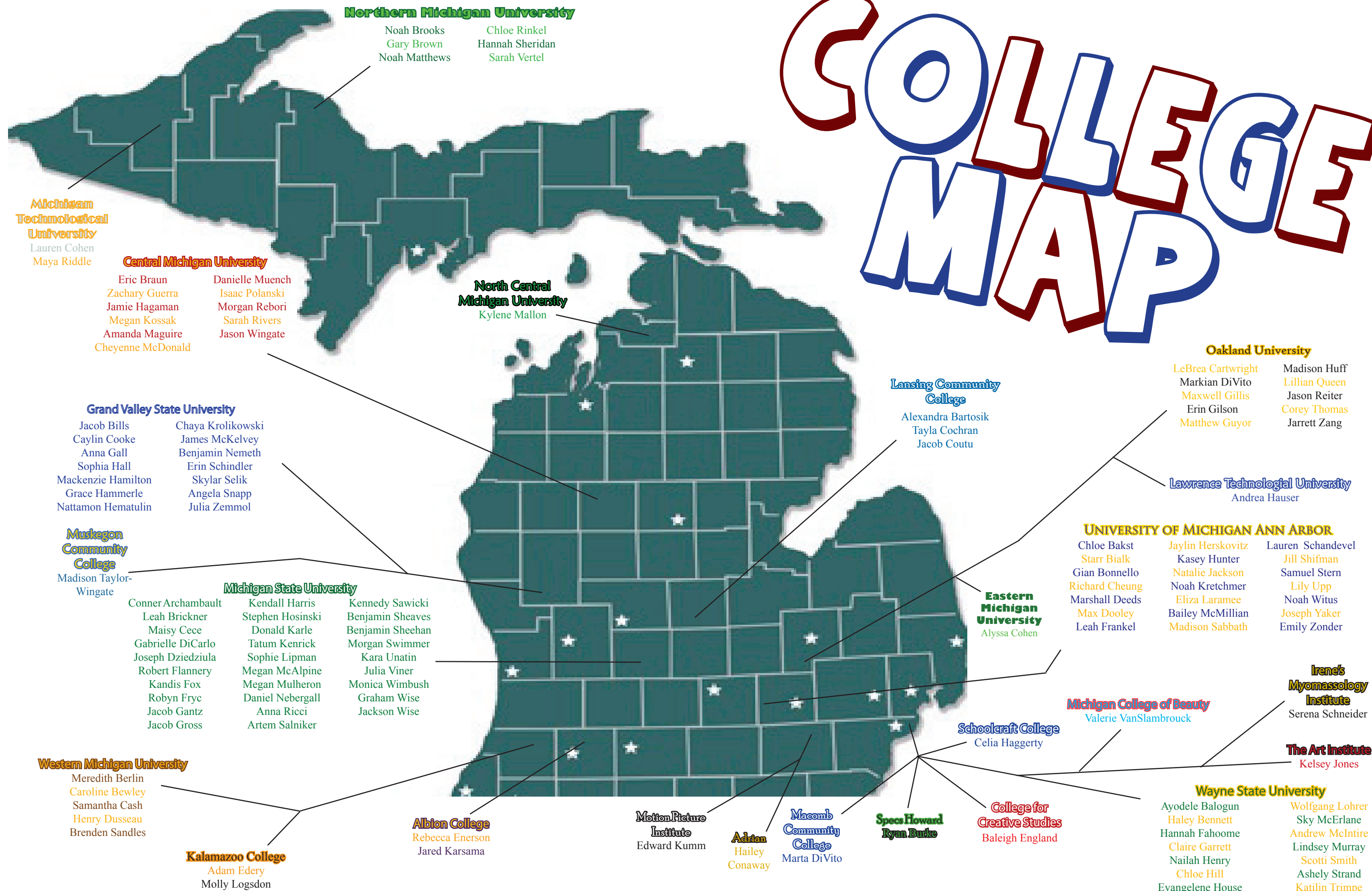


Throughout her four years at BHS, senior Chloe Hill has demonstrated her immense talents in the arts. Not only has she won Most Artistic at the Senior Bear Awards, but her work has also been displayed several times throughout the school. She finds inspiration mainly from her surroundings and environment. "Nature and big cities are easy to get inspiration from since there is so much going on at once," Hill said. "I've also always loved going to the DIA because other artists are what give me inspiration; I love the Lily Pad painting by Charles Henry Eaton that hangs there," she continued.

The AP Studio Art class taught at CASA by Jerry Lemenu is what she credited as the main source for her continual growth and refinement in the arts. Since the assignments

in the class are so vague, there is a wide mobility for creative freedom and it has allowed her to work with a variety of mediums. "I've worked with ink, chalk pastel, colored pencil, charcoal, watercolor and oil paint which have been fun to experiment with. The class has given me the chance to set aside time regularly for my art, which I don't always remember to do otherwise, so it is important to me that it forces me to spur creativity and grow as an artist," Hill said. She plans to take her artistic outlook with her to Wayne State University in the fall and has considered declaring a dual major in Fine Arts and Environmental Science while attending.

COLLEGE MAP



Northern Michigan University

Noah Brooks
Gary Brown
Noah Matthews
Chloe Rinkel
Hannah Sheridan
Sarah Vertel

Michigan Technological University

Lauren Cohen
Maya Riddle

Central Michigan University

Eric Braun
Zachary Guerra
Jamie Hagaman
Megan Kossak
Amanda Maguire
Cheyenne McDonald
Danielle Muench
Isaac Polanski
Morgan Rebori
Sarah Rivers
Jason Wingate

North Central Michigan University

Kylene Mallon

Grand Valley State University

Jacob Bills
Caylin Cooke
Anna Gall
Sophia Hall
Mackenzie Hamilton
Grace Hammerle
Nattamon Hematulin
Chaya Krolikowski
James McKelvey
Benjamin Nemeth
Erin Schindler
Skylar Selik
Angela Snapp
Julia Zemmol

Muskegon Community College

Madison Taylor-Wingate

Michigan State University

Conner Archambault
Leah Brickner
Maisy Cece
Gabrielle DiCarlo
Joseph Dziedzic
Robert Flannery
Kandis Fox
Robyn Fryc
Jacob Gantz
Jacob Gross
Kendall Harris
Stephen Hosinski
Donald Karle
Tatum Kenrick
Sophie Lipman
Megan McAlpine
Megan Mulheron
Daniel Nebergall
Anna Ricci
Artem Salniker
Kennedy Sawicki
Benjamin Sheaves
Benjamin Sheehan
Morgan Swimmer
Kara Unatin
Julia Viner
Monica Wimbush
Graham Wise
Jackson Wise

Western Michigan University

Meredith Berlin
Caroline Bewley
Samantha Cash
Henry Dusseau
Brenden Sandles

Kalamazoo College

Adam Edery
Molly Logsdon

Albion College

Rebecca Enerson
Jared Karsama

Motion Picture Institute

Edward Kumm

Adrian

Hailey Conaway

Macomb Community College

Marta DiVito

Specs Howard

Ryan Burke

Schoolcraft College

Celia Haggerty

Eastern Michigan University

Alyssa Cohen

Lansing Community College

Alexandra Bartosik
Tayla Cochran
Jacob Coutu

Oakland University

LeBrea Cartwright
Markian DiVito
Maxwell Gillis
Erin Gilson
Matthew Guyor
Madison Huff
Lillian Queen
Jason Reiter
Corey Thomas
Jarrett Zang

Lawrence Technological University

Andrea Hauser

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ANN ARBOR

Chloe Bakst
Starr Bialk
Gian Bonello
Richard Cheung
Marshall Deeds
Max Dooley
Leah Frankel
Jaylin Herskovitz
Kasey Hunter
Natalie Jackson
Noah Kretchmer
Eliza Laramee
Bailey McMillian
Madison Sabbath
Lauren Schandavel
Jill Shifman
Samuel Stern
Lily Upp
Noah Witus
Joseph Yaker
Emily Zonder

Michigan College of Beauty

Valerie VanSlambrouck

Irene's Myomassology Institute

Serena Schneider

The Art Institute

Kelsey Jones

Wayne State University

Ayodele Balogun
Haley Bennett
Hannah Fahoome
Claire Garrett
Nailah Henry
Chloe Hill
Evangelene House
Wolfgang Lohrer
Sky McErlane
Andrew McIntire
Lindsey Murray
Scotti Smith
Ashely Strand
Katilin Trimpe

College for Creative Studies

Baleigh England

Out of State

- ALABAMA- Jared Smith - University of Alabama
- COLORADO- Dominic Smarjesse - University of Colorado
- CALIFORNIA- Austin Justice - California Polytechnic State University
- ILLINOIS- Hailee Halprin - Columbia College
Kristen Kelly, Nathaniel Shaw - The Art Institute of Illinois
Bailey Smith-Helman - Northwestern University
- MINNESOTA- Caleb Driker-Ohren - Macalester College
- NEW YORK- Shayne Dooley - Buffalo State University
Dakota Drabek - Ridgewater College
Rylie Murray - State University of New York Potsdam
Jonathan Radner - Syracuse University
Samantha Taub - Sarah Lawrence College
- OHIO- Rachel Czapp - Ohio State University
Savannah Drain, Kristal Michal-Brasseur - University of Toledo
Sarah Starr - Case Western Reserve University
- VIRGINIA- Stephen Nast - Liberty University

Undecided

- Donell Dixon
Evelyn Dykes
Patrick Falk
Ted Hall
Michael Harvey
Jacob Herskovitz
Matthew LaPointe
Mikayla Schohl
Arrie Wilkerson

Armed Forces

- Michael Budurowich
Brian Domzalski
Suzanne Flood
Alisia Graham
Ziporah Krolikowski
Austin Matthews
Kelly Smith
Tor Wyatt

Oakland Community College

- Damon Alexander
Larry Alexander
Gregory Allen
Nicole Auger
James Carey
Faith Carlson
Jacob Chaiken
Tyler Coon
Stuart Craig
Logan Donnelly
Katrina Durham
Antoinette Flowers
Jacob Flowers
Kearstin Garland
Kiara Garland
Devin Hand
Madison Harper
Roman Hojnacki
Nicholas Hood
Brandon Kamo
Jacob Kennedy
Kevin Kizy
Mordechai Kornbleuth
Oleh Krysynskyi
Riley Lenhard
Breandan Lewis
Jakob Lewis
Malindi Lubinecky
Stephanie Luna
Andrew Maurer
Daniel McLean
John Mobley
Justin Morris
Nicole Mozal
Shane Muldoon
Hope Natinsky
Sarah Noble
Caitlin Ostler
Timothy Patmon
Dina Razo
Sara Reams
Shawna Reid
Christina Riley
Jared Roger
Daniel Rossman
Amila Rupasinghe
Harrison Saunders
Gina Shaw
McKenna Swayne
Raymond Talucci
Brooke Taradonia
Wakili Thompson
John Tisler
Kyle Walters
Josephine Ward
DeWayne White
Joseph Wolynski

12 THE SPECTATOR



BASKETBALL

Jon Radner

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Coming back from being down 11 against Royal Oak on senior night to win 78-71

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

All-League three times, All-Conference twice, Free Press All-State honorable mention, and state leading scorer as a junior

YEARS PLAYED:

10 years, 3 and a half on varsity

COLLEGE:

Attending University of Syracuse, where he will be a preferred walk-on on the basketball team

QUOTE:

"It was great to have a player on the court that we could rely on to get big points at the end of games; Jon always came through in the clutch for us," teammate Noah Witus said.



BASKETBALL

Sarah Vertel

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Spending time with the team and playing together every day

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

The Hustle Award as a junior

YEARS PLAYED:

7 years, 2 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Northern Michigan University where she will likely play on an intramural team

QUOTE:

"Sarah is always really optimistic. She's like never one of those people that gets down on themselves," senior Eliza Laramée said. "Sarah was just a really fun teammate to have."



TRACK & FIELD

Eric Braun

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Achieving All-state his junior year due to his under 50 second 400 meter sprint.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Oakland County 400 meter champion, OAA scholar athlete all four years, Rookie of the year, MVP, Iron Man, All-League, All-State, 4 by 100 meter school record holder, and an All-State academic.

YEARS PLAYED:

7 years, 4 years on varsity

COLLEGE:

Central Michigan University where he plans to continue running the 400 meter race.

QUOTE:

"Training for [track] is kind of fun; the running is sort of fun, but feeling good after a successful race is the best part."



TRACK & FIELD

Kandis Fox

FAVORITE MEMORY: She set a new personal record in the 800 and 400 while beating the goal she set for herself her freshmen year.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Personal record of 2:27 in the 800 meter run, Rookie of the year, most improved athlete, and was elected as captain

YEARS PLAYED:

4 years; 3 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Will be attending Michigan State University to pursue a pre-med degree

QUOTE:

"Running has taught me time management, persistence, and discipline. These skills will be an important asset to have mastered for life after high school."



SOCCER

Patrick Falk

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Beating Brother Rice sophomore year in districts.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

All-State as a senior, All-District all four years, All-OAA sophomore, junior and senior year

YEARS PLAYED:

10 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Undecided- considering Michigan State or Cincinnati where he would continue his soccer career.

QUOTE:

"He is always one of the hardest working players on the field. He makes an impact whenever he has the ball," teammate Grant Laramée said.



SOCCER

Rylie Murray

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Winning the league her freshman year

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

All-Association twice, one time team MVP, team captain for past two years

YEARS PLAYED:

11 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

State University of New York at Potsdam, where she is on scholarship for hockey and was offered a preferred walk-on spot on the soccer team

QUOTE:

"The thing I'll miss the most is playing with Eliza Laramée, Morgan Rebori and all my other friends. We've played together for so long, so it'll be really weird for me to step on the field without them."



RUGBY

Labrea Cartwright

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Going to Traverse City with the team to play and eventually win the Rugby leagues championship.

YEARS PLAYED:

3 years

COLLEGE:

She will be attending Oakland University and plans to pursue a career in the medical field.

QUOTE:

“As a senior I put my best foot forward and played by setting an example for the rest of the team.”



RUGBY

Caleb Driker-Ohren

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Starting in his first playoff game where he scored for the first time.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Caleb won the most improved player award two years in a row.

YEARS PLAYED:

Three years, all on the varsity team

COLLEGE:

Macalester College where he hopes to continue playing rugby.

QUOTE:

“He is a really cool dude, and he is also a very good rugby player,” sophomore teammate Kyle Samuels said.



GOLF

Julia Zemmol

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Her all-time favorite memory was when they were at practice, and her teammate was lining up to hit her first shot, and she accidentally hit a bird, not a birdie.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Earned: MVP award freshman year

YEARS PLAYED:

a total of 4 years, 3 years on varsity

COLLEGE:

Grand Valley State University

QUOTE:

“Julia is was always very dedicated to the team, she put in a lot of hard work and was always extremely caring towards her teammates,” senior Danielle Muench said.



GOLF

Donny Karle

FAVORITE MEMORY:

When we made states as a team sophomore year.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

OAA Scholar Athlete

YEARS PLAYED:

5 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Undecided, plans to tryout for golf in college.

QUOTE:

“Golf was a great experience because of good teammates, we always had a good time out on the course.”



SOFTBALL

Leah Frankel

FAVORITE MEMORY:

When the softball team won leagues last year.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ HONORS:

Rookie of the year as a sophomore

YEARS PLAYED:

4 years, 3 on varsity

COLLEGE:

University Of Michigan.

QUOTE:

“Softball has been a great experience to get to know my teammates and play the sport I love.”



BASEBALL

Shayne Dooley

FAVORITE MEMORY:

When the Bears beat Warren Cousino on a walk off hit last year in districts.

YEARS PLAYED:


11 years, 3 on varsity

COLLEGE:

University of Buffalo to continue his baseball career.

QUOTE:

“Shayne has a great arm and brings a lot of energy to the team,” junior Ryan Austin said.



WRESTLING

Gary Brown

FAVORITE MEMORY: Winning a match with seconds left to advance to states during his senior year

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED: 2015 state qualifier, All-county as a senior at 145 pounds, 2-time OAA league runner up

YEARS PLAYED: 5 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE: He will be attending Northern Michigan University

QUOTE: "One's greatest disappointments are their greatest successes."



VOLLEYBALL

Robyn Fryc

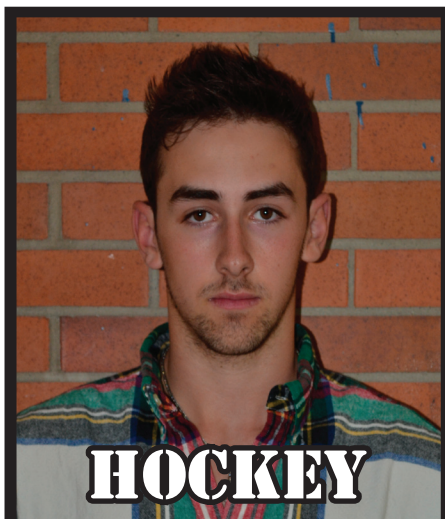
FAVORITE MEMORY: When she helped her team complete a comeback win over rival Oak Park High school this year

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED: OAA Scholar Athlete all four years

YEARS PLAYED: 6 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE: She will be attending Michigan State University

QUOTE: "Robyn came in with strength and determination each and every day to bring the Bears to a successful season," senior Eliza Laramée said.



HOCKEY

Robby Flannery

FAVORITE MEMORY: Winning the regional championship which led to playing the Hartland Eagles in the state quarter finals at Yost Ice Arena his junior year

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED: Earned: All-State for 3 years, team captain his senior year
YEARS PLAYED: 12 years, 3 on varsity

COLLEGE: He will be attending OCC, and will continue his hockey career in the junior league

QUOTE: "He's one of the best defenseman I've ever played with, and [he] plays both ends of the ice," teammate and junior Zach Leonard said.



CROSS COUNTRY

Anna Ricci

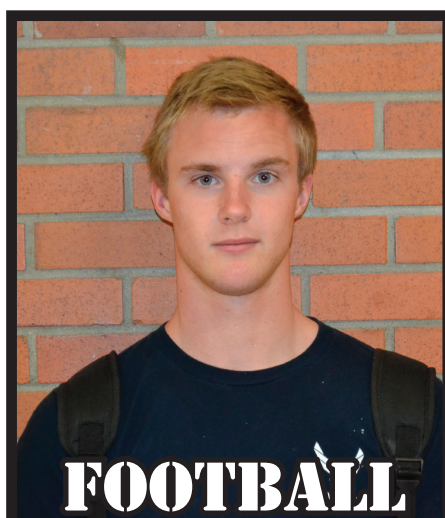
FAVORITE MEMORY: When she beat her personal best of 19.42 in the regional race of her sophomore year

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED: Being captain of the team junior and senior year, elected Ms. Cross Country her senior year

YEARS PLAYED: 6 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE: She will be attending Michigan State University

QUOTE: "I could not imagine how different the past four years would be if I had never joined the team. It has easily been the greatest decision I have ever made."



FOOTBALL

Mike Budurovich

FAVORITE MEMORY: When he blocked a field goal in double overtime during the Ferndale game this year

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED: OAA All-League senior year

YEARS PLAYED: 13 years, 2 on varsity

PLANS FOR FUTURE: Joining the armed forces

QUOTE: "Mike is an outstanding athlete, and he always works hard on and off the field. His tremendous skills pushed our team forward to a whole new level," junior Nolan Givan said.



FIGURE SKATING

Rachel Czapp

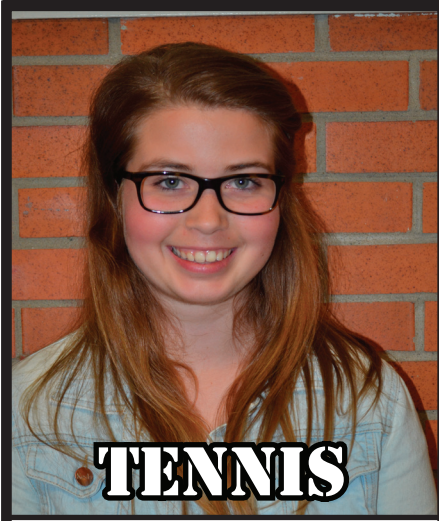
FAVORITE MEMORY: Skating her personal best at states in the individual competition

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED: Placed fourth in the state at the novice test track level
Team captain her junior and senior year

YEARS PLAYED: 11 years, 4 on varsity team

COLLEGE: Ohio State University where she plans to keep skating for OSU's team

QUOTE: "My time spent with my team has been amazing. I have become so close with everyone and have made many of my best friends through the sport."



TENNIS

Danielle Muench

FAVORITE MEMORY: Placing first in the April 25-26 tournament

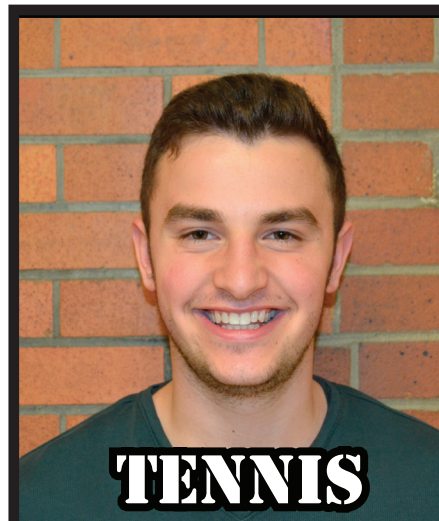
ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS

EARNED: Played one doubles her sophomore, junior and senior year; Coach's Choice Award for the past 3 years; and the Academic Excellence Award

YEARS PLAYED: 8 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE: Central Michigan University

QUOTE: "I love when the team comes together in a tournament, and we have a great bonding experience."



TENNIS

Noah Kretchmer

FAVORITE MEMORY: When Noah was a sophomore, Sam Subia, his former teammate was the last match on the court in the regional finals in a win or go home situation. Sam won and the team went to states and everyone, including Noah, rushed the court.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS

EARNED: Honorable All State mention, All-State, All-League, OAA Scholar Athlete and Team Captain

YEARS PLAYED: 8 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE: University of Michigan

QUOTE: "In practice, he is a hard worker. Blood, sweat and tears is his motto," teammate and senior Max Dooley said.



SWIM

Molly Logsdon

FAVORITE MEMORY: Winning leagues, being on the state relay team, and going to team dinners

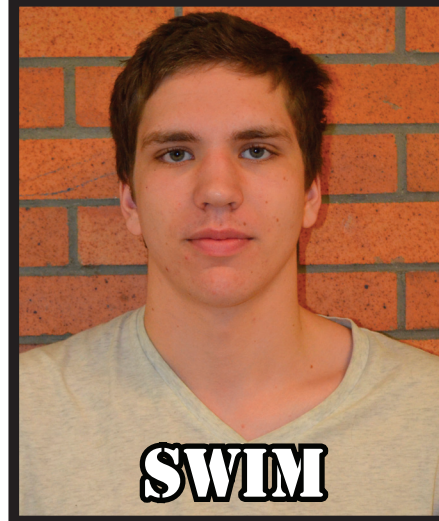
ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS

EARNED: First place at leagues where she was also named senior of the meet, out of all competitors in attendance. Competed at states as a sophomore, junior and senior

YEARS PLAYED: 10 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE: Kalamazoo College where she will be a member of the swim team

QUOTE: "I loved having Molly on the team because she was so hard-working and inspirational," teammate and sophomore Grace Hermann said.



SWIM

Stuart Craig

FAVORITE MEMORY: Winning leagues during his sophomore year

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS

EARNED: Coach's Award

YEARS PLAYED: 4 years, 3 on varsity

COLLEGE: Oakland Community College where he plans to pursue a career in computer sciences

QUOTE: "Hard work and showing up every day is important to succeed."



DANCE

Hannah Fahoome

FAVORITE MEMORY: Performing weekly with the dance team because she loves to perform frequently as opposed to practicing for practicing's sake

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS

EARNED: Captain of the dance team for the 2014-15 season

YEARS PLAYED: 17 years, 3 on varsity

COLLEGE: Wayne State University

QUOTE: "My parents found me dancing in a drum circle when I was young, and that is when we knew that dancing would be my thing."



CHEER

Maddie Huff

FAVORITE MEMORY: When she was the only person to get her full-up as a junior

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS

EARNED: OAA Scholar Athlete sophomore year and junior year, OAA League Champion as a sophomore, and All-League as a junior

YEARS PLAYED: 9 years, 2 on varsity

COLLEGE: Oakland University

QUOTE: "She's a good leader. She's always there to cheer people on and make them feel better," junior Madalyn Alexander said.

16 THE SPECTATOR

SO IT GOES

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

Now that my academic career at BHS has reached its conclusion, I would like to take this time to share my knowledge that I have gained over the past four years. As cliché as some of these tips may sound, they hold truths and actually apply to my time in high school.

1. Grades are just a number

Now, do not get me wrong, grades are extremely important. They are crucial for creating opportunities and other key aspects for your life after high school. But, do not be so hard on yourself over one bad grade or the fact that you did not get the exact score that you wanted on the ACT. The key word of advice that I give to you is this: "do not complain about something you can change and do not stress over the events in your life that are out of your control." In short, you can change those grades easily, but it does require effort and hard work because like anything in life, it will not be handed to you. Instead of attending a party or watching endless hours of television, crack open an ACT prep book or, better yet, enroll in an ACT prep class with an experienced teacher guiding you through the skills you need to know for the next test. If you are not meeting your expectations grades-wise, utilize the NHS tutoring board, ask your teachers for help and most importantly, set time aside to complete your assignments before you decide to go out. It is all about balancing work and play.

2. Ask questions

As simple as this may sound, it is essential for your existence at BHS. Asking logical questions are like candy to teachers; they cannot get enough of them because it means that you are learning. If you are confused on a homework assignment, unhappy with your test score, or perhaps seeking extra feedback on a paper, ask questions. As Albus Dumbledore once said, "Help will always be given to those who ask for it." So, do not be afraid to speak up and voice your concerns. If you decide to sit back, ignore your grades, and refuse to ask for help, you will only hurt yourself by deterring your future and limiting your opportunities, so take advantage of asking questions and seek help for your own benefit.

3. Spend time with your family


Yes, high school is a time to transform into social butterflies and form love-hate relationships with your parents, but the time you have with your family does eventually come to an end. And before you start jumping for joy at the idea of that, think about how after high school you will be however many hours away and the only time you will actually see your family is on breaks or vacations. While that may seem luxurious at the moment, do not take your time with your family for granted. Although they may drive you insane, set aside a day every now and then to spend quality time with your parents and/or siblings and you may be surprised as to how enjoyable it can be.

4. Indecisiveness



A fatal struggle of mine is that I constantly ponder what the next move is for me in my life. And while most would say that college is their next transition, I have learned that if you are unsure of what you want, do not waste your money on going to a big-shot university until you are certain of what you want to achieve. Until then, explore class options at a less expensive school and find what intrigues you or what you are passionate about. There is nothing worse than being a teenager struggling with student loan debt. Be smart about your decisions, and if that means taking a year off, affording an expensive college, joining the armed forces, taking over a family business or even attending community college, then make a logical plan and follow through with it. As you start searching through colleges, you will find your niche, and if you don't, start making decisions that will push you towards one. That is the thing with growing up; without trying something, you never know if you will like it.

5. Be gracious

As my dear friend, Maisey Cece has always said, "Give credit where credit is due." And that cannot be truer. I did not accomplish what I have presently without those who have helped guide me and shown me how to grow as an individual. Without the people in my life such as my amazing teachers, mentors, peers, friends and family, it would be difficult to determine where I would be currently. So, take time to say thank you to those that have stood by you, pushed you to achieve greater things, and have put their utmost faith in you despite everything that occurs. I would like to personally thank Ms. Caye Matthews, Ms. Emily Mullins, my siblings, my parents, my yearbook family and my wonderful newspaper staff. These beautiful and talented people have helped shaped me into the person that I am today. Their confidence in me, their very high expectations and their support has carried me throughout my high school career and has given me a reason to appreciate the smaller things in life that are overlooked most of the time.



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Making Maisy: My high school experience in a nutshell

Maisy Cece '19, Michigan State University

Basically, this is a column where I am supposed to write something super corny and sentimental about my high school experience and how after four grueling years of academic hardship and awkward social austerity, I made it through victorious and am now, more than ever, ready to walk across that dimly lit stage and receive my very own get out of jail free card, thus closing one short chapter of my life and opening a lengthy new one bound to beckon the unexpected... YEAH RIGHT! Because I'm a little crazy and a whole lot of me, I am not going to do that to you guys. Instead, I want to take this time to tell you what my high school experience was really like. If you know me, then you already know what it was all about and if you don't, well I guess I'll just have to tell you.

First of all, sidebar: what I am about to write here is a very personal ordeal that the rest of my family and I went through, but one that I am ready to share. I'll try and keep it light, but just know that I am telling you all of this not for any reaction of sympathy or pity, but for sheer understanding. I know that people see my family and realize that we aren't the same people we used to be not so long ago. For lack of a better term we've suffered and gone through some really messed up stuff. However, I have realized that to get better one has to be honest with others, including themselves, which is a really hard thing to do. Because of that, I have decided to do it here, in the best way I know possible, which is basically by writing everything down and just letting people read what I have to say for themselves. It saves me the hassle of having to explain it all for myself, by myself, and for like the hundredth time.

Looking back, my high school experience really started two and a half years ago at the beginning of my sophomore year. About five days prior to school starting back up for the fall, I had just turned 16 and the opportunities seemed endless. I was on my way to getting my license and because I was so "awesome" back then, over that summer I somehow lost like 40 pounds which was great at the time, until I rediscovered the magical taste of Ho-Hos that winter. Anyways, there were a lot of great things going on for my family and me, and it was looking like it was going to be an exciting next few years. With that being said, there were also some major predicaments in tow.

Two years prior to the beginning of my sophomore year my dad had been laid off from his job. He used to work at a huge golf course in Auburn Hills called Mulligan's Golf Center. He taught lessons to mostly stuffy, rich, old white men with nothing better to do with their time (or mountains of cash) and teens a part of various high school golf teams. Though the business itself wasn't so prosperous, it had a lot of great memories associated with it for my family. My brother and I practically grew up there, and really, it was like a second home. My mom had worked there part time and my dad had been the general manager of the place for as long as I could even remember. Eventually though, the business went financially under and it was bought out by a new owner and made into a different facility. As a family we were all pretty upset when Mulligan's saw its end, but it hit my dad especially hard as his career was solely based around the professional golf industry. A year later, my dad would lose his PGA instructor's license, and a year after that, he would be fired from a shoddy restaurant venture that one of his close friends had decided to pursue. Our house went into foreclosure shortly after that and with the lingering threat of losing our home, my dad buckled down and settled for a retail job at Home Depot.

While all of this was going on, my mom was struggling. A little about my mom: For starters, she was my best friend. I did everything with her. I confided in her, looked up to her, and at one point in time, aspired to be her. In all honesty, looking back, my mom had had a tough break. She married my dad when she was 18, had me at 19, and my brother Cam at 21. Before me, my mom was going to Purdue University to study health and physical fitness. I couldn't tell you what her aspirations were, but I think originally she wanted to be a dietitian. One of my mom's biggest regrets was giving up her chance at a college education, so when I was 14 and my brother was 12, she decided it was time for her to go back to school and see her goal through. This time she would pursue a degree in education. Later, that would change to a major in anthropology and women's gender studies. I was really proud of my mom for doing that, but around that same time, everything seemed to take a turn for the worse.

It really all began with her work on the 2012 Protect Our Jobs/Working Families Proposal Two Campaign. Around then, things weren't going great at home. My mom and dad had decided to separate. This wasn't completely shocking (really, it was anticipated), but still the emotional trauma was there. Neither my brother nor I would ever admit to feeling upset about this, but it was a mutual feeling that we acknowledged and grieved silently. As the separation preceded and the divorce finally ensued, we were we all about to be in for a rough seven months.

During that period my mom had grown distant and had begun seeing other people. She hardly came home, but when she did, it was a nightmare. I think witnessing my mom self-deprecate herself through the devastation of mental instability, drugs, and drinking was the most horrific thing I have ever seen in my life to date. Then, finally, on February 23, 2013, my mom left. I can't really remember what that day was like, but I do remember coming home from school to a trashed and nearly empty house. My mom had cleared out all of her drawers and half of mine. She had taken various pieces of furniture including my brother's bed. She had thrown away all of the food in our fridge and pantry and had even broken some of our cups and dishes. Besides the mess, all that was left of my mother's existence was a small neon pink sticky note stuck to the front of our kitchen's refrigerator door that read, "Sorry".

I was so angry that I began to sob hysterically. I tore up the note and threw it into the garbage can that was placed near our pantry and full to the brim with unopened cans and boxes of food and rotten meat. After that day, I missed nearly four weeks of school. As a rule, when I am going through something difficult, I like to just stay at home, away from everything and everyone. I like to think and plan, and that's exactly what I did. My brother and father weren't living in the same house as my mother and I at the time. They were literally just around the block from us staying with my grandparents, but they may have just as well been worlds away. I didn't know how I was going to tell them about everything that had happened.

The only other thing I can really remember doing around that time was sitting up late during the nights and looking through countless old photo albums I had found stowed away. I don't know if it's common for everyone experiencing a loss, but I became extremely sentimental, almost to the point where I was in some sort of incessant state of nostalgic haze. I wanted to grasp onto every single memory, emotion, and moment that I possibly could of the "old days." I couldn't tell you how many photos I went through during those four weeks, but it was nearly every single one that my family had acquired over the then 16 years of my life. From road trips to Disney and Mackinac, to crazy family reunions, and perfect holidays, I was obsessed with remembering all of these things. It felt like time was slipping through my fingers, and I couldn't grasp on to it anymore. My family was broken and with that our chances of ever being able to come together again and make memories like the ones I had seen in the old photographs.

When I decided to return to school those four weeks later, I remember one particular conversation that I had had with my Honors English 10 teacher Mrs. Tess Ferrara. It was right before lunch time. I was walking to meet up with my friends when she stopped me and asked if I would come to her classroom and talk with her for a moment. I said 'sure', thinking she was going to catch me up on some assignments I had missed. When we got to

her classroom, she asked me if everything was okay at home. All I remember saying to her was no and that I didn't think I was ever going to see my mother again. She was the first person to know that and for a long time, the only person I would talk about it to.

After my conversation with Mrs. Ferrara that day, I went back home and decided that it was time for a change. I could continue to sit and mope and cry about what had happened, or I could decide to continue to live my life. Life didn't stop for my mom, so why should it have stopped for me? That evening I walked around the block to my grandparents' house and told my dad everything. I told him about my mom. I told him about her abuses with drugs and alcohol. I told him about how she had run off with her boyfriend, and lastly, I told him about my conversation with Mrs. Ferrara and my sudden epiphany about life and moving forward. After that, I just hugged my dad, and we both cried. In that moment though, we both knew that everything was going to be okay, and so far, it has proven to be just so.

These last four years of my life have been truly trying. My family has been thrown every which way possible. To this day I have not spoken with my mom. She'll send me emails here and there, but mostly about her issues with my dad and how he "turned" my brother and me against her. I just ignore them. I think my mom is somewhere in Maryland right now. As for my brother, dad and me, well, we are just trying to keep moving forward and deal with whatever else happens to come our way.

I have had to grow up a lot these past four years, and because of that I was afraid that I would lose sight of who I am. If anything though, it made me see that person all the more. I am proud of every single accomplishment I have made and every success that I am bound to see within my future. I am attending Michigan State University next year, but I still plan on going to New York University at some point, even if that means for graduate school. I will be majoring in social work and minoring in family and marriage counseling. Four years ago, if you asked me what I'd be going to school for, I would have probably said writing, but I think this suits me better.

At the end, if only one of you reads this, I hope that I was able to help in some sort of way. High school isn't the end. As cliché as it sounds, it's really just the beginning. However, what we go through during these four years can quite possibly define the person we are eventually bound to become. This has ultimately been the lesson that I have learned from my time at BHS. Sad as I am to see it all come to an end, I am more than ready for this part of my life to come to a close. I am hoping for a clean slate and a fresh start with college, and I plan on having just that.

Since my dad is going to read this, I just want to say thank you, dad. You are the rock in my life and though we haven't always seen eye to eye, I love and appreciate you more than you'll ever know. I think things are going to start looking up for us and because of that we'll be able to get through whatever other trials life decides to throw our way. I also want to give a huge thanks to the BHS staff. From teachers to administrators, you have all been amazing people. Not only have you given me knowledge, but a wonderful example and better understanding of what it means to be an all-around great and compassionate person. As for the rest of you BHS Bears, my advice is this: Have fun! Live a little, learn a lot, laugh a ton, and love even more. The four years you spend here will go by so fast. So appreciate them now while they last because before you know it, this time will have already passed.

This is the End

Lauren Schandavel '19, University of Michigan

I don't feel like a senior. I have been passing faces in the hallway without acknowledging their impermanence; in one month's time, I will probably forget all of them without even realizing it. My turnitin.com account will expire soon, as will my Skyward account and my school ID. The locker that I have not used once this year will be handed down to someone else who will probably also neglect it. Some teachers will forget me entirely; to others, I will be a sudden flash of memory triggered by a brief comment or an image. If I am lucky, they will tell a story about me to their students, who will not be able to assign a face to my name. But it's cool, I guess. Life goes on.

I paid my enrollment deposit for college last month. I submitted my financial aid forms, signed up for orientation, filled out my housing application—a procedure that inched me further away from high school with each tedious step. At this point in the year, people are donning collegiate apparel for reasons that are strictly committal. "This is my school," they are saying. "This is the choice I have made." They too have undergone the same grueling admissions process, and are relieved to finally belong to something, anything.

I, on the other hand, wear my college gear with a hint of guilt because I have never actually owned any Berkley apparel. I was the too-cool-for-school punk who wore black during spirit week and skipped pep rallies frequently in favor of Chipotle burritos. But that does not mean that I did not love my school, nor that I will not miss it. Berkley High School is an integral part of who I am, and it always will be. Memories of discussions I had in PA will probably continue to resurface for the rest of my life, and I will always look fondly on the time Mr. Fadoir made a house call to help a group of us study for a Calculus final. The fight song will also probably never leave my subconscious.

So BHS, I bid you farewell, and I am sorry I was not more appreciative of you while I was here. Thank you for the education and all of the experiences, good and bad. When I am locked in my dorm next year hunched over a textbook, I will remember you with a twinge of nostalgia—but for now, here's to the future.

The journey of high school comes to a close

Madison Huff '19, Oakland University

I cannot believe my days as a high schooler are almost over. It feels like just yesterday that I was a typical freshman walking in on the first day, petrified of the unknown that BHS had in store for me. But here I now sit, only a week or two away from walking across the graduation stage to receive my high school diploma, signifying the end of my time at BHS.

Over the course of the past four years, I have been on a non-stop rollercoaster ride, eagerly waiting for it to come to an end. On top of the stress we all experience from school, I, too, had to deal with health ordeals, family illness and loss, as well as financial issues. All of these outside factors made getting through school seem like a nearly impossible feat to me at times. Yet somehow I overcame the impossible and am still standing here today, proud of all that I have accomplished, regardless of the obstacles thrown my way.

November 13th and November 18th will forever be days that haunt me. Those are the dates of my younger sister's passing and of her burial. Losing someone that was, and forever will be, so close to me, but so young as well, severely altered my state of mind and views on everything. I learned that, regardless of your age, life can abruptly cease to continue at any moment, and we usually have no control over it. This tragedy has made me realize that life truly is short, and it is up to us to make it the best we can for ourselves. I want to be remembered for something positive, for making a difference, for a being a good role model, not for being a lazy, ungrateful teenager who takes everything and every second for granted. Time is precious, yet most of us sit and watch it pass instead of making every possible moment count. My little Alayna fought with all her might for two straight years because life mattered to her, and I refuse to let her down by not fighting for the life I want. She is now my guardian angel looking out for me from above, and I will work endlessly to make sure she has a big sister of whom to be proud. When I receive my diploma, I know she will be watching, with a smile on her face, knowing that even after the horrible event of her passing, I am still pushing forward with all my might and am becoming a strong, respectable young woman.

Without the assistance and support I received throughout my years here, I could not have achieved all that I have or stuck it out till the very end. A major player in aiding me is our very own guidance counselor, Mrs. Robin Weiss. She was the replacement for my previous counselor, Mrs. Cathy Helms, and at first I was very skeptical about confiding in her. This woman was nothing but a stranger to me, and I had already become comfortable with Mrs. Helms and was quite reluctant to establish a relationship with Mrs. Weiss who knew absolutely nothing about me. However, something inside me convinced me to at least try and talk to her about the endless thoughts and worries in my head, and I have disclosed my personal life to her ever since. Weiss has not only given me great advice, but she too has made completing high school the way I intended to when I first arrived just that much easier. From letting me do homework in her quiet and easy to focus in office, to explaining to my teachers and administrators the situation with my sister that occurred this year so as to take that huge burden off my shoulders, she has been nothing shy of amazing. So, I just wanted to give you a whole hearted thank you because without you, Mrs. Weiss, I honestly don't know what my life in and outside of school would be.

Regarding what my near future holds for me after graduation is still somewhat up in the air. I am attending Oakland University in the fall and will continue to work through college as I have done since sophomore year of high school. But for now that is all I am sure of and that is okay with me. I like not having my life set in stone because it gives me the chance to go down different paths and figure out not only who I am now, but who and what I wish to be, following college. I may be a nurse or a teacher or possibly even an author, but for now I am going to enjoy the journey that will one day lead me to my destination: my future.

The excessive salary of professional athletes

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

Professional sports players. We, as a society, idolize them. Their jerseys cost hundreds of dollars, signed balls are put in shadow boxes, Fat Heads and posters line the walls of thousands of boys' rooms, and hours are spent watching games. We tend to hyperbolize how special these people actually are, and many professional athletes are put on pedestals; people aspire to be just like them. This extreme idolization, in some cases, is ultimately unhealthy for both the players and the fans.

Due to this idolization, pro athletes make an absurd, and not completely deserved amount of money. Tom Brady, a quarterback for the New England Patriots, makes over 27 million dollars per year while an average teacher in the Detroit area makes 52,000 dollars annually. Teachers are educating the children of the future, making lasting and vital effects on the world. Yet, Tom Brady still makes more than 520 times more than a person who is preparing hundreds of children a year for the life ahead of them. Justin Verlander, the injured pitcher for the Tigers, is making 28 million dollars this season even though he has yet to play a single game. Social workers, who save children from abusive homes and situations and find orphans loving homes, make an average of 44,200 dollars per year. While yes, of course, sports are entertaining to watch and a minority of athletes can inspire fans to follow their dreams, they are being paid more money than deserved. There are people in other professions, that without whom, the world would be a substantially less pleasant place to live. Yet many of these people who are making the world better place are teetering on the edge of, or even under, the average American annual salary of 50,000 dollars.

What tends to be even more nauseating, is the fact that many of these highly paid and idolized athletes have been involved in illegal activities, or have harmed other people. OJ Simpson, famous for his NFL career, but even more so for his murder trial, retired from the game in 1979 having been paid the highest salary of any professional football player. While found innocent in court, due to a vital piece of evidence—his glove shrinking and no longer fitting—it is well known that Simpson mercilessly murdered both his wife and his wife's friend. Despite Simpson's acts of assumed murder, his NFL number is retired and his picture still hangs in two halls of fame. Floyd Mayweather, a professional boxer, made 180 million dollars in his last match, not including the additional money that came with his win. Before this match, Mayweather had been found guilty of three account of domestic abuse. A man who repeatedly hurt the mothers of his children, was paid more than a teacher's yearly salary within a minute of this fight. Alex Rodriguez, third baseman for New York Yankees, came clean a few years ago about his use of steroids while he was signed with the Texas Rangers. Yet during his drug abusing years, he still made an annual salary of 21 million, and his salary has only increased since.

These athletes are supposed to be role models for those who look up to them. By making an extravagant amount of money, athletes are showing these kids that they do not have to be good people in order to be idolized. They can be drug users, cheaters, murders and abusers yet people will still hang their posters on the wall and still pay 180 million to watch them fight. Not only does the salary warrant players to continue acting without fear of reperucussion, but it also says to those aspiring to be like these athletes they can to do horrible things without consequences. They believe that regardless of their wrongdoings, there will be very minimal negative outcomes. By paying Mayweather 180 million for a 36-minute fight, those who watched and paid for the pay-per-view are saying to him that domestically abusing those women was okay or acceptable because of his job. The money that these athletes are paid, despite their illegal activities, feeds into the mindset that they are above everyone else because their actions go without consequence.

Athletes who have a negative connotation associated with their name do not deserve to be paid such an excessive amount of money, especially more than those who actually are making actual differences in people's lives, and not for the money but for the love of inspiring others. The excess money could potentially be going towards the professions mentioned before, such as a teacher or a social worker, instead of being spent validating athletes who have more than enough money as it is, and are not positive role models. These people are not superhuman as we, as a society, make them out to be, and they should not be viewed or compensated as such.

Protests grow around the nation: the problem with Black Lives Matter

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

Every single person on the face of the earth is responsible for the minimal progress of race equality. Efforts have been strong since before slavery was abolished in 1865, but we still have not done enough to make African Americans, and every other race, equal in this country.

Recently, the issue of racism in the United States has returned to the forefront of the news. Starting with the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, multiple cases involving police violence between white policemen and young black men that have resulted in tragic deaths have become a fixture of prime time news. Protests have broken out all over the country in an attempt to make change. Unfortunately, many people, whether they are involved in the protesting or not, do not necessarily understand what these protests are trying to accomplish.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is an organization which was founded in July of 2013. The organization was originally created in response to the death of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old black kid who was shot in Florida. After Darren Wilson shot Brown, BLM was revived and became very involved in the ongoing protests; but again, what are they really protesting?

The BLM website states that they demand the arrest of the police officer who shot Brown as well as the dismissal of the county prosecutor. Next, they ask for a redress of the problematic pattern of anti-black law enforcement violence. Additionally, they request that the U.S. government stops supplying military weaponry to local law enforcement. Black Lives Matter also wants the government to release the names of officers who have killed black people in the last five years and that they decrease funding for law enforcement at the local, state and federal level.

BLM is trying to reform the governmental policies that have allowed police officers to kill African Americans so easily. I have a problem with this approach to stopping this problem as it is important for policemen to have the necessary weapons in order to match the force of possible dangers so that they can patrol our neighborhoods and keep them safe. I have a lot of respect for the way BLM has taken initiative, but I feel that they are going about stopping the police violence issue in the wrong way. The police violence issues are purely a result of racism. Organizations such as BLM should be protesting the culture in the United States that leads to widespread systemic racism.

In a situation where a person is acting hostile in the presence of a police officer, the officer is forced to make a split-second decision on what to do. In this instance, the police officer is going to act on instinct alone. In most cases a situation like this will run smoothly, but in some, as we have learned in the last year, the policeman or woman will make the wrong choice. The reason wrong decisions have been made by white police officers in history are due to stereotypes about young black men. The white police officers are not necessarily racist individuals, but society's ideas about the typical young black man are a systemic problem. When making a split-second decision, these ideas that society has projected may shine through and force an officer into a bad reaction regardless of his true opinions.

Although a lot of progress has been made to give all people an equal opportunity in a society that struggles to eliminate institutional oppression, the job is not finished. The reason why systemic racism still exists is because of the schism that still plays out between the two races. It may not seem to be as prominent in our BHS community, but you do not have to look far to see a divide between black and white. For example, cities such as Huntington Woods and Berkley have small black populations, while cities like Detroit and Oak Park have larger ones. White kids growing up in white neighborhoods are raised without being in contact with very many African Americans, this contributes to the ongoing cycle of racism in America when diversity and equality of opportunities are not as they should be.

Just last month two 13-year-old kids in Bloomfield Hills, a primarily white community, harassed an African American student at school through the use of racial slurs. The kids learned the slurs from a video released by misguided University of Oklahoma fraternity brothers. The kids subsequently received 16-day suspensions. Even though the kids' parents are hopefully not directly teaching them to hate other people based on their skin color, the underlying stereotypes further display that racism is still prominent in American culture.

I want to be clear. I am not at all defending the white officers in the these horrible violence cases. They are 100 percent at fault. What I am saying is that the way that children are raised needs to be changed. Although it may not be as sexy as trying to pass federal laws to immediately bring about change, it is the right way to solve the problem. Police officers are going to have guns in this country, and as long as they do, the possibility of racially charged police violence exists, but the key to ending this problem is to make sure the next generation does not contribute to the problem of cyclical racism and subsequent discrimination.

I propose that BLM changes their objectives. While their intentions are good, I think that they need to rethink their approach to stopping the wrongful violence against black people. Just like in the Trayvon Martin case that triggered BLM, these killings were not planned whatsoever, they were, however, products of systemic racism.

Something original: the unoriginality of this generation

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

This generation "created" the skinny jean fad. We also had awesome boy bands, made "high-waisted" pants a thing, and created the concept of reality TV. But did we really? Are these all original ideas? Or are we bringing back cultures and ideas from previous decades and calling it our own when it truly is not? Whether it be in the context of fashion, ideas or sayings, everyone seems to want to be original or the first, but no one seems to have it be able to be just that. I cannot remember the last time where I saw someone's outfit, or heard them make a joke that did not remind me of something else I had previously seen or heard. This obviously is not through any fault of their own, but still, if one is not being original, one should not claim to be.

Originality was once attainable without making it a goal. Icons such as Marilyn Monroe, the first American beauty, the first woman of Hollywood and the first true American sex symbol, was truly original. Monroe was not basing her life off someone else's, she was not trying to be someone else; she was a pioneer for many women to this day. However, anyone who saw inspiration from her was instantaneously unoriginal. The second that an aspiring actress starts to dress in a Monroe fashion, or speak and act like she did, she can no longer be considered original in any way. One of the best examples that can be seen of recreating an original idea in present day is the resemblance that Lady Gaga's stardom has to Madonna's. Madonna originally started the fad of exotic costume and intricate performances. Somehow, this fact has been forgotten. In this recent generation of media consumers, Madonna is not even considered when viewing a Lady Gaga performance, even though she is the obvious inspiration. Madonna for decades has worn jaw-dropping, costume-like outfits that created shock value, while Lady Gaga has only done so recently.

However, the real question is whether or not people who are trying to pull their unoriginal ideas off as original or not know they are being unoriginal. Many of the "fashion-forward" kids that I see around make it pretty obvious that they have had some sort of inspiration for what they are wearing, but still claim to have an "original look." Whether it resembles something Rihanna wore to dinner or Kim Kardashian wore to an interview, if there is any resemblance, there is no originality. Yes, you may be the only one in our area to wear a certain style of clothing, but you did not create the look, so you should not be claiming you did by calling it original.

Unfortunately, a decrease in the ability to create anything actually original was inevitable. The use of social media has made it possible to access ideas from people who live on the other side of the world. This, as much as it is a good thing for innovation and evolution, has created an issue for the creation of anything original. Because so much is being constantly shared online for public access, it makes it very easy for someone to slightly modify it and call it their own. At the same time, it makes it difficult to actually create anything original, because people are constantly seeing things online that stay in their minds and give them inspiration.

But is unoriginality really a bad thing? If it is basically unobtainable, then there is no point in trying to obtain it. As much as it may seem to be an accomplishment to create something entirely on your own, it is not a bad thing to have a muse or two for which to base your creation. Anything that was created from an inspiration of something else should not be looked down upon compared to anything that was created from self inspiration. Although whatever is created cannot be labeled truly original it is still a new creation.

There would also be no evolution without the experimentation and growth sprouted from the inspiration of other people's original ideas, creations, sayings, etc. The concept of improvement would not be plausible. Because improvement is the process of building off of other things to create bigger and better ones, if everything were always new and original, there would be none. Therefore, nothing would essentially have potential, and everything would be considered the best that it can be and that would prove to be extremely inefficient which makes complete originality unwarranted and unneeded.

So next time someone calls you unoriginal, do not get discouraged. Originality is difficult to obtain in today's digital age, and does not necessarily have the best outcome. Improvement is necessary for societies and without unoriginality, it would not be possible. So just do you, even if it might not be truly *you*.

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History: Remember, do not repeat

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

About three years ago, I was watching the popular movie *Midnight in Paris*, starring Owen Wilson and Marion Cotillard. The movie is about a screenwriter who travels to Paris and everyday at midnight he travels back to the 20s. While he is in the 20s and having an amazing time, he realizes that even though this seems like the best time in history, it's really not the perfect era it's painted out to be. He realizes what many fail to—every era has its problems and people will always think that another time was truly the 'Golden Age' of humanity.

After my 13-year-old self saw that movie, that particular exchange was extremely profound to me, but I could not articulate exactly why I felt so much from a simple conversation in a movie. It was after I had gotten a little older and had made my way through most of high school that I began to understand the full weight of that message.

From the fashion to the theme of a party, society truly is always trying to recreate the past. Politicians always talk of times when things were better in the country. In the 20s, everyone was having carefree fun, and spending their nights partying at Gatsby's. The 50s consisted of poodle skirts and diners where everyone met up with their friends for a milkshake. The 60s and 70s were full of peace, woodstock and efforts to change the world. In the 80s, everyone was listening to Madonna and Michael Jackson and teasing their hair to embarrassing heights. All of these eras seem so glamorous to those of us who never lived through them, minus the 80s hair, but the truth is that they were not the perfect, simpler times that we make them out to be.

In the 20s, the economy was rapidly increasing, but in ways that would later create the greatest economic disaster in history. The 50s was an era where women and African Americans were still being treated as second class citizens. The 60s and 70s were filled with the Cold War and the Vietnam War, causing widespread fear. The 80s was a time of AIDS and conservative movements, like the war on drugs.

What I'm trying to make clear by this comparison is that everything has its positives and negatives. The era that we live in today may be the best or the worst era in history, but regardless of what it is, it is the time we have been given, and we must make the most of what we have. We cannot travel back in time or spend our lives wishing to be somewhere else, we must learn from history and move onward with our lives. In the movie, Owen Wilson character also says that "The present is always going to seem unsatisfying because life itself is unsatisfying." The truth is no one is ever going to wake up one day and just know that they are living in a magical time in history. Life is not magical and groundbreaking if one is hoping to be somewhere else, but it can be if they learn to accept it and to appreciate the little things.

Every time I turn on the news, the only stories that seem to be making headlines are about the horrible things that happening around the world. Politicians are pushing the issues that face the nation to the forefront of our attention in order to put our trust in them to fix the problems. It seems as though this is new and every issue we face is uncharted territory, and sometimes it is, but a lot of the time something similar has happened before. We are extremely willing to remember the magical and unimportant details of our history, but when it comes to remembering policy and law, we forget. History is a useful tool in dealing with the problems we face, and sometimes it is neglected to our detriment.

There are technological breakthroughs and changes in government throughout time, but people have and will try to fix the problems they see in the world and live happy and healthy lives. The idea of a Golden Age was conjured up to make people feel inadequate about the times in which they live, but every time can be a Golden Age. During every period of time deemed a "Golden Age," countless problems were still very present. Ancient Egypt had slave labor during its height and the Roman Empire persecuted people based on their religion. There is no such thing as a perfect time and there can be generalizations made about technological and economic conditions, but not the quality of life for every citizen.

It is important to recognize the problems that we face while we are on this Earth. In the end, it is important to make the most of our lives. Happiness is by far the greatest virtue one can have and is the foundation of a worthy existence. There are going to be problems and issues that arise both on a large, global scale, but also those that are more personal. Pushing through those hard times will lead to a true, personal, golden life.

Looking back on history for guidance is helpful, but comparing past and present is impossible and can have negative effects on people. Saying that a time was "simpler" takes away from the struggles that many were facing. We must recognize that we have and will always face problems, but it is not the forgetting and moving past those as a society that is crucial to our success.

No Child Left Behind: the American scheme

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Sometime around the turn on the millennium, a set of standardized tests were given almost world wide. The results of said tests were, at the time at least, shocking. Based on the test's scores, America was ranked in the high twenties out of all tested countries. Obviously, this wasn't good enough for us, so President George Bush drafted up and passed the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

This law has changed the public education system in America. It was designed to improve our country's test scores, which I think we can all agree is a noble idea, but the way the law went about improving our scores was controversial. The No Child Left Behind Act basically requires more standardized tests, and gives them much higher stakes. The rationale behind it was that the more tests one takes, the more prepared he or she will be for future tests. Unfortunately (and honestly, obviously), this has not been the case.

On an individual level, standardized tests aren't exactly separating the smart from the not as smart, as they were designed to do. In a recent study, it was found that the single most relevant factor when predicting a student's ACT score was their family's income. Think about that for a second. That means that how much money your family has will more accurately predict your ACT score than your GPA will. That fact alone is enough to take away most of, if not all of the ACT's credibility. The strong correlation between money and one's ACT score is cemented through various tutoring programs that boost scores, and if you've ever taken one, you know that they aren't cheap. People willingly pay so much for these classes because ACT scores are a key part in college acceptance. Companies like the Princeton Review know this and charge absurd amounts of money for prep classes because they know how important a good score can be.

Based on the importance of these tests, you'd figure that a lot of time is put into scoring them. Unshockingly, that would be wrong. Many former graders have come out and described different experiences they've had. One said that the longest they would look at any given essay was two minutes, while others told stories of their supervisors saying that there were too many of one particular score, and scorers were advised not to use that score as often. With that in mind, you're probably thinking that if the kids themselves do not benefit, then the schools surely must. That's a good thought, but it would also be wrong.

On a schoolwide level, No Child Left Behind has constantly hurt teachers in multiple ways. In many states, standardized tests are often used in deciding a teacher's salary. Economists came up with an equation (the same equation that is used to predict the birthing rate of cows) that predicts a student's possible score, which is then compared with the student's actual score. The difference in predicted and actual scores give teachers an 'effectiveness rating.' Again, this 'effectiveness rating' seems like a plausible way to see how well teachers are teaching, but again, it turns out to be quite the opposite in reality. For example, in Florida, a sixth grade English teacher named Luke Flynt was surprised to find out that his top students weren't achieving their predicted scores, so he did a bit of investigating. Flynt discovered that, "one of [his] sixth-grade students had a predicted score of 286.34. However, the highest a sixth-grade student can earn is 283. The student did earn a 283, incidentally. Despite the fact that she earned a perfect score, she counted negatively toward [his] evaluation because she was three points below predicted." This clearly unfair method of teacher grading has caused teachers, yes, teachers, to get so desperate that they have began to resort to cheating. In 2015 alone, there have been multiple reports of teachers doing various things to boost student test scores. Teachers have purposely left out answer keys at lunch days before the test was taken, or have even gone in and changed student answers themselves. This is a result of a highly competitive environment for teachers, seeing as one year of low test scores is now considered grounds for termination. Again, at this point, you are probably hoping the benefits are still out there somewhere, and again, you're wrong (wow, you'd be failing if this were a standardized test).

On a school district level, No Child Left Behind has done nothing helpful. Whether you know it or not, school districts and states have been prepping you for the ACT ever since you first walked into elementary school because, thanks to No Child Left Behind, federal funding is based off of high stakes test scores. You may think, 'oh, that makes sense, they must give the money to the districts that do the worst because they need it the most! No Child Left Behind isn't that bad,' and if that were the case, it wouldn't be that bad. Unfortunately, and predictably, No Child Left Behind does the opposite: the higher a district's test scores, the more funding it receives. Because of this, districts with lower test scores are forever doomed to continue having poor results because they don't get the necessary funding to improve scores. I hope you're not thinking, 'it can't get any worse, can it?' Because, yes, yes, it can.

On a national level, our nation's test scores haven't seen an increase since the No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law. In fact, most standardized tests have America placed below where we were fourteen years ago. After all this failure, you would think that we would step up and stop this program. Unfortunately, in 2009, we took another step in the wrong direction when president Barack Obama signed the \$500 million dollar competitive grant program, Race to the Top, into law, which only increased the amount of standardized tests and the value placed on them.

Keeping all of this in mind, you might be thinking, "who even benefits from No Child Left Behind?" And if you weren't, you should go back and reread up until this point. The answer, an answer that is becoming all too common to questions like this, is simple: corporations. Corporations such as Pearson PLC make billions of dollars producing standardized tests, textbooks on how to pass those standardized tests, grading those standardized tests, and anything else that has anything to do with standardized tests. Pearson has basically monopolized the testing industry, and has made a fortune while doing so.

In the spirit of standardized tests, I'd like to pose a question.

- Standardized testing is good for ____
 - Teachers
 - Students
 - School Districts
 - Corporations

If you chose D, congratulations, that's one point! If you chose A, B, or C, that is minus 10 points. In order to pass this exam, you need 100 points.

This question has everything you need to know about the standardized test industry: it's only good for corporations, is scored unfairly and isn't helping our nation. With all of that in mind, it is time to repeal outdated laws like No Child Left Behind that do more harm than good for our nation's children.