

BERKELEY HIGH JACKET



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ELLIOT SCHRAG

BY ELLA CREANE
Incoming Editor-in-Chief

Dear class of 2023, I can't imagine how surreal it must feel to have made it through the wackiest, liveliest, and most passionate high school out there. I know you all have stories. Whether they're horror stories of the M-1 bathrooms or bright spots of humor and unity, Berkeley High School has made its mark on you. And I can confidently say that each one of you has made a mark here as well.

Part of what makes BHS so special is the myriad of faces and experiences that our community is composed of. The sea of people making up this school can only be constructed into a community through the presence of fierce spirit and kindness; you all have provided that.

As the last class left to experience BHS before COVID-19, a heavy responsibility rested on your shoulders. To restore such an expansive school culture and history, while still moving forward, was a big ask. Yet this question was met with a natural zeal, as our halls were once again flooded with red and gold.

Rally day, dare night, assassin, and many other traditions were successfully carried out, allowing your morale to trickle down through the grades. Orchestrating the boisterous and unifying senior year that,

for many, is a defining part of the BHS experience, set the stage for years to come. Safety and excitement are not a mutually exclusive goal, and as you continued to cultivate the positive BHS culture we know and love, you proved that.

However, BHS does not just consist of traditions. We are a thriving and ever-expanding community, and the passion you all brought to our many endeavors did not go unnoticed. Whether through dance, athletics, art, or any other one of the ways our student body unleashes expression, your leadership was felt. The presence of those who love deeply and share it with the world around them is an irreplaceable tool for growth. No matter how you spread it, that love changed something and someone for the better.

Looking forward, you have something not many people do. You learned to navigate the complex, yet rewarding, ecosystem that makes up BHS. In doing so, you learnt invaluable lessons.

On a physical note, only the strongest can battle their way through the C-2 breezeway, and the coming years of your life will pale in comparison. However, on a deeper level, I see a community of self-possessed individuals, who are ready to tackle whatever comes next. The lessons you've learned here, as well as the lessons you've taught, lie ready in your arsenal, and, personally, I don't think the world is ready.

Congratulations to every senior; you have built an incredible community, and I hope your appetite for life and learning never ceases.

Goodbye senior Jacket editors!



Not pictured, but still loved: Gabriella Busansky, Talia Brand, J Horsley, Ada Rauber, and Sidney Walsh.

NOLAN WHITEHILL

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BLACK GRADUATION



MALINA MEISSNER

BY KAIYA JORDAN
section editor

“When I was a freshman, my family and I moved to Berkeley, and I think if someone were to tell me that this was going to be my high school experience, I wouldn’t have believed them,” said Rebecca Cardiello, a Berkeley High

School senior in Academic Choice, who participated in multiple African American Studies (AFAM) classes. “Despite how tough it’s been, we’ve had to adapt, we’ve all made it this far, so I want to congratulate the class of 2023. Today is our day to celebrate, feel accomplished for all that we’ve been through to make it here today.”

The Berkeley High AFAM graduation and celebration of Black excellence was held at the Berkeley Community Theater on May 20. The graduation included speeches from key teachers within the AFAM Studies Department, Superintendent Enikia Ford Morthel, students, and a powerful Afro Haitian Dance performance

with BHS senior Tyler Blue playing drums in accompaniment. During Cardiello’s speech, she commented further on the impact of the pandemic on her years at BHS. “(After) those years online, ... a core memory I have is being able to come back and see my friends,” Cardiello said.

Before commencement, Ikera Davis, an alumna of BHS and principal founder of Young Gifted and Black of Oakland, introduced a group of Bay Area students ranging from elementary school to middle school, who honored Black history through a beautiful performance of dance, rap, and song. The keynote speaker,

Delency Parham, BHS alum, co-host of the Hella Black Podcast, and leader of the People’s Program, left the graduates with some final words of advice, “To the graduates, the most important thing is that you all be patient with yourselves ... I think if anything these past few years have shown y’all that you can get through anything.”



SANAM ROZYCKI-SHAH

AMPS GRADUATION

BY LEO SILVERBERG
staff writer

Students and parents filed in on Thursday, May 25, at Oxford Elementary, to celebrate the Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS) graduating class of 2023. The ceremony began with some opening words delivered by Tonia Coleman,

who began her speech by honoring the AMPS staff and presenting them with honorary roses. Graduates were also given roses, and were instructed to give them to those who had supported them through their journey, which included teachers, friends, and family. A shared feeling of belonging within AMPS was prevalent in speeches

throughout the night. “I lacked community, and to my own surprise I ended up going to the most supportive and uplifting small school at Berkeley High,” said AMPS graduate Kamila Lopez. Following speeches by Lopez and Dez Mocling, students were led onto the stage to receive their certificates and sashes, where they each shared a quick

senior statement, which was read aloud by fellow teachers and counselors. These statements expressed gratitude for teachers, friends, and parents, as well as the AMPS community as a whole. The final speech of the night was read by Tasha Jackson and written by AMPS teacher Diane Kung, who couldn’t attend the

ceremony that night. AMPS graduate Ashraf Elshaykh, shared his appreciation for Kung, saying, “I’ve heard that even as adults, people always remember the most impactful teacher’s name, and Ms. Kung is a name that in the future not just me, but many of us will remember,” said Elshaykh. In Kung’s speech to the graduating class, she

expressed her belief of the graduating class being an embodiment of what she believed to be AMPS core values: empathy and compassion. “You truly are an AMPS family and that family feeling is more important than you think,” she said. “It’s what you will remember once you finish all your work ... and get out of here.”

AAPI GRADUATION



AVA MUSSI

BY COLINA HARVEY
staff writer

On Saturday, May 27, graduating seniors belonging to Berkeley High School’s Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community gathered at the Berkeley Methodist United Church for AAPI graduation. Many

of the graduates dressed in clothing that reflected their AAPI culture. Dana Moran, an ethnic studies teacher at BHS and the faculty advisor for the Asian Pacific Islander Club (APIC), kicked off the ceremony with a short history of the event. Senior Nathan Nguyen began the musical performances by playing

two songs on the Yangqin, a Chinese string instrument. He decided to perform at the AAPI graduation so that he could “go out with a bang.” He was followed by a performance of “Lemonade” by Jeremy Passion with Dexter Griffin playing guitar and Konani Chinn on vocals. After the musical performances, senior

Glenn Mah, vice president of APIC, gave a speech discussing what it means to be Asian American. “Anyone who has ever felt isolated knows that the most comforting thing is knowing you are not alone,” Mah said. “We are so privileged to go to a school where we can have this ceremony for us, Asian American and Pacific

Islander students.” The next speaker to take the stage was Matthew Laurel, teacher of AAPI literature at BHS. He gave the graduates some parting advice. “As you depart high school, write your own stories. Define your own identity and personhood. Harness the beauty and power and uniqueness of your culture and your

ancestors,” Laurel said. Before receiving their sash and certificate, each graduate was given an opportunity to say a few words of gratitude and share their plans for the fall. After all the graduates had walked the stage, Moran shared a final message: “The most important advice is buy a rice cooker for your dorm.”

LATINE GRADUATION



LILA HALLWARD

BY AARON STEVENS
staff writer

On Wednesday, May 31st, Berkeley High School celebrated its graduating Latine seniors in the BHS Little Theater. The Latine Graduation featured scholarship awards, a Danza Azteca performance, student and staff speeches,

and a graduation sash distribution.

At the beginning of the ceremony, BHS English and Latinx Literature teacher Amanda Moreno welcomed everyone and shared how fortunate she felt to work alongside “the most amazing Latinx educators at BHS.”

BHS Principal Juan Raygoza spoke at the ceremony. “When I look

at our seniors tonight, I think about how you had to navigate a world that often asks you to put your identity to the side in pursuit of academic success,” said Raygoza. “Still, you kept going.”

After Raygoza’s speech, Academy of Medicine and Public Service English teacher Karen Zapata led a moment of silence for Jazy

and Angel Sotelo Garcia and spoke about how the two were always friendly, loyal, and supportive of others.

Dylan Salazar, a graduating senior, shared a speech titled ‘Sé Feliz,’ which was followed by the march of the graduating students. Students were given a sash and shared appreciations as names were announced.

Following the march

of graduates, Moreno announced two students who had received the Justicia Scholarship award, an award honoring students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to organizing within the Latine community, fostering unity, uplifting others, and acting as a leader. The scholarship was given to both Ivan Cuatlatl Tello and Jasmine

Moreira Cortés.

After the speech of Emiliano Santana, a graduating senior, Moreno concluded the ceremony by affirming the students, saying, “Remember, Class of 2023, you are not powerless; you are powerful. And with the love and support of nuestra comunidad, we have the potential to change our world for the better.”



LARSEN PORTER

BY JOSEPHINE MORASKY
staff writer

“Seniors, seniors, seniors,” chanted the crowd. Much like the rest of the school year, the Academic Choice (AC) graduation was filled with senior pride, as students filled the theater with these words. Despite the size of AC, the ceremony

was surprisingly intimate.

The celebration began with a few words from AC Vice Principal Tammy Rose as she emphasized the magnitude of the seniors accomplishments. “Seniors, you have shown such determination and perseverance through the pandemic during these unprecedented times with online classes. You did it,”

Rose said. “We are proud of you, and this evening, we are all your community.”

Next, Rose introduced special guest Laura Babitt, president of the Berkeley Unified School District Board who explained that the BUSD mission and vision for students is “to enable and inspire our diverse student body to achieve academic excellence

and make positive attributions to our world.”

Lewis Smith, a history and AP Economics teacher in AC spoke next, expressing his amazement towards the AC seniors’ accomplishments and perseverance through “Adversity and difficulties ... (and) tragic loss of life, as well.”

A common theme,

COVID-19, stayed prevalent, as AC senior Rohun Barot spoke about the academic and mental endeavors the class of 2023 seniors had to overcome.

Once the definitive words of “we made it” passed through Barot’s mouth, seniors began to line up on either side of the stage. As their names were announced with a roar of

applause, they picked up a graduation badge.

The graduation was concluded with final words from AC senior, Lawrencia Hayes.

“In closing I want to wish all of my fellow graduates the best with their future and to always remember ... that we are part of a great legacy that doesn’t stop with us,” Hayes said.

AHA GRADUATION



LEV TEIBLUM

BY FINOLA JACKSON
staff writer

On Wednesday, May 24, Arts and Humanities Academy (AHA) graduates gathered at The Freight and Salvage to celebrate their community of student artists and visionaries. Surrounded by friends, family, and teachers, each graduating

student gave a speech about their AHA experience. In this intimate gathering, students discussed topics of resilience, creative growth, and family.

The night kicked off with a speech from AHA Vice Principal, Tonia Coleman. “I congratulate each and every one of you on this incredible achievement,” said Coleman. “You have

worked tirelessly to reach this milestone, and your dedication has paid off as you embark on the next phase of your journey. Remember, you are the future leaders of the world.”

Afterwards, seniors filed up to the stage in small groups to receive their black AHA stoles, then present their short speech. The tightly packed room

cheered enthusiastically as each senior ascended to the speaking podium.

Students spoke of the tightly knit AHA community. “Each one of us brings something special to offer that makes the community such a beautiful and diverse place,” said senior Winta Tesfaldet. “Our backgrounds, heritage, and culture are all forms of

art that make us who we are.”

Others spoke of the friends they had made in AHA, often waving to those sitting just a few feet away in the audience.

“I’d like to thank AHA because without this small school, I wouldn’t have met the most amazing people ever,” said Maraki Allen, a senior in AHA.

The night ended with a speech by senior Maddie Philhower, who was elected to speak for the entire class. “All I know is that wherever the AHA class of 2023 goes, creativity, connection, and a little bit of craziness goes too,” said Philhower. “It has been such an honor to talk with you, be in class with you, and make art alongside you,” said Philhower.

BIHS GRADUATION



MEI SAPHIR

BY MIRIAM REICHENBERG
staff writer

On Thursday, May 25, students, families, teachers, and friends gathered in the newly renovated Berkeley Community Theater to celebrate Berkeley International High School's (BIHS) graduating seniors. The event began with

refreshments in the foyer. All were ushered into the theater to an 80s pop soundtrack curated by the BIHS lead teacher, Becky Villagran. Students on BIHS Leadership handed out programs in which teachers wrote short and thoughtful appreciations of each of the graduates. The ceremony began with greetings from two senior emcees, who talked

about the warm spirit of the small school and their fondest memories. Students laughed when teacher Peter Rodrigues' stories about submarine exploration during his time in the Navy were brought up. BIHS Vice Principal Harrison Blatt praised the graduates, saying, "You are all smart students and leaders who will go on to care for and lead your communities."

A number of students performed creative pieces as well. Olivier Kohlmeyer shared a rhyming tribute in the form of a rap titled "Rhyming off the 2-3" that mentioned the connections he had formed with his peers and teachers throughout his time in BIHS. Leila Yokoyama played In My Life by The Beatles on the grand piano. Each and every senior

was met with a round of applause as they ascended the stage, one by one for the sash ceremony. The most enthusiastic member of the audience rang a cowbell when names were called. In one of the last presentations, BIHS teacher Richard Conn presented four students with the Kalpna Mistry Scholarship, which is awarded to those who embody the late BIHS

teacher Kalpna Mistry's passion for leadership. BIHS Lead Teacher Becky Villagran concluded the ceremony by thanking all the BIHS students and teachers for their hard work, grace, and self-awareness. Villagran urged them to always "aspire to cultivate community and ignite joy," as they leave the bubble of BIHS and go off into the world.



AVA MUSSI

BY OHAD AVIRAN-FINKELSTEIN
staff writer

On May 22, 2023, the Berkeley High community gathered in the BHS Library to celebrate the graduation of the 10th cohort of the Bridge program. The goal of the Bridge program is to provide all Latinx, African-

American, and low-income BHS students with a safe community and space, in which they can receive any extra support for their transition from middle school to BHS, and from BHS to their future college. Several students from the graduating cohort read speeches that reflected their time in the Bridge program and also appreciated all of

the teachers that aided them throughout their time in the program. One specific teacher that received much praise from this year's graduating students was Meredith Irby, a librarian at the BHS library and senior Bridge teacher. "My favorite part (of the program) has been following these brilliant students for the past three years, and

getting to see them grow and develop academically and as human beings. It's been a transformative and meaningful experience," said Irby. "It's been a gift to see how resilient and thoughtful these young people are, and I have learned so much from my students." After the students' speeches finished, each student received a Bridge

sash. In early October 2022, two deeply loved members of the BHS and Bridge communities, Jazy and Angel Sotelo Garcia, fell victim to gun violence. Both Jazy and Angel possessed boundless admirable traits — social aptitude, humor, and many others. In their honor, the Jazy and Angel Sotelo Garcia Award was

created and awarded to two graduating Bridge students having the same qualities that were deeply appreciated in the Sotelo Garcia brothers. Although the 10th cohort persevered through numerous obstacles in their high school careers, many speakers expressed that they have become a closer, stronger community because of them.

CAS GRADUATION



COURTESY OF MARGARET SANDIEGO

BY MATEO TSAI
staff writer

At the Freight and Salvage Theater on May 16, Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS) seniors shed tears, thanked their teachers, family, and friends, and looked towards the next stage of their life. CAS co-lead Phil Halpern

opened the night with a speech reflecting on the class of 2023, whose sophomore year went online due to the pandemic. As a result, each student in the CAS class received an appreciation from a CAS teacher as they walked onto stage to collect their diploma. They then had an opportunity to give a speech. Some students expressed

happiness to move onto the next stage of their life. Some students had graduated a semester early. Many graduating students referenced their CAS Fam in their speeches. "You got to be in the CAS Fam to know what it means," said Christopher Castro, senior in CAS. "Even if you don't talk to everybody, you still have

a connection with them that's close enough to ask how your day is," said fellow CASmate Sofia Rico. For many seniors, graduation is a time for reflection. Senior Liko Doo has been thinking about "the things I could have done better and the things I'm glad I did at all," he said. Castro is looking forward to being able to support his

parents — who immigrated from Latin American countries — after he graduates. "I see (my parents) coming home, sometimes very tired. And it makes me sad because I wish — I'm not wishing, I know it's gonna happen — pretty soon that one day I'll be able to help you guys out ... it means a lot to me to be able

to finish this small step in my life," Castro said. "I just want to make my parents proud because they've done a lot for me." CAS graduation occurred nearly three weeks before BHS's schoolwide graduation, so for some seniors, it had yet to sink in. "I think it's gonna hit me tomorrow that I actually graduated," Rico said.

RISE GRADUATION



SEBASTIAN FLETCHER

BY YSABEL CHU
staff writer

Starting at 6 p.m., on Friday, May 19, the Responsibility, Integrity, Strength, and Empowerment (RISE) graduates and their friends and family gathered in the Berkeley High School cafeteria. There, they talked and reminisced while enjoying delicious tacos for dinner. Later, everyone gathered in the library for the ceremony to begin. In

the background, a slideshow with the childhood pictures of the graduates accompanied by their current pictures played. Wardell Myles, the Chief Financial Officer and a case manager of RISE, gave the first speech of the night. He took the opportunity to thank the parents and community that has helped the RISE graduates grow and develop. “They say it takes a village to raise a kid, and that’s actually true,” Myles said. Two traditional Native

American dances were then performed. The dancers performed with a lot of energy and spirit. The audience was very impressed, and gave a large round of applause. Then a couple of RISE graduates were invited to give speeches. Senior Destinie Abrams spoke about her highschool journey and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as applying to colleges. She shared some encouraging words for her fellow RISE

graduates at the end of her speech. “My advice to you is to experience,” Abrams said. “Feel the joy, feel the sadness, feel the anger, feel all the feelings there are to feel. But know that all of this is for our greater good, and we will become all that we can be. If you don’t believe me, look at where you are.” RISE graduate Citlaly Espino Oregon also spoke. She expressed her gratitude towards her family and the RISE program. “The RISE office located within our school was my home away

from home,” said Espino Oregon. “It is a place where I know I’m going to be cared for at any time of the day, surrounded by caring and understanding mentors. The support I have received from the RISE team (has) been invaluable. They are my cheerleaders, my advocates, and my confidants.” After that, each RISE graduate received their graduation award and said a couple of words to express their gratitude. Many chose to thank their family and the RISE program for the

support they’ve provided over the years, and also shared where they are planning on going to college. Myles provided the closing remarks. “We know we started with 28 (students),” Myles said. “There were (a) few of us who weren’t able to make it through, but you guys did. I mean, from the bottom of my heart, I just want to say congratulations again. From all of us, we are just really proud. And I know you guys are going to do really great things, all of you.”



MADI NATHAN

SENIOR AWARDS

BY SAGE FELDMAN
staff writer

Filing into the Little Theater on the evening of Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at Senior Awards Night, scholarship earners and their families saw a table piled high with roses and awards standing next to twenty-odd donors. Yasmin Navarro and Jennifer Hammond emceed the event. Navarro, a college counselor in the College and Career Center (CCC), started off the night with opening remarks. “We are

here today to honor the hard work that our students and their families have put in through 12 years of public education,” she said. Hammond, also a college counselor in the CCC, acknowledged the effort of the assembled student, and was first to present an award, recognizing five students with the In Dulci Jubilo Scholarship. Next, Navarro brought the executive director of the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, Erin Rhoades, to the stage to distribute the Fund’s scholarships. Roberto Ocampo and Emiliano

Santana were honored as distinguished graduates of Sylvia Mendez Elementary, Eamon Collins and Ajmal Khan for their outstanding work in the drama department, and Lily Crook for her continued devotion to music. Berkeley High School’s strong community bonds were shown, as five members of the BHS class of 1963 awarded seven students the Alumni Scholarship. Hammond snapped a picture of two generations of BHS students, 60 years apart. Navarro awarded 53

scholarships, funded by the BHS Development Group, to students with an estimated family financial contribution to college of less than one thousand dollars. She was followed by Matt Cherry, presenting the Shelley Bergum Award on behalf of the California Communications Access Foundation to McCrae Murphy. The scholarship is given to students who have overcome great challenges. “We’re very proud to present this year’s scholarship to McCrae Murphy, who persevered through a myriad of personal

and family challenges to achieve his goal of going to college,” Cherry said. Four students were awarded a scholarship from the Teo Fund, which recognizes students who represent the spirit of Teo Surasky (BHS class of 2020). “Teoism?... is being caring and it’s being kind,” said Dianne Dodge, Surasky’s aunt. She and two others close to Surasky took the moment to honor his memory, and to offer words to the graduating class. Navarro, in memory of Maria Escudero, Francisco Escudero, and Raul Eduardo

Aragon, then presented the Aragon Family Memorial Scholarship to five students. Family Engagement and District Equity Specialist, Irma Parker, gave Aris Carter scholarships from Parents of Children of African Descent and the National Society of Black Engineers. Navarro ended the ceremony by giving three prospective University of California Berkeley students a scholarship in memory of Robert Bates. Hammond delivered her closing remarks. “Don’t forget, Berkeley is here for you,” she said.



Listen to the Buzz: Out into the World Graduation Episode

The Buzz asked seniors to share their high school memories, from the everyday and mundane, to the big and memorable. What will they take with them as they move forward?

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senior profiles!



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Scan the QR code or go to bhsjacket.com to see profiles of some exceptional seniors from this year’s graduating class of 2023. Several seniors not featured in print will also be available to see on our website!



SUNNY BEVIS-LIPTON

Small School: AHA

BY MADELYN PHILHOWER
staff writer

EMILIANO SANTANA

On a random Wednesday, you might find Emiliano Santana in the fabrications room at Berkeley High School, clicking away at a computer as he digitizes the swooping strokes of calligraphy lettering. As the founder of the Native Student Union at Berkeley High School and member of Latinos Unidos, Santana combines his Native and Chicano identities to represent his culture and community through art. “Words are definitely my main medium,” said Santana. He grew up around graffiti artists and was

introduced to the art of calligraphy when he took Eric Norberg’s drawing class freshman year. “I had always grown up hearing that old English calligraphy was the predecessor to graffiti, but it was always an uppity white people thing to me,” Santana said. However as time went on Santana saw how calligraphy was adapted and used by his own community, and began to experiment with and embrace the art form. “Now I try to add my own culture into my art, and spread it throughout

the world, and share brown pride,” Santana said. This year, Santana was commissioned by Aaron Lechuga, a counselor at Longfellow Middle School (LMS) to design T-shirts and logos for both Young Mentors, a young men’s group, and Raza Youth Concilio, a meeting space for students of color, at LMS. “Along with my friend Danny... we designed their program for Latino graduation,” Santana said. For anyone curious about calligraphy, Santana says to “just buy any cheap *ss dollar store marker, (because

you gotta start from your basics, your fundamentals.” After that, you just need to “Get to work! Get a book ... fill it up to the brim, don’t leave any space, and it’s gonna look (like) trash, but the next book is gonna be a little better, till you’re awesome,” Santana said. Finally, for Santana, connection is the key to success. “Stay connected with people. I’ve known Mr. Lechuga for ten years. I went to class with his son... But ten years later, he commissioned me, so keep your connections, and keep practicing.”

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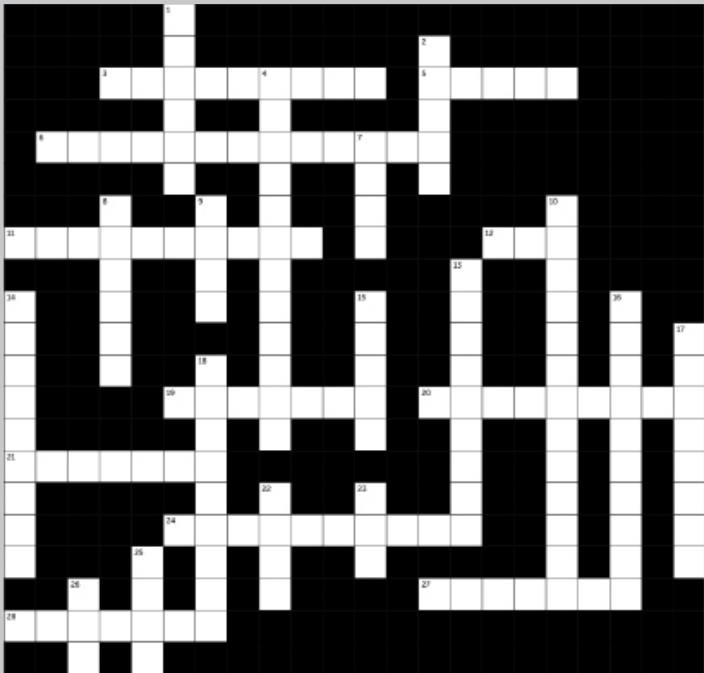
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THE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 3. What often permeates the C2 hallways
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- 6. Classic lunchtime location
- 11. Our favorite colors
- 12. What’s spilled in the C2 bathrooms
- 19. Our king
- 20. Chief of publicity with the messiest room
- 21. AP test location
- 24. What brings us all to the football field
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- 28. Littest party ever

DOWN

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- 25. Why your feet still hurt
- 26. Snooty IB class with a weird abbreviation

— Ella Creane

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A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

MIMIA OUSILAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



NOLAN WHITEHILL

When I reflect on my Jacket experience, it's hard to sum up what I feel in so few words. This column couldn't possibly fit all the meaning that the past three years – and hundreds of hours – have meant for me. And yet here I am wasting away words talking about how little words I have. Ok here goes nothing...

The Jacket has been the source of some of the best and worst moments of my life. I have spent sleepless nights on InDesign, little by little trying to perfect each issue. I have had to make difficult decisions amid time sensitive, unprecedented circumstances, with zero certainty it was the right one.

But I've also received incredibly grateful messages from people who felt seen and heard by articles I wrote. I've been thanked by teachers who taught many underrepresented students who joined the Jacket in our diversity efforts.

THAT is what all of this has been for me. An opportunity to uplift people and their stories that hadn't been told before, or have previously been told in inaccurate or insensitive ways. I won't pretend I've done the perfect job, but learning that these stories make people feel heard and respected is what this is all about.

(And hearing the title 'Mi-mama,' which trust me, I'll never forget).

Just like I'm not perfect, neither is the Jacket. I've seen and still see ways in which the paper can be improved. But our foundation, our dedication, and our people are vital to our inner strength. And many of you rarely get the credit you deserve.

Lianna and Naomi, I truly could not have asked for a better managing team to support me, especially when I didn't have to ask for it. I will always remember our meetings that went on for hours (my brain felt like it had gone to mush), and our very off-topic side tangents that took place in said meetings.

My closest friends (you know who you are), thank you for being patient with me disappearing into my phone at random moments to respond to Slack. Thank you for being incredibly attentive, kind, loyal, people who constantly inspire me and are genuinely the most fun people I know.

Mr R, thank you for having my back, especially when I felt I didn't have my own. Your relentless faith in me to create and define what we hadn't seen before on Jacket leaves me in a huge debt of gratitude.

To my editors (yes I can call you MY editors) who never stopped pushing for authentic, engaging, and nuanced journalism, please accept my million thank you's! I'm the first to know this job can feel thankless, but please know this paper would truly not be what it is without you taking time to produce thoughtful and inspiring journalism.

Ella, your vibrancy and passion for Jacket will carry this paper so far. I could not be more excited for what is to come next year, and I know your leadership (and bluntly hilarious jokes) will bring light to the Jacket space.

So I guess I kind of do know how to wrap up my Jacket experience: with gratitude. Thank you thank you thank you to everyone who made this one-in-a-lifetime experience so special. You will truly never be forgotten.



ASHLEY DIAZ

As Angelina Thomas graduates from Berkeley High School, she leaves a large positive impact. During her time at BHS, she participated in and led several clubs. She started her own club with other girl lifters called Girls Who Lift. Thomas also helped improve the Key Club, a community service club, in her sophomore year. She was also a member of the Red Cross Club, the Women's Student Union, and the Asian Culture

and Expression Club. During lockdown and quarantine, Thomas discovered that she worked better at home, later transferring to Independent Study halfway through her sophomore year. She also helped start a club called Gifted Girls of Color, acting as the treasurer. Gifted Girls of Color is a safe space where girls of color could meet online, talk about social issues together, or just play games and have fun. It was her involvement

in this club that led to her being nominated by the MLK Jr. Freedom Center. After graduating, Thomas plans on taking a gap year and working at MLK Jr. Freedom Center, a nonprofit civil rights activist organization. "I'll be working with them, meeting politicians, traveling with them, but I also would like to do my own traveling," she said. Thomas hopes to travel to China to see some of her family, and she would also like to travel to Japan.

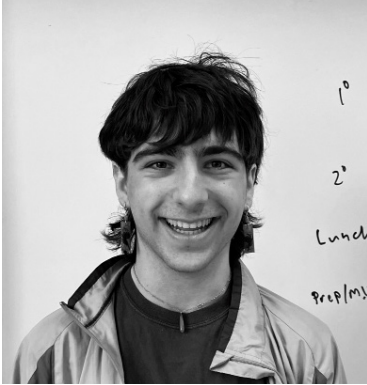
Small School: IS

BY AELIA GYGER
staff writer

DAVID GOLDSTEIN

Small School: AC

BY ZACHARY YOO
staff writer



ELIOT HERTENSTEIN

"I hope to be known as the hot guy who walks around the hallway and has cool outfits," said David Goldstein, debate club co-president, financial empowerment club president, and Senior Class Deputy. Goldstein is best known though, for being personable. "I think most people really know me as a friendly, outgoing person," he said.

Goldstein's Berkeley High School experience was unusual to say the least. He studied abroad for one

semester during his junior year and returned to find his original small school — Academic Choice — to be full. He briefly enrolled in Academy of Medicine and Public Science. Combined with the COVID pandemic, he feels he "only actually spent, like, two years at Berkeley High School." But still, the school has had a large impact. Under Goldstein's leadership, BHS Speech and Debate has become the second highest-ranked

parliamentary debate team in the nation. And last year, his Financial Empowerment Club gave presentations on finance and investing to graduating seniors.

As the president of two clubs, as well as a member of student leadership, Goldstein has had experience with what he calls "Berkeley High bureaucracy." He feels well-prepared for navigating professional relationships in his future after constantly going through the "messy, messy,

messy" process of "getting literally anything done."

Goldstein will attend University of California, San Diego in the fall, and plans to study economics, which he sees as a safe career option.

"I'm pretty satisfied (in) doing some menial job that I find my own niche of meaning in." Long-term, Goldstein said his goal in life is "to have a Mexican tiled kitchen." But for now, graduating will do. "I'm so happy I'm done with high school."

Small School: AMPS

BY JASPER LOVVERN-BLACK
staff writer



CLARA ELM NETTESHEIM

"Finally finding a community where I feel like I belong, especially through AMPS, it really feels like a family," said graduating Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS) senior Dez Mocling. They expressed gratitude towards AMPS for allowing them to find a "home away from home."

Mocling is most proud of their work with the food pantry, a program affiliated with AMPS. The

food pantry works to give students access to healthy food by handing out food and educating them on how to feed themselves. Having participated in the program for two years, Mocling has worked their way to a leadership position. "I am very proud of everyone who was a part of (the food pantry), giving out food to our community," they said. Mocling also added that they learned collaboration, organization, and

leadership skills from the food pantry program and it boosted their confidence.

They added that the Community Service Professions (CSP) class they took last year was helpful, as it gave time for college preparation and studies in public health. While the food pantry taught them the importance of helping the community, Mocling's CSP classes shaped their habits by emphasizing the importance of practice.

"(Now), I am a lot more involved in community activities and events, especially in AMPS," they said.

Mocling feels that their plans and goals for the future have become more clear towards the end of high school. They plan to attend Berkeley City College for two years through the Bioscience Career Institute program, then transfer to a University of California later.

Small School: AHA

BY SHANZA SYED
staff writer

“Berkeley High has given me the tools to strive for change and the ability to use my voice. Its focus on activism prepares the next generation for life after high school and reminds us that our voices are valued,” said Ella Suring, a senior in the Arts and Humanities Academy, as she recalled the Title IX walkouts her freshman year. Seeing student action manifest real life change has shaped Suring’s work as an environmental activist. During her time at BHS,

Suring has worked tirelessly with teacher Aryn Faur to write the Climate Literacy Resolution, which mandates that Berkeley schools integrate climate education into their curriculum. It was unanimously passed by the school board last year. “I wrote the climate literacy resolution because I saw a need in our community. The repercussions of climate change and how they affect us at a personal level are often overlooked,” Suring said. “Ultimately it’s been about

starting a conversation with young people about how we want our future to look.” This year, she co-organized BHS’s first Climate Summit, which united different environmental activists across campus to work toward common goals. In March, her climate justice advocacy took her to the steps of Capitol Hill, where she spoke with lawmakers about passing climate legislation. When not working, Suring likes to spend time outdoors, hiking, rock

climbing, or surfing. This summer she hopes to get certified as a climbing single pitch guide and wilderness first responder. In addition, she will be trekking through the Himalayas and volunteering in Kerala, India, before starting college at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she will be majoring in Global Environmental Justice. “I hope I’ve left a lasting positive impact on BHS through my work to promote climate education,” Suring said.



ASHLEY DIAZ



NOLAN WHITEHILL

“Coming to (Berkeley High School) was a little daunting at first, but seeing all the courageous and incredible student leaders that were seniors and juniors at the time was really inspiring,” said Berkeley International High School senior Ian Segall. Segall has more than filled the role of a prominent student leader throughout his time at BHS. As the BUSD School Board Student Representative and President of the Best Buddies Club, Segall has made waves at BHS.

Segall said he is “most proud of the work I did in advocating and laying the groundwork for letter of (recommendation) compensation for teachers.” “I’m really enthusiastic about the role I’ve taken in advocating for the student body and ensuring that school activities are able to run smoothly so we could have a fun year,” Segall said. He refers to his time as a critical learning opportunity on how to “come at a job and realize my limits and capacity in order to make

a lasting impact while still recognizing my constraints.” Segall is also a highly decorated ballet dancer. He was one of an elite few dancers admitted to study at the prestigious School of American Ballet, where he was offered the coveted opportunity to study year-round. Segall turned it down as it did not align with his vision for his future. “I knew that I wasn’t going to pursue dance professionally, but it still meant a lot to me because I proved to myself I was a really

good dancer,” Segall added. Segall will continue his education at Columbia University this fall. “Berkeley has primed me on how to engage with a variety of communities and cultures and how to be socially conscious. Berkeley is such an empathetic community with a strong sense of unity and pride that I will take with me for the rest of my life,” Segall elaborated. It is without a doubt that he will continue to be a bright star and go on to do incredible things.

Small School: BIHS

BY ZADA SANGER
staff writer

IAN SEGALL

JUNIPER DORADO

Small School: AC

BY ELOISE THOMAS
staff writer

During their time at Berkeley High School, Juniper Dorado, a senior in Academic Choice, reflects on her time at BHS as a time of personal discovery. Her involvement in various activities led them to discover interests such as mountain biking, advocacy and dance. On the BHS mountain biking team, Dorado helped facilitate conversations in the Coaching Boys Into Men program, which aims to empower athletes and reduce violence. She is also on the Diversity Equity Inclusion committee,

which works to increase the accessibility of mountain biking. Outside of school, Dorado interns for Filipino Advocates for Justice, where they create workshops for high school students. Dorado was a co-director of Our Monologues this year, a student run production that shares student stories. They recalled the experience as her greatest accomplishment at BHS, noting that “It felt very special to have people that submitted stories anonymously come up to like performers and be like, ‘thank you so much for being

the one to share my story.” Dorado was happy to see how well the cast they had brought together got along. “It felt very fulfilling to build our cast community, I think our cast really clicked with each other,” Dorado said. “They’re very powerful performers and also human beings.” Dorado enjoyed the opportunities she was given to perform dance. As a dancer, she has been able to share work with the community in a unique way. “I feel like I’ve had a lot of new opportunities,” Dorado

said. “The teachers there are so amazing and so I feel like there have been a lot of different like organizations and classes that I’ve been able to really get engaged with and invested in” From her time at BHS, Dorado has found that, “there’s a lot of community and joy to be had if you keep searching and experimenting.” Dorado plans to continue dancing at University of California, Los Angeles, where she hopes to double major in dance and gender studies.



MALINA MEISSNER

COMING FULL CIRCLE

LAUREN HUANG
FEATURES EDITOR



NOLAN WHITEHILL

Four years ago, I was sitting in front of my computer as I am now, a blank Google Doc staring back at me, waiting for me to fill it with content. The initiative was to write a short passage about something of personal importance for a Jacket columnist application. If my writing impressed, it would appear in the next issue, just like this! Quite frankly, however, I had little to no clue what a columnist was.

My first involvement in hobby writing took the form of some short (offensively ungrammatical) dialogues I developed in my head and transferred in bleeding blue ink to yellow cardstock. I was in first grade and wrote about a Frog and Newt — dangerously reminiscent of the childhood classic — and the numerous expeditions they embarked upon. My writing came purely as a form of entertainment and a not-yet-defined mission of “self-exploration”. Thus far, writing was an instrument for expression and a way for me to ascertain the solutions to my problems.

Now that I was starting high school, writing could serve as a way for others to gauge my competence. It’s safe to say that at this point, I had not given a penny of my thoughts to the prospect of practicing journalism. I was mainly looking for something to do and call my own. Partly because I had only ever been presented with new experiences and partly because I knew high school was a time when I was supposed to make something of myself. My passions were undefined and unaimed. Anyhow, the thought of writing for an audience other than myself was exciting, both frighteningly and exhilaratingly. So I gave it a go.

A hop and a skip down the line, I was three years into my high school career. I had taken numerous college classes ranging in topics from Psychology to Cultural Geography, written about climate-saving DNA in Cal’s newspaper, and led an initiative to instate an Asian American Literature class at school. I had dipped my toe into as many pools as I could and yet. College applications were approaching and it seemed as if I had as many clearly defined interests as when I’d started. My list of activities betrayed some deluded attempt to weave a narrative that could indicate where my passions laid, which upon further appraisal looked more like a patchy tapestry than a good, solid quilt.

Not considering how my resume appeared to others, it felt as though some of my efforts had been for naught — I didn’t find as much connection in a community as I had sought, I’d spent too much time on unfulfilling commitments, and I still was more or less passionless.

If I really psychologically analyze myself, I had not been trying to impress myself but institutions. I had more or less disregarded the real interests that irked my curiosity, trading them instead for potential crowd-pleasers (Wow, and I thought PIQs had been the last of my high school reflections). Ultimately, I ended up disappointed in the outcome of efforts I had made out of a sense of obligation. But this — writing — since its very beginnings, has always been on my account and never dissatisfactory.

Moving forward, I plan on trying new things in the interest of growth and exploration. I don’t think any one title — of a school, major, job, etc. — will be able to encompass what I want out of life. So I’d rather enjoy the journey.

And if you’re still wondering whether or not I achieved the columnist position, I did indeed.

ECHO CHAMBERS

LIANNA LEUNG
MANAGING EDITOR



NOLAN WHITEHILL

Playing the senior game of Assassin, my friends and I were confronted with a disconcerting observation: we didn’t actually know many people in our “tight-knit” community. I stared at my phone, shocked that I had never even heard of the names on my ‘kill’ list. These were people in a different social sphere from me, a different world.

One of the most striking things about BHS’s community is its conglomerate nature. We coalesce in social bubbles like oil droplets in water, often isolating ourselves among the diversity around us. The uncomfortable truth is that our affinity groups are not just segregated by interest, but often by race and socioeconomic class as well. Even among the prominent liberalism of Berkeley, we often narrow our vision even further; creating an echo chamber within an echo chamber.

I spent the past four years immersing myself among the thriving cross country community, on bus rides, at practice, and races. Yet when opportunities arose to expand my social connections, I hesitated — what would be the point, if I had already found a group of people that looked like me, acted like me, and liked the things I liked? Thus, my comfort zone has been both a source of security and a barrier to personal growth.

Berkeley touts its freedom of expression, but we still have a long way to go in terms of acceptance. Leadership’s job is to represent, yet our Associated Student Body team is sorely lacking in Small Learning Community representation, an integral part of diverse school advocacy. Even on Jacket, we are acutely aware that our staff are predominantly white, female, and Academic Choice and Berkeley International High School. Our paper’s motto is “The Voice of the Students”, yet we simply don’t reflect the demographics of Berkeley High.

Yet, despite — or perhaps, because — of this segregation, some of my most vivid and empowering memories are the moments where our social barriers dissolved. Twice throughout high school, I have seen the senior steps flooded with a sea of unified red. Freshman year Rally Day kindled a rare sense of understanding within our class, fueled by thrill and excitement. It didn’t matter who you were or what you looked like — as long as you were ‘23, we had your back.

During the fall of my freshman year, the ocean of red returned, in search of Title IX justice. We stood on the bricks of the C courtyard, listening to the stories of sexual assault and rape survivors, demanding action. Each voice was celebrated and respected. By the end of the day I was at a loss for words, overcome with pride for the bravery and determination displayed on the stage. Experiences like these inspired our legacy of activism and advocacy for the ensuing four years.

The glimpse of community present during the walkouts and spirit week revealed the potential power we have when united. The invisible barriers we create narrow our viewpoints and reduce our collective capacity as a student body. Every individual at BHS plays a role in the machinery of our community, and we must recognize this to take advantage of our diversity. As we graduate, now is the time to push ourselves to new heights.



DIVYA BENDAVID

Kaleo Crowley, a Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS) senior, stated that in his time at Berkeley High School he “enjoyed having lunch with (his) friends.” Crowley participates in the Best Buddies club. The club aims to foster friendships between students with and without intellectual or developmental disabilities. Crowley said that Best Buddies allowed him to create “bonding relationships with others.” Crowley is particularly

skillful with dates and numbers. If given the month and day of any date, Crowley can determine whether it was a Monday, Tuesday, etc. Crowley has had a service dog named Zacko for nine years who he said, “is ready to retire,” at the end of the school year. “Having Zacko totally changed my life,” he said. Since the beginning of freshman year, Crowley has been able to make many more friends and grow personally in many more ways.

As Crowley is a part of CAS, many of the classes he takes have a focus on media literacy and social justice, impacting Crowley’s thinking. He learned a lot of valuable lessons from Spanish, which is his favorite class from high school. He also expressed his gratitude for the BHS community. “I am really going to miss BHS,” he said. Crowley also has an interest in nature and animals. Nature is passion of Crowley’s and plays

Small School: CAS

BY JASPER LOVVORN-BLACK

an important role in his hobbies outside of school. He owns six chickens that he and his family take care of. “After high school, I want to spend time with my chickens and also volunteer at One Living Sanctuary in Martinez for five years (or more),” he said. The sanctuary specializes in its focus on “environmentalism, animal advocacy, and humanitarianism,” according to the One Living Sanctuary website. Crowley looks forward to his work with them.

KAMILA LOPEZ

Small School: AMPS

BY MAYA DANG
staff writer



ASHLEY DIAZ

Kamila Lopez, a graduating senior in the Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS), has grown from the self confidence and close connections that she found in her community. The smaller school setting that she found helped her to forge connections and friendships with teachers that weren’t there before. “I think what impacted me the most was my small school because I was able to make strong connections to my teachers and classmates,”

Lopez said. “I learned so much about relevant and exciting topics that challenged my thinking.” Lopez was involved in Sexual Health Information from Teens (SHIFT), a group that aims to educate underclassmen on having safe relationships and sex. She credits her involvement in SHIFT and the BHS food pantry, an AMPS affiliated organization, as ways that BHS has transformed her into the person she is today. “I’m also proud of my overall high school

career (and) having good grades,” Lopez said. “But mostly the people and experiences I have.” In the past, Lopez felt as though she didn’t really fit in and experienced issues with self-confidence. As an AMPS student, the strong sense of community that she found helped her gain self-confidence and academic validation by building a network of teachers and friends that supported her. Despite the challenges Lopez faced, from family issues to extensive

responsibilities, this sense of community helped her overcome and keep going, even in the face of hardships and difficulties. As Lopez looks towards the future, majoring in gender studies or history at Berkeley City College, she hopes to use her passion for sexual reproduction and women’s health to enter advocacy work. “My goal is to work for something that I truly love and that inspires me to do better for other people,” Lopez said.



SUNNY BEVIS-LIPTON

KAREK WALKER

Small School: CAS

BY ELTA TRACY
staff writer

Karek Walker, a senior in Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS), has made his mark on Berkeley High School with both his unique interests and his strong leadership and community building skills. As captain of BHS’s ultimate frisbee team, Walker has led his team to state championships this year, his fourth season.

He’s been playing ultimate since the fourth grade. As well as being an athlete, Walker is a talented musician. Playing trombone in the BHS Jazz Ensemble, Walker has found creativity and community through music. “I’ve always liked music but jazz adds this aspect ... (that brings) your own individuality and a chance to showcase more

about yourself,” he said. Walker also developed a love for learning through his small school, CAS, which he felt contributed to his learning style and interests. “I never really enjoyed traditional English and history classes with a lot of writing and a lot of reading and CAS has a different way of doing those classes with more discussion

formats,” he described. In his free time, Walker connects with nature and animals around him. “I like going on hikes and (looking) for small animals under logs and (picking) them up,” he said. Walker is pursuing his interests next year at the University of Miami, where he’ll be studying Marine Biology and Tropical Ecology.

Small School: CAS

BY ELOISE THOMAS
staff writer

MARTIN FIERRO NORIEGA



CLARA ELM NETTESHEIM

“There’s no when I’m older anymore now, it’s now or never,” said Martin Fierro Noriega, a senior in Communication Arts and Sciences. Even with this forward mindset, he has found a way to keep his priorities at the forefront. Throughout high school, he is proud to have held on to the people that have had his back from the beginning. Fierro Noriega’s close friends are people that he went to middle school with.

Fierro Noriega is on the wrestling team and an active member of the BHS community. He does his best to bring positivity to the school throughout all of his interactions and avoid unnecessary friction. “I try to keep like a lot of joy in the community,” says Fierro Noriega. “I try to stay positive and I don’t try to start anything with other people.” Fierro Noriega applies this positivity to all aspects

of his life. Even when faced with adversity, he uses the challenge as motivation to better himself. “There are people that have told me I wouldn’t be (anything), and that hurts,” Fierro Noriega said. “But that just drives my motivation to be my best self.” Fierro Noriega has worked on moving towards being his best self during his time at BHS and finds that the school has helped him see the world

differently. Fierro Noriega says that BHS “made me more open-minded than I was in middle school.” In the future, Fierro Noriega plans to be a cinematographer and will study cinematography at San Francisco State University next year. A word of advice to students: “People will try to bring you down, and sometimes it’s going to get to you but you have to remember who’s there when you really need them.”



SASHA BALASUBRAMANIAN

Sarah Darzacq, a senior in Berkeley International High School, has been deeply committed to the Berkeley High School Yearbook and the BHS swim team throughout her time as a student at BHS. As the current Editor-In-Chief of the yearbook, she hopes to leave an impact on the BHS community. “I had a lot of fun making the yearbook this year and leading the staff, and it was really cool. And I think we made the yearbook really

good,” Darzacq said. “So I’m hoping that people will like it, and it’s kind of our mark leaving on the school.” Asoneofthecurrentswim captains of the BHS swim team, Darzacq affirmed that the swim team’s success this season isn’t because of her alone but rather because of the amazing swimmers on the team and the team’s hard work. “I’ve been swimming since I was in sixth grade. It’s taught me to have a good balance between being

part of a team and caring for other people,” Darzacq reflected, “but also having individual accountability for events and races and stuff, and I really enjoy that balance in some way.” When Darzacq first came to BHS, one of the biggest challenges for her was finding what she was passionate about. Because of the many clubs, sports, and extracurriculars that a student can get involved in at BHS, it got overwhelming for Darzacq during her

Small School: BIHS

BY MAYA DANG
staff writer

SARAH DARZACQ

freshman year. She reflected on navigating this challenge, stating that, “It’s been fun to figure out what my priorities are and what I want to do with my time.” As Darzacq looks to the future, and as an incoming University of California, Los Angeles student, she hopes that she can be happy. “I think that I don’t need to have these crazy career goals. I just want to do something that will make me happy and hopefully will help other people,” Darzacq said.



COURTESY OF JENIFER MUNOZ-CHAVEZ

Small School: AMPS

BY MAYA DANG
staff writer

JENIFER MUNOZ-CHAVEZ

Jenifer Munoz-Chavez, a graduating senior in the Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS), has always been appreciative of the close and supportive relationship she has found with her teachers in AMPS. Despite the eventful start to her senior year, she was able to overcome several obstacles, complete college applications, and receive college acceptances. During her time as a student, she was a part of Health Occupations Students

of America or Future Health Professionals, a group that organized the Health and Wellness Fair. She was also involved in a group outside of BHS named Boost, a college preparatory program that helps students with their college applications among other things. One thing that Jenifer’s proud of having accomplished during high school is getting into great colleges and maintaining her GPA. Despite the challenging

aspects of schoolwork, she overcame many struggles during her senior year. Munoz-Chavez will be attending University of California, Davis in the fall. She plans on studying sociology or pre-medical studies. She’s interested in potentially becoming a nurse or some role that is involved with helping with newborns in intensive care. If she pursued a career in sociology, she would like to start her own organization and help people

with their unique situations. Her advice for future BHS students is to “find a community wherever you are.” She says that without the help of her counselors, mentors, and teachers she would not have the success that she has found today. “I think I definitely have more confidence in myself and my ability to do things. I know that even if it’s like a hardest assignment or like a difficult challenge I have to face, I can overcome it,” reflected Munoz-Chavez.

GRADE UNITY: WHY BEING CONNECTED MATTERS

LUISA BERTOLLI & NORAH LEE
SPORTS SECTION EDITORS



NOLAN WHITEHILL

Our motto was ironic: grade unity. When we started high school, our circles were small. Belonging was felt in little bits and pieces, invitations to bake at a friend’s and hellos from strangers that would soon become close. We entered junior year from distance learning set on an elaborate class-wide connection. “Grade unity” (as in, ‘going to bed dreaming of grade unity’ or ‘this is so grade unity’) was an inside joke encompassing the reality that we, Luisa Bertolli (almost won most spirited) and Norah Lee (at times overwhelmingly exuberant) were not going to be the unifying force powering ‘23 harmony.

Nonetheless, this bit became our central dogma, its thematic pillars of ‘personable’ and ‘enthraling’ coming to genuinely define how we approached many of our interactions. As people that thrive on follow up questions, our teachers became our lasagna making partners, our tablemates became our lunch buddies, our homework became FaceTime assemblages ranging the full spectrum of our contacts, and our group projects became adventures throughout Berkeley. Our weekends landed in new crossovers of familiar and not-so-familiar faces, reconfigured for each adventure as we welcomed random assortments of people.

But over time, we discovered that grade unity didn’t come from molding situations to fit a more interesting story, or in conjunction with shifting crowds of people, hoping to end up being a part of a memory. Rather, we found it in the individual peers making up the crowds we seek thrill in. One of the things we have come to value most about BHS is that our peers are incredibly passionate and uniquely driven. As we became familiar with these dynamic individuals, the web that connected our class felt almost tangible.

We have come to be known by the people around us, an unavoidable result of the time shared in this school. This can make us feel bound. Now more than ever, we sense the strands of this web becoming taut. We feel people pulling.

So, what is grade unity?

An aspiration. An inside joke. A concept for people who thrive on follow up questions. A bit-turned-central-dogma. The idea of a connected class, spontaneous and exuberant. Making lasagna with your teacher. Getting lunch with your table group. Not something that Luisa Bertolli (almost won most spirited) or Norah Lee (definitely exuberant.) can control. Personable. Enthraling. Becoming perceived as you become connected. Knowing the past relationships and hobbies of your tablemates, the arcs of friendships and grades of your peers. Being known and feeling bound. Feeling people pull on the web that you have created. Knowing that we will grow into people that are connected all over the world, to our peers and their new friends and coworkers, the people they will know and love and learn from, and the people that those people will meet! The idea that the further we all travel, the closer everything will become.

DEAR SENIORS,
DEAR CLASS
OF '23, DEAR
GRADUATES

ISABELLA TASSO AND FIONA FIREPINE
PHOTO EDITORS



MALIN MORELL

Dear Class of 2023,

This was an unprecedented time, from record low college acceptances to impactful changes in our government, with the stress of school added to everything else. Being a first semester senior was one of the toughest and most rewarding parts of high school, and arguably worse than junior year. Being a second semester senior on the other hand, the hardest part is just coming to class and doing work. Our years at BHS were full of fire alarms, stupid Instagram accounts, and more. As we move onto the next chapter of our lives, we hope you will gain new knowledge, friends, experiences, and support. You've worked incredibly hard to get here, and we hope you will thrive wherever you go next.

Remember your time here — the good, the bad, the mundane — because every moment and feeling has gotten you to this moment. Every moment has gotten you to this feeling of walking the stage. The world is big and wide, and it felt like BHS was too, until we really

"If you ever see a classmate from your dreaded AP Lit class walking down the street this summer — or even six summers from now — don't be a stranger."

settled in. Most of us came from smaller middle schools of no size compared to Berkeley High. For those of you going to large institutions, you will most likely have to readjust again. Even for those going to small schools, an adjustment period is warranted. But remember, you did it here. You can do it anywhere.

Growing up is one of the most confusing parts of a young person's life, but we hope you will handle it with confidence. Saying goodbye is hard, but one of the best feelings is starting fresh and being in a brand new environment. Meet amazing people and do amazing things, but also don't forget about your friends that you have made here. Don't forget about the comedian in your fourth period, or the kid you never knew as well as you wanted to, those teachers who were there for you when you needed it, and the ones that didn't accept late work. Don't forget about what it took to get here. Stay in touch. All the memories you made are yours to keep. And if you ever see a classmate from your dreaded AP Lit class walking down the street this summer — or even six summers from now — don't be a stranger.



EMILIA FREILICH

"When I first came to Berkeley High, I was busy, really happy and felt like I was able to expand and grow," Medina Lam, a senior in Academic Choice recounted. Through engaging with the many different communities within Berkeley High School, Lam has learned the importance of "making space in your life to do things that bring you joy."

For Lam, this includes art. They began photography in their freshman and

sophomore year, and are now in IB Studio Art. This year they pushed beyond visual art and participated in the 2023 production of Our Monologues. According to Lam, "that was a really lovely experience and I feel like I learned a lot from it." They were also on the BHS crew team for four years and ran with the school's cross country and track teams. Outside of school, Lam did ballet and still participates in Chinese dance. Lam is incredibly grateful

for how BHS exposed them to the world of environmental activism. In their sophomore year, they co-founded Sunrise Berkeley High, a club that teaches students how to fight against climate change. Next year, they'll attend the University of Washington, Seattle, where they plan to and eventually work in eco-friendly jobs where they can spend time outdoors. Reflecting on their high school career, Lam acknowledged the many

Small School: AC

BY JULIA BRIMMER
staff writer

MIA
SKOBLE

Small School: AC

BY HANNAH GROTH-REIDY
staff writer



CLARA ELM NETTESHEIM

"I have loved my time at Berkeley High," said Mia Skoble, graduating senior in Academic Choice. Throughout her high school experience, her appreciation for the culture and people at Berkeley High School has grown. Skoble plans to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara, heading into the department of mathematics. Skoble's interests, however, reach far beyond mathematics. "I love creative writing," Skoble said. "Every version

of my future involves me writing creatively, but I want to be a math teacher. That's my plan for the future." Skoble's love of writing can be seen in her work with the Redwood Literary Magazine, a BHS magazine that focuses on fostering a supportive environment for those with a passion for creative writing. She's also open to the idea of returning to BHS as a math teacher one day. For now, Skoble will focus on the next stage of her

academic career. Despite leaving Berkeley High, she'll still leave an impact on the community. Her choice to stray from the tradition to egg freshmen on "Freshman Friday," choosing instead to pass out Kinder eggs, is just one example of Skoble positively affecting the school community she appreciates so much. Skoble has also made a long-lasting mark on her youth dragon boating team, the East Bay Rough Riders. Skoble joined in eighth

grade, and has since become co-captain of the team. With Skoble leading the team, the Rough Riders won their first medal this year, and perhaps even more importantly, built an inclusive and welcoming community. Skoble had one piece of parting wisdom regarding late work, stating that students should "submit a photo of a really cool lizard along with their late assignments ... Hopefully this makes up for the lateness."



GEORGIA PAULOS

Between attending sporting events, playing on the basketball team, and going on field trips with the Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS) class, senior Mazi Brooks had a highly memorable experience during his four years at Berkeley High School.

His high school experience was different from many BHS students as Brooks was part of AMPS, whose graduating class consists of around 60

students. This gave him more time to focus on the things he loved, such as his friends and his basketball career. "I wouldn't switch up if I had to do it again, because I like the small communities and being able to get close with your teachers and have that connection," Brooks said. He has enjoyed all the exciting traditions at BHS, especially senior traditions such as Assassin. Brooks fondly recalls his freshman year when he dyed his

hair red for Halloween, dressing up as Sideshow Bob from the Simpsons. Brooks kept the color for Rally Day and recounted that it was very exciting being a freshman with a huge head of red hair running around. "I ran around with my friends trying not to get egged, that year was pretty crazy," he said. According to Brooks, one of the great things about BHS was the help preparing students for college and the excellent staff at the

College and Career Center. "I think that's one of the good things about Berkeley High," Brooks said. From his college counselors or essay readers, there was always someone willing to help him. "I would say that's one of the main reasons that I got into UC Santa Barbara," Brooks said. He plans to study Pre-Economics at University of California, Santa Barbara, and hopes to explore more options when he gets to college.

Small School: AMPS

BY AVA RAMSDALE
staff writer



CLARA ELM NETTESHEIM

PAOLA BEDOLLA GARCIA

Small School: BIHS

BY CARINA THOMAS
staff writer

Resolute. That is one word to describe Paola Bedolla Garcia, a graduating senior in Berkeley International High School. Bedolla Garcia has demonstrated a hardworking and creative spirit through her participation in programs at BHS including wrestling, Latines Unidos, Reproductive Justice, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Art Exhibition. The dedicated student has also worked with the Green Dot organization at BHS, which fights against bullying and sexual harassment/

assault. “I’ve done a bunch of things,” Bedolla Garcia said. She finds the most pride in her work with BHS Stop Harrassment, emphasizing the group’s success in spreading consent education. Not only has the senior enriched unity within BHS through her involvement with various programs, but she has also been a bright, friendly presence on the school’s campus. “I know everyone,” she said, as she smiled and reflected on the social elements of her highschool experience. As a candidate for the

IB diploma, Bedolla Garcia noted that being a high-achieving student at BHS is a difficult experience. However, her family has provided support for her during tough times: “My sister, she keeps me grounded.” Additionally, the senior expressed appreciation to her peers and community at BHS that have uplifted her throughout the years. Bedolla Garcia plans to join the Accelerated Masters Program with the University of Pennsylvania by attending Bryn Mawr College to pursue computer science.

Though she referred to herself as a “STEM person”, the senior also explained that her career plan is not all she is passionate about. She enjoys reading and listening to music, and when it comes to what lights her flame, it’s the connection that music has, as she described, “to my heart.” The graduating senior leaves younger students with: “If you start out thinking a day is gonna go bad, then it’s gonna go bad,” Bedolla Garcia said. “Put a smile on your face (and) just stay positive throughout the days.”

Small School: AC

BY CLARA TJEN
staff writer

MYAH POLZIN

Myah Polzin is full of life, and brought positivity to each of her peers, friends, teammates and teachers. When she started at Berkeley High School, Polzin didn’t know the physical and emotional challenges she would face and overcome. Polzin has played on the BHS girls varsity soccer team since she was a freshman. She first tore her ACL during the fall of her junior year. Although the soccer star was out until this Winter season, she had an impressive few seasons, scoring a total of 41 goals across her entire high school soccer career. Recently,

Polzin unfortunately re-injured herself with a second ACL tear during her spring club season. “I’ve learned that if I really set my mind to anything, I can really just get it done,” Polzin said. She also shared that she learned a lot about herself through this process. She discovered how mentally and physically resilient and strong she truly was, saying, “Having such a big injury is not fun (and it incurs) a lot of mental and physical strain.” Another aspect of BHS that has made a big impact on Polzin’s life are the relationships that she’s

formed. She commented, “It’s really fun just thinking back on all the relationships I’ve made and how close I’ve gotten to some people over the last four years.” These relationships have helped Polzin value people that may have different perspectives or lifestyles from her. In her soccer career, Polzin has engaged in various experiences. From club soccer, to high school soccer, briefly being a part of the Guam Womens National Football Team from 2021 to this year was a memorable one. She attended two training camps in San Diego and also played

in her first international tournament with the team in Kyrgyzstan, where she got the opportunity to be a captain on the team. In the fall, Polzin plans to attend Seattle University and will begin playing for the school’s soccer team in her second year, due to her current injury. “I will probably go back to college after my bachelor’s and get a master’s in Kinesiology, so I can become an Athletic Trainer at some point.” Her dream is to play soccer at the professional level, and she hopes she may get the opportunity to play abroad.



GEORGIA PAULOS



JULIAN CURRIER

MUSKANA CYRUS

Small School: AMPS

BY CARINA THOMAS
staff writer

Muskana Cyrus, senior in the Academy of Medicine and Public Service describes herself as ambitious, curious, and understanding. Cyrus has shown her passion towards helping others and uniting communities through activities both in and out of school. These activities include her participation in the international student-led community service organization known as Key Club, as well as her role as the co-president of Berkeley High School’s Black Student Union. In addition to her involvement at BHS,

Cyrus has taken on a few internships during her highschool career, some of which include a psychology internship at the Wright Institute, a private graduate school in Berkeley. She expressed how the experience helped her better understand people’s thoughts, fueling the development of her knowledge on aspects of the human mind that society, as she describes, “would normally overlook.” When asked about what aspect of her high school experience she is most proud of, Cyrus juggled between her involvement

with community service and internships, but ultimately concluded with, “I think I’m most proud of being nominated as Black Student Union co-president.” Cyrus describes BHS as “a mesh pot of different people, different cultures, and things that you’re not necessarily exposed to, like, on a day to day basis,” explaining how the diverse environment has led her to “just get a new perspective of everything.” With all of its ups and downs, BHS has provided Cyrus with many experiences that have caused her to grow as a student and a person.

The curiosity that Cyrus exhibits through her work and interest in psychology and public health contributes to her future goal of pursuing a nursing career. In the fall, Cyrus will be attending Morgan State University in Maryland, where she will spread her caring presence while continuing her education. “Overall, I’m just appreciative for the experience and ... for all of the positive things that I’ve accomplished,” the graduating senior said, as she begins her departure from BHS and prepares for the future.



NOLAN WHITEHILL

SHAI EASTMAN

During their time at Berkeley High School, Academic Choice senior Shai Eastman has been involved in various activities and groups on campus, including Our Monologues, chamber orchestra, International Baccalaureate (IB) Studio Art, and the mountain biking and field hockey teams. Out of all of these experiences, however, being a cast member in Our Monologues for two years is what Eastman feels most proud of because “it was a really big growth experience for me.”

She had originally planned only to sing and play guitar in the show, but ended up performing a monologue. “I just really loved it and I tried to put my heart and soul into it,” she said. At BHS, Eastman says that they have learned “to just keep yourself open to everyone.” Next year, she will attend Tufts University with a major in community health and they hope to later work as a medical professional. She is passionate about “anything related to (the) uterus, vagina, sex ed, sexual health,

pregnancy.” An interest sparked during junior year when, “I had this, like, fire spark where I was like, ‘wait, I don’t understand anything about myself in terms of like my uterus or my vagina or period,’” Eastman said. Now they hope to do more work advocating for period equity and research about menstruation. As she prepares to leave BHS, Eastman shared advice on finding yourself. “I think everyone should always take time to reflect on how they move through the world because it’s really

Small School: AC
BY SASKIA FREEDBERG
staff writer

easy to get super caught up in very superficial things,” Eastman said. “Also it says something that a lot of people don’t find their passion or like what they love until they’re older. It’s just because we’re still trying to figure out who we are and how we move in the world.” In conclusion, “just take some time and think about what you love or what you don’t love or try and spend time with yourself,” Eastman said. “You’re getting to know other people, but you should also get to know yourself, too.”

Small School: BIHS

COLINA HARVEY
staff writer

THAILA JENKINS

“It’s a bittersweet moment,” said Berkeley International High School (BIHS) senior Thaila Jenkins, as she reflected on the journey that brought her from all the way to graduation. A member of Associated Student Body as well as being a musician and dancer, Jenkins has strived to bring kindness to those that surround her. “I hope that with the people I’ve interacted with, and my teachers, I’ve brought some sense

of kindness,” Jenkins said. “Small acts of kindness like getting people to smile or laugh, are powerful,” she said. “If there could be anything I left for people to remember me by, I hope it would be positivity, together with the importance of a strong sense of self,” she said. When she started high school, it was a challenge for Jenkins to establish a consistent feeling of balance in her life. “My freshman year I was playing sports, I was in music, and all

these extracurriculars,” she said. “You have to remember you can only do so much,” Jenkins continued. “Sometimes you have to sit down with yourself and reflect on how you’re spending your time, your balance.” “Being involved with music and dance has (brought) me a sense of peace and been an outlet for balance in my life,” Jenkins said. “Dancing and choreography is such an opportunity and I

enjoy being a part of such a vision,” she continued. “It’s very uplifting and fulfilling for me,” she said. Reflecting on her upcoming graduation, “High school is the last time you can be a kid,” Jenkins said nostalgically. A mix of optimism and sadness have sprouted as she prepares to depart for University of California, Riverside. Jenkins is drawn to studying the intersectionality of neuroscience and political science.



JAHAN INGRAHAM



COURTESY OF TYLER BLUE

TYLER BLUE

Tyler Blue, a senior in Berkeley International High School (BIHS) came to Berkeley High School after having lived in Tennessee for two years. Blue has been dancing unofficially since he was a kid, but started dancing with an organization when he came to BHS. The African Diaspora Dance class is something that he reflects fondly on from his time at BHS. “I would for sure say dance (is the thing I’m

the most proud of since coming to BHS) and all the friendships I’ve made pretty easily throughout the years,” Blue said. Blue was also very active in sports and was a member of football, soccer, and basketball his freshman year, when he went to high school in Tennessee. He was also part of clubs such as the National Society for Black Engineers and the Black Student Union. From his time at BHS, Tyler appreciated the inclusivity of the

school. “Berkeley High is not a place where it’s like, ‘Oh, you can’t do this, you can’t do that.’ They’re super inclusive,” Blue said. “I think one of the biggest things I like is their willingness to learn and understand others. I think those are the two biggest things I’ve taken away or I’ve liked about Berkeley.” He was also able to learn more about his culture than he did in his prior education. “I’ve learned more about my culture (at

Small School: BIHS
BY AELIA GYGER
staff writer

BHS) because in Tennessee they don’t really talk about it too much. But out here in Berkeley I learned more about my culture, my people just like understanding certain aspects of being a Black American.” Blue plans to go to Echo Lake in Tahoe this summer. After that, Blue will return to the San Francisco Bay Area and plans to work for the City of Berkeley for one year or directly join the San Francisco Fire Department and become a firefighter.



SUNNY BEVIS - LIPTON

BICKY NGUYEN

Small School: AMPS

BY MADELYN
PHILHOWER
staff writer

“Me and Thaila (Jenkins), we’ve been dancing since middle school,” said Bicky Nguyen, a senior in the Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS) at Berkeley High School. “This year, we were asked by Doc Dub, the African Diaspora dance teacher, to come and choreograph hip hop dances,” she said. Nguyen helped teach and choreograph two dances, both of which were performed at the final African Diaspora Dance Performance of the year. “People have known us

as social media dancers, so when we were able to come and teach in person, that was really new and really exciting,” Nguyen said. Nguyen took dance classes and began posting dance videos with Jenkins during her time at Longfellow Middle School. Although it can be tough, Nguyen has used her influence to make positive change at BHS. Outside of dancing, she spends time volunteering at the BHS food pantry and speaking to the Berkeley Unified School District about racism

during to the pandemic. “During junior year, the COVID pandemic was still a big thing,” Nguyen said. The pandemic fueled misinformation, hate crimes, and racism against the AAPI community, and each time the pandemic was brought up, “It’s like, all eyes are on Asian American students,” Nguyen said. “I was reached out (to) by BUSD to come and educate the teachers and principals at all Berkeley schools in what (they) could do to help us make us feel safe and secure at school,” Nguyen

said. Through educating staff throughout the school district, Nguyen made BHS and the broader community a more welcoming space. Next year, Nguyen plans to pursue nursing at the University of California (UC), Merced. “I just feel like we need more people in the world to help, and I love helping people,” she said. Overall, “Berkeley High has its bads, but I don’t think I would have wanted to go to any other high school,” Nguyen said, “I learned who I am because of Berkeley High.” She said.

Small School: AC

BY MIRABAI PARNALL
staff writer

LILLIAN MAKLER

“I’ve done so many different things, and had a depth at Berkeley High that I haven’t experienced before,” said Lillian Makler. As the senior class president for 2022-23, Makler held a lot of things close to her heart: debate, band and orchestra, planning activities, her Law and Social Justice class, and much more. She feels that she “had a good amount of breadth” at Berkeley High School. Makler is going to be continuing her academic exploration at UC Berkeley next year, majoring in Political Science. “I felt that I

wanted to do something that directly interacts with other people, especially because I care so much about social justice, and wanting to make my world and community a better place.” Each new obstacle brought Makler more life experience, she explained. Negotiating to keep the debate club operating on campus, planning prom, running a campaign, and being in so many extracurriculars “took its toll”, but Makler’s will proved strong. In addition to her assuredness about her

future, Makler feels confident in this year’s senior class. Adopting a sense of responsibility for the class of 2023, Makler wanted to convey to “Stay open minded, and be flexible! Everyone is going to very different environments.” For Makler, staying in Berkeley “really speaks to (her) experience at Berkeley High.” “I had a ton of incredible teachers, tried new things, thought, fulfilled, and dedicated my time to something bigger,” she said. In addition to her chosen major, Makler’s goal for her

next four years is to work on a political campaign for the local district attorney. “Taking my findings in school outside, into the real world will make everything seem even more real.” Makler said, “If I help even one person it means I am doing something right.” Closing out this year strong is important to Makler, and she hopes it is for everyone else too. Her closing advice, not only to seniors, but to everyone in the BHS community is “Don’t be afraid to try new things, and I wish everyone the best of luck!”



JAHAN INGRAHAM



COURTESY OF CITLALY ESPINO OREGON

CITLALY ESPINO OREGON

Small School: AMPS

BY CHLOE CARUTH
staff writer

As Citlaly Espino Oregon entered Berkeley High School as a freshman, she didn’t know where she would find acceptance. Now, she is a proud student of the Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS). Espino Oregon explained, “I did not have the best experience freshman year. That became a lot better when I joined AMPS.” Espino Oregon said, “If I were to do it again I would one thousand percent pick AMPS. Just because I know

that the teachers there love their students and want them to learn something that they care about.” “Being the person that I am, I search for improvement and make an effort to make something more efficient,” she said. Espino Oregon was on AMPS leadership and was a senior class deputy on ASB leadership. When talking about the benefit of AMPS programs, she said they helped her in “knowing what I want to do with my life, knowing

how I want to impact the world. Especially in CHAMPS because I realized later on that I didn’t want to do anything with being a doctor, which was my original plan. But I did realize how underserved some places in my community were,” she said. Espino Oregon spent two and a half years in the Community Health and Adolescent Mentoring Program for Success (CHAMPS) which inspired her to want to help the

community. CHAMPS’s goal is to empower students to work in health-centered careers and gain clinical shadowing experience. “I want to integrate what I’ve learned in CHAMPS about public policy into my career ... I realized how underserved some places in my community are, so now I want to study to become a lawyer or a policymaker,” she explained. Espino Oregon will start this journey at UC Berkeley where she will be majoring in political science.

