



Hazleton Area High School  
1601 W. 23rd Street  
Hazle Township, PA 18202

June 2015

# Cougar Chit-Chat

## Oh the Places You'll Go!

by Jamie Gendimenico

HAHS is so proud of their graduating seniors' future plans! What better way to showcase all the hard work and dedication they have endured than to place their names and committed colleges on the front page of the newspaper?

Laura Almonte, US Army; Caleb Ancharski, Shippensburg; Wayne Anderson, LCCC; Samantha Ayers, St. John's; Hunter Baran, Penn State Hazleton; Joey Baran, Stony Brook; Khrista Baran, Wilkes; Gabriel Batista, Bloomsburg; Kirsy Beato, Bloomsburg; Victoria Bernotas, Lock Haven; Lauren Blakeslee, PSU; Maggie Bono, Florida Gulf Coast; Shelby Boock, Temple; Rebecca Bove, Kutztown; Alex Brennan, Temple; Mikaela Browdy, King's; Krista Brutosky, Coastal Carolina; Jeremy Budgeon, West Chester;

Alicia Cabrera, LCCC; Dominic Cara, PSU Harrisburg; Johnathan Castillo, King's; Milka Cerda, Temple; Nick Cibulish, US Army; John Collado, Temple; Miguel Colon, Philadelphia U; Jade Corazza, Temple; Christian Cordero, PSU Main; Julia Cunfer, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry; Kienan Dalesandro, Widener; Alyssa DeBise, PSU Main; Alezandria Decking, Tyler School of Art at Temple; Kyra DePersia- Philadelphia U; Veronica Diblasi, PSU Hazleton; Alex Duran, PSU Hazleton;

Ryan Eckrote, Temple; Eric Ednie, Bloomsburg; Kaylee Ehrenfried, PSU Hazleton; Shayla Evans, Bloomsburg; Rachel Farkus, Kutztown; Rornardo Flores, U of Arts New York; Bryan Frent, PSU Hazleton; Selena Garzio, UPenn; Joe Guaman, LCCC; Jamie Gendimenico, Eastern; Tasha Gimbi, Bloomsburg; Jenna Gombeda, PSU Hazleton; Joe Gornal, PSU Hazleton; Mariah Graaf, PSU Hazleton;

Christy Havrilla, Gettysburg; Kevin Harry, PSU Hazleton; Ryan Heller, Temple; Edva Hoxhallari, PSU Hazleton; Dyjae Jefferson, LCCC; Rachel Jones, Misericordia; Ryan Keegan, PSU Main; David Klein, PSU Harrisburg; Kalie Kotansky, LCCC; Jamie Kulaga-Caldwell U; Emily Kurchock, PSU Main; Kevin Lantigua, West Chester; Sara Lauer, Bloomsburg; Anthony Lombardo, Wilkes; Peter Lombardo, King's

College; Calyn Lutz, Lebanon Valley;

Maggie Malone, Duquesne; Kelly Maloney, PSU Hazleton; Magnolia Martinez, PSU Hazleton; Christian Matriccino, U of Pittsburgh; Francesca Matriccino, West Chester; Mackenzie Matulevich, Philadelphia U; Ali McCann, Temple; Aaron McGeehan, LCCC; Brandon McGinnis, Temple; Brandon McNeal, West Chester; Dominique McQuade, West Chester; Sean Medek, Temple; Dominique Medina, Bloomsburg;

Jhorel Mejia, PSU; Marly Mendoza, Kutztown; Matt Michelin, PSU Hazleton; Christy Miley, Northampton; Tyler Mintz, Lackawanna;

Sam Neira, Philadelphia U; Luke Olander, Pitt; Kyla Osadche, Wilkes; Maxiel Otanez, PSU Hazleton; Brandon Perry, US Army; Domi Petrone, PSU Main; Paige Plaza, West Chester; Regan Plaza, PSU Hazleton; Katelynn Pleban, Bloomsburg; Mikey Pollock, PSU Hazleton; Jonathan Price, Cornell; Christine Quinn, Coastal Carolina; Casey Ray, PSU Hazleton; Nichole Rebarchick, Moravian; Leandris Reyes, PSU Hazleton; Rachel Reznick, Lebanon Valley; Miranda Rish, PSU; Franklin Rivera, PSU Hazleton;

Alivia Roberts, Binghamton U; Juan Rodriguez, Kutztown; Yamilex Rodriguez, Misericordia; Kyle Rogers, Kutztown; Larry Romanchik, Wilkes; Julia Rudenko, Penn State Main; Robert Ruby, King's; Emily Sabatos, Eastern U; Abby Sachse, California U PA; Kayla Samec, Kutztown; Shelby Sanko, St. Francis U; Melanie Santana, Temple; Reynal Santana, Lackawanna; Rafden Santos, LCCC; Aurora Savadge, PSU Hazleton; Nick Seach, East Stroudsburg; Deana Segilia, PSU Main; Tori Serafine, Bloomsburg; Mikey Shott, Misericordia; Tyler Sipple, Wilkes; Jasmin Sosa, Temple; Miranda Sosar, DeSales; Derek Spachman, Bloomsburg; Ali Stahr, U of Pittsburgh;

Katy Tapia, U of Scranton; Michelle Taveras, U of Arts New York; Renee Taylor, West Chester; Jessica Turrito, Kutztown; Kevin Tovar, Wilkes; Maria Trivelpiece, Fordham; Ariana Umbriac, Cleveland; Sam Varela, PSU Hazleton; Mercedes Wesner, Drexel; David Whitmire, Penn Tech; Hayley Wilkinson, Lock Haven; Danielle Wilson, Temple; Lexi Wolk, King's; Carol Yaracz, King's; Michaela Yurchak, Kutztown; Heidi Zapotocky, Drexel.



Photo by Manny Amancio

Members of HAHS Class of 2015 pose in unison in the auditorium.

## Thanks and Farewell, Dr. Antonelli

by Ryan Williams

With the news of Dr. Antonelli's retirement effective June 1, many students are wondering if anything is going to change within the Hazleton Area School District. The

new superintendent has not yet been chosen, but the changing of the guard is highly anticipated by students, staff members, and the community.

When asked, ninth grader Nancy Bucci, said "I don't really know him (Dr. Antonelli), so I can't really say. But with the way things have been going, it will be a real loss."

The Board of Education set out a national search to fill Dr. Antonelli's spot. After receiving 9 applicants, 4 candidates were chosen to be interviewed. After that, one dropped out of the process leaving 3 candidates to spend the day fielding questions from students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community leaders. Each potential applicant gave a brief personal statement followed by a more traditional 90-minute interview with school board members. The new superintendent is scheduled to be hired at the May 28 school board meeting.

"I'm going to miss Dr. Antonelli because things were going so well at all the schools in the Hazleton Area School District. I hope that when we get a new superintendent, things will stay the same,"

said Luisa Colone, a ninth grader at the Hazleton Area High School.

Looking to the positive side of Dr. Antonelli's retirement, he has given a lifetime of service to the HASD. He, in fact, has been employed within the district for his entire career spanning 38 years and serving in the various capacities of teacher and administrator. One person rarely finds that ideal career and stays with it for decades. Dr. Antonelli has accomplished so much; but more importantly, he has given so much to the students he has impacted.

Thank you Dr. Antonelli. No words can ever be adequate to pay tribute to your dedication. Best wishes from the Hazleton Area High School family. May your future endeavors be rewarding.

## Chit-Chat Contents

- Pg. 1--Tributes
- Pgs. 2-3--Coffee Cart Central
- Pgs. 4-9--Arts/Clubs
- Pgs. 10-11--Field Trips
- Pgs. 12-13--Advice/Favorites
- Pgs. 14-15--Seniors!!!
- Pg. 16--Spring Sports

## See Ya Later Alligator

by Kyra DePersia and Magnolia Martinez

Farewell to Class 2015 Cougars!!!  
With the end of the year approaching quickly, it would seem remiss to not have some wise words passed on to underclass students. Seniors have graced these hallways for four years and have much to offer. So, here goes with a "Last Will Testament of sorts for those left behind..."

I, Magnolia Martinez, leave my humor and our Journalism memories to Tracy Vasquez. "OH MY LORD"

I, Edva Hoxhallari, leave Mrs. Matsago to deal with unbearable children that are not me. "My favorite teacher by far!"

I, Leandris Reyes, take with me my closest friends and my childhood.

"Meredv(Merhan & Edva), Magnolia, Tracy"

I, Leslie Rodriguez, take with me my diploma and my accomplishments in my high school.

I, Colt Finnicum, leave behind the strict policies and rules in place at HAHS.

I, Brandon Perry, leave behind the heavy textbooks.

I, Calyn Lutz, leave behind my best friends.

I, Maxiel Otanez, leave behind all of my teachers who taught me well and made me who I am today.

I, Laura Almonte, leave my freshman friends to experience high school all by themselves.

With the business aspect of leaving high school taken care of, here are the important upcoming activities, dates, and times for

HAHS:

Wed., May 27-Special Education Field Day-HAHS Track-All Day (Rain Date Jun.1)

Thurs., May 28-National Honor Society Induction-HAHS Auditorium-7 p.m..

Sun., May 31-Senior Awards Ceremony-HAHS Auditorium- 2 p.m.

Thurs., Jun. 4 -HACC Award's Night-6 p.m.

Tues., Jun. 9-Distinguished Graduate's Practice- HAHS Auditorium- 9 a.m.

Tues., Jun. 9-Class of 2015 Commencement Practice-HAHS Gymnasium-10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 9-Distinguished Graduate's Ceremony-HAHS Auditorium-6 p.m.

Wed., Jun. 10-Class of 2015 Commencement-HAHS-6 p.m.

So, until next time, see ya later alligator!



# COUGAR CAFE

## Hazleton Area High School Coffee Stand

by Maxiel Otanez

You all might have come across the new coffee stand right in front of the main bathrooms by the cafeteria at HAHS. The coffee stand provides smoothies, coffee, sweetened and unsweetened brewed and iced tea. Life skills students provide this service.

Now, a question that has arisen is why are the beverages available only for teachers? Why not students?

The coffee stand has many benefits. While many teachers and staff members stop to buy coffee before school, or purchase because they need a little help waking up in the form of a caffeinated beverage, students would appreciate the same.

It would be nice to grab a drink before lunch or before a class. If the stand was open to students, it would make a great fundraiser and would make the high school campus more similar to a college campus. That would be a positive next step since many graduates plan on continuing their education.

If the right rules are initiated from the start, this would be ideal. It would benefit the school. The café could have a schedule and you could only drink in the cafeteria. Times would be set to before or during lunch or breakfast.

The Career Center and the STEM school both have coffee stands. Neither school building has experienced any negative issues. Students could purchase coffee at school rather than being late because of picking up coffee on the way. Why not give it a try?



cougar café cougar café cougar café



# Autism Awareness Day

By Hayley Wilkinson, Abby Sachse & Kayla Samec

Autism by definition is a mental condition with difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people. April celebrates Autism Awareness Month; it is represented by the colors red, yellow and blue. On April 29th, 2015, many faculty, staff and students apart of the Hazleton Area High School Campus wore a blue t-shirt to support their awareness as well. When questioned why they had designed the board their response, "We do something every month depending on what is it, and for April we selected Autism Awareness because we felt as though not enough people are aware of it." It's a special day for those that haven't always felt important or out of place to show their true colors and allow their personalities to shine. Tyler Stahr, a student of the Hazleton Area Career Center, had been interviewed and asked why this day was so special to him. He had responded with, "It's awareness day and I like to see everyone wearing their blue t-shirts."

Mrs. Angela Avillion, a special education transition teacher, decided to start a celebration for autism awareness this year as she also hopes for many more years to come. Her goal is to be able to branch out to the entire district every April to help spread awareness to kindergarten children all the way up high school seniors. Ryan Leckey had

attended HACC to interview the students and also to put them on his news broadcast. Two nursing students of the career center, Alexis Floray and Carlyann Valle, had designed a bulletin board in the main hallway of the school to show their awareness as well. When questioned why they had designed the board their response, "We do something every month depending on what is it, and for April we selected Autism Awareness because we felt as though not enough people are aware of it." It's a special day for those that haven't always felt important or out of place to show their true colors and allow their personalities to shine. Tyler Stahr, a student of the Hazleton Area Career Center, had been interviewed and asked why this day was so special to him. He had responded with, "It's awareness day and I like to see everyone wearing their blue t-shirts."



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Avillion

Above: Students from the Hazleton Area Career Center show posters and banners to promote Autism Awareness



Photo Courtesy of Abby Sachse

Students and faculty at HACC manage and run a coffee cart to raise money.



Photo Courtesy of Ryan Leckey

Students and faculty pose for a selfie with Ryan Leckey taken with a selfie stick.



Photo Courtesy of Abby Sachse

Alexis Floray and Carlyann Valle created a bulletin board at HACC for Autism Awareness Day.

## Facts You Didn't Know About Autism

1. Autism affects one in every 150 children born in the United States.
2. Approximately 67 million people worldwide are affected by autism.
3. Autism is the fastest growing disability in the United States.
4. Autism was initially called "Early Infantile Autism" or "Kanner's Syndrome."
5. Dogs have been shown to improve autistic children's quality of life, independence, and safety.



# "Late Night at the Museum"

by Ryan Williams

"Late Night at the Museum," written by very own HAHS students, was recently performed by the Cougar Players. The play was unbelievably good! Everyone involved with the production obviously put in much time and effort into the night. From the food to the paintings made by students, the production really showed the talent of the Hazelton Area High School students.

Under the direction of Mrs. Bromiley, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Glowatch, the cast was well taught. Mrs. Bromiley, who is also the Drama Club advisor, did a stellar job choosing students for the cast, with the help of the craft teachers.

When asked, ninth-grader Laura Bayzick, who attended the show, said, "I liked the family feud scene of the play, and the ending when the whole cast started to dance. I think overall it was a great night."

Rachel Jones, another audience member, said, "My favorite thing about the night was the show because you were able to see and learn about the paintings but at the same time you were still being entertained! I would defiantly come back next year!"

Robert Koch, who played the lead character Leonardo Da Vinci, stated, "My favorite thing about the night was the turnout. We got a lot more people than I thought we would. I think the show came



Cougars players' present "Late Night at the Museum," as well as Robert Koch and Rachel Jones!

Photo by Ryan Williams

out very good. There were a few hiccups outside our control, but overall it was a nice little performance. The funniest scripted part was when Julia Cunfer came out to scream at me! The funniest unscripted part is when Ron Miller went out of sync with the music and just yelled, 'I'm going to dance now, I guess'."

Cast members include Jonathan Kaschak, Robert Koch, Julia Cunfer,

Braden Bresnock, Sean Medek, Miguel Colon, Ryan Williams, Ally Racho, Kalie Kotansky, Lisbeth Fuentes, Gabby Guzman, Yamilex Rodriguez, Kristen Cussat, Emily Sabatos, Cassandra Daveler, Kyle Kaschak, Carol Yaracz, Jonathan Price, Lesley Parades, Casey Ray, Brenna Fulk, Nico Makuta, James Tsiatis, Sammi Belusko, Rebecca Kaschak, Morgan Kaschak, Kendall Sosar, Layne Miller,

Estephanie Reyes, Zach Kucher, Olivia Witcofski, Emily Zarembo, Shakira Encarnacion, Carlos Torres, Josh Plesce, Brittany Zapotosky, Ashley Zapotosky, Blake Gipson, Mayreline Rodriguez, Merhan Askander, Lauren Merola, Ron Miller, and Miranda Rish.

Congratulations Cougars on another successful year!

# Teachers vs. Athletes

by Ryan Williams

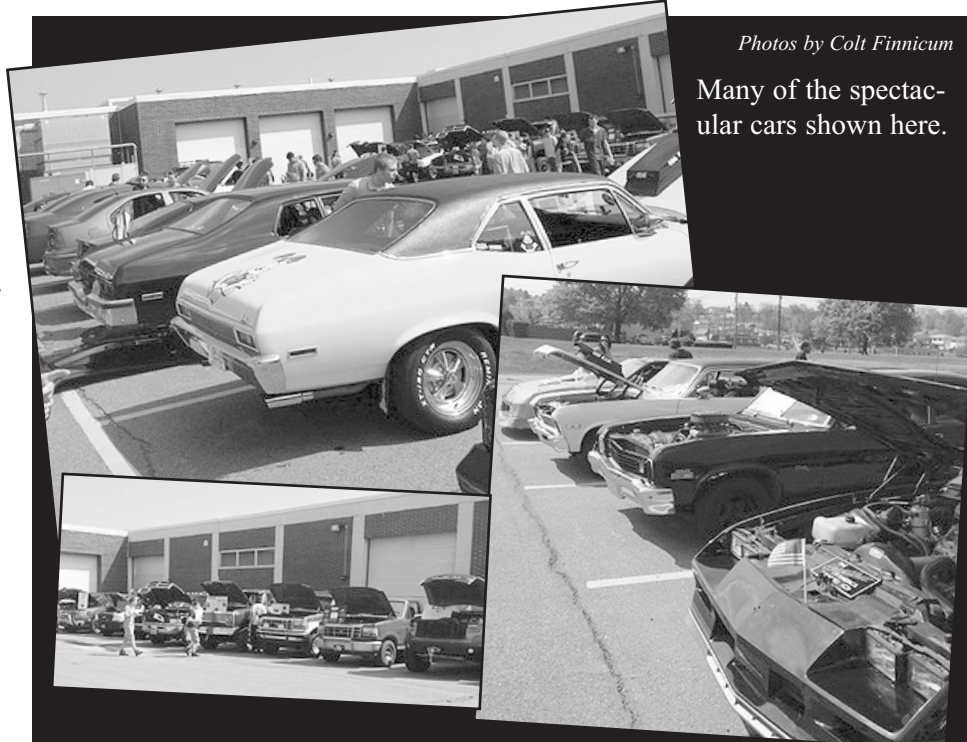
Today, most high school teachers earn around \$58,170, while professional athletes make around \$200,000 a year. Should teachers make more money? Teachers are the people who spend hours every week day educating us, while athletes entertain us when we're at home. Knowing how to read and write is much more needed in life than knowing who won the baseball game last night. All teachers from pre-school to college deserve way more credit than they get.

When asked, ninth grader Nancy Bucci, said "Teachers definitely deserve more money

because they spend a lot of their time at the school and don't get paid a decent amount for it. They spend more time with other people's kids than they do with their own."

Luisa Colone, an HAHS student, said "Teachers should get more money because without them, we wouldn't know what we know today."

As you can see, most students agree that teachers do deserve more money. Students aren't saying that athletes shouldn't get paid, they are just saying that teachers should get more money. Whether you're a sports fan or a school fan, we can all agree that teachers won this battle.



Photos by Colt Finnicum

Many of the spectacular cars shown here.

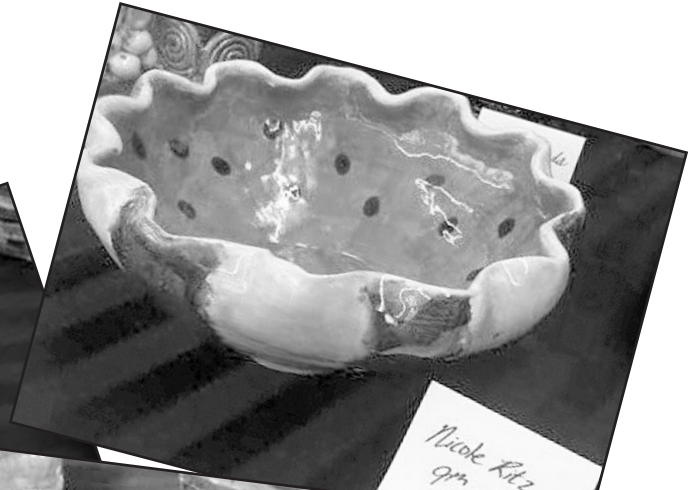
# Crusin' HACC Style

by Colt Finnicum

Other than the beautiful May weather, the car show was a great turnout this year! The Career Center annual car show, started in 2001, offer much more than you may think. With students cars showed from classic cars to trucks. Many were happy with how many cars were shown this year. There were a couple classic cars and many trucks. But wait, there's more! The culinary department sells food and drinks so you won't get hungry. How awkward will it be if it's quiet? Not for us! Music is also being played throughout the day! Proud of

your ride and you win? The winners of each category shall receive a prize! How cool is that? Each winner in each category receives a plaque, but what about the money that they earn? All profits go towards the schools funding. So if you purchase anything, you're benefiting the school which is always good. This won't be the last car show, there will be many more in the upcoming years.





Nicole Kitz  
9<sup>th</sup> grade



Nicole Dominguez  
Cruz  
12<sup>th</sup> grade



Jacob  
Dubravski



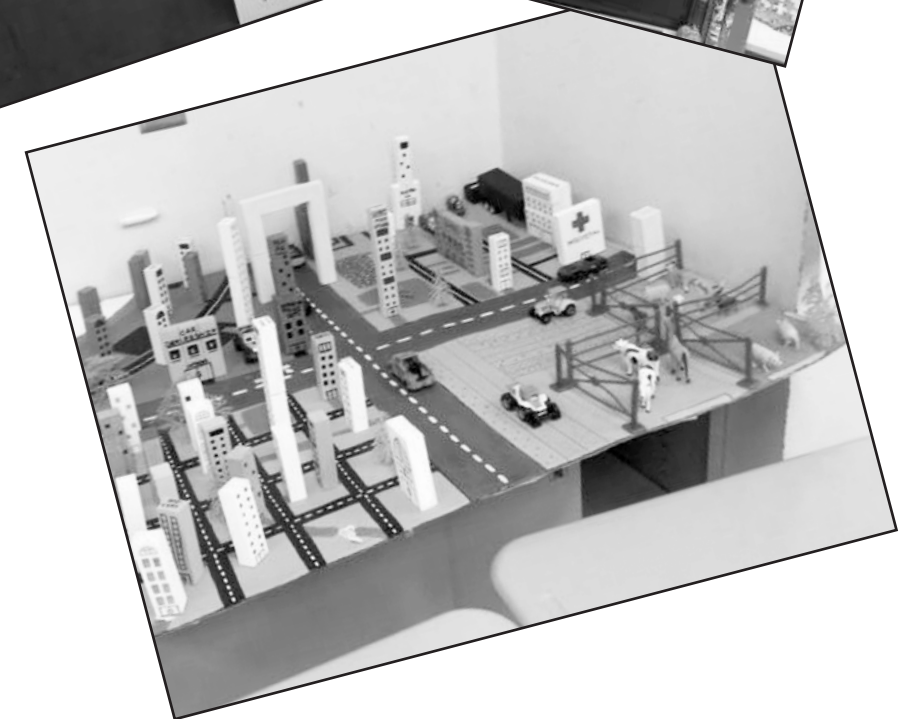
Francis  
De La Cruz  
9<sup>th</sup> grade

Ian  
Mashko  
9<sup>th</sup> grade

# HAHS Gallery Night



Sam  
Murray  
9<sup>th</sup> grade





# Hooray for FBLA

by Christy Havrilla

This past April, members of the Hazleton Area Future Business Leaders of America were fortunate enough to attend the three day State Leadership Conference held in Hersey. The Hazleton Area High School had fifty-five members qualify for the conference.



During these three days, students took part in different workshops that focused on leadership qualities and how to excel in the business world.

Throughout the three day trip, students had the chance to meet other kids from across Pennsylvania and make memories that will last a lifetime. Students also studied and prepared for their competitive event. Some had a one hour test, while others performed a speech, in which they were judged on.

Pennsylvania is the second largest FBLA group in the nation; the State Leadership Conference is extremely competitive, due to the large numbers of schools that attend. Over 4,000 students competed against one another, hoping to advance to the next level, the National Leadership Conference.

The following Hazleton Students placed in the top 10 in their respective events and received awards:

Keith Hudock, Benjamin Oswald and Regan Plaza, second place in business presentation; Gabrielle Ator, Kyra

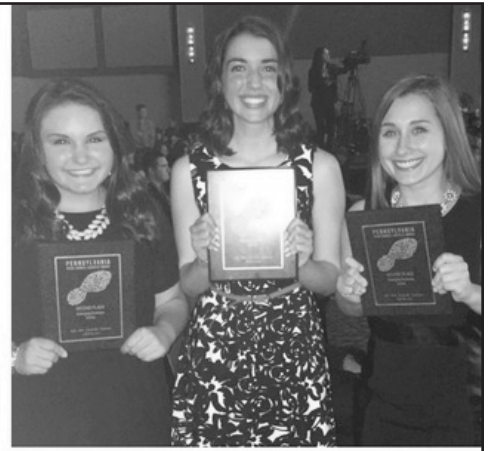


Photo courtesy by Christy Havrilla

Hazleton Area Future Business Leaders of America members had the chance to compete at the State Leadership Conference where they competed in their respective events. They gained leadership qualities and met kids from all over Pennsylvania.

Schell, and Ali Stahr, second place in emerging business issues; Pranjal Satija, fourth place in cyber security; Anthony Cundro, fourth place in digital video production; Maria Trivel-piece, fourth place in Future Business Leader.

Christy Havrilla, fourth place in public speaking II and seventh, american enterprise; Frankie Seratch, fifth place in impromptu speaking; Annie Amentler, fifth place in public speaking I; Kyra DePersia, seventh place in

american enterprise; Sabrina Miller, Julia Rudenko, Michael Shott, eighth place in hospitality management; Casey Balogh, eighth place in sales presentation; and Ryan Eckrote, Luke Olander, and Mercedes Wesner, ninth place in entrepreneurship.

This year, nine students from Hazleton have qualified to compete at nationals. The National Leadership Conference is a weeklong trip held in Chicago. The following students, who placed 1st-3rd at the SLC, will be at-

tending the conference: Gabrielle Ator, Keith Hudock, Benjamin Oswald, Regan Plaza, Pranjal Satija, Kyra Schell, Frankie Seratch, Ali Stahr and Maria Trivel-piece. These students will have the opportunity to compete against the best of the best; over 10,000 FBLA competitors will go head on to claim the national title. During the weeklong trip, these students will have the chance to enhance their leadership skills, while also visiting the beautiful Windy City.

## Bittersweet Goodbye

by Christy Havrilla

When the school year comes to an end, seniors anxiously await prom, field trips, and most of all, graduation! It is an exciting time for students because they are getting ready to start their new journey. The last few weeks of school seem to fly by, and in the blink of an eye, it is all over. Although it is exciting

to begin a new chapter, it is hard to say goodbye to a school that has given so much.

Members of Future Business Leaders of America dread their last State Leadership Conference and FBLA banquet. FBLA has become a part of many students' daily lives. This organization is life changing for members across the country. Future Business Leaders of America not only helps a student better

themselves in the business world but also develops them as a person. It is a club where students make lifelong friendship and help one another succeed. Seniors from Hazleton Area FBLA are bittersweet about leaving high school; FBLA has impacted their lives so greatly. Senior members were interviewed to express how they feel as they say goodbye to Future Business Leaders of America.

Ali Stahr stated, "I've never been involved in anything more rewarding in my life. It is so sad to say goodbye to something that means so much."

Gabrielle Ator quoted, "Because of FBLA, I have made countless friendships and memories that will stay with me long after I graduate. My involvement in this organization had provided me with numerous opportunities. FBLA has been one of the highlights of my high school career."

Luke Olander stated, "FBLA has introduced me to the modern business world in a way that was both fun and competitive."

Christy Havrilla quoted, "FBLA has provided me with all the skills necessary to become successful in all my

"FBLA has been one of the highlights of my high school career."

*Gabrielle Ator*

future endeavors. I have made numerous friendships and memories that will last a lifetime because of FBLA."

Mercedes Wesner quoted, "FBLA taught me so much about teamwork and working together. My high school career would not have been the same without FBLA."

As the school year winds down, seniors are left to say goodbye to teachers, clubs, and mentors who have been a part of their everyday life for four years. Even though it is hard to say goodbye to it all, it is clubs like FBLA that make it all worthwhile. Senior FBLA members may be saying goodbye to the organization, but they will never forget all the qualities, friendships, and memories they gained.



Photo courtesy of Mercedes Wesner

FBLA seniors enjoy their last State Leadership Conference as they make new memories.





Photo courtesy by Christy Havrilla

Hazleton Area Journalism students had the opportunity to attend the journalism conference, where they listened to keynote speakers and even won awards!

## 15th Annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference

by Jamie Gendimenico

Recently on Friday April 10, 2015, journalism students from a few high schools along with the Hazleton Area High School and the broadcasting students from the Hazleton Area Career Center attended the 15th annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference at Wilkes University. The conference is held to teach students more about journalism and the different branches of the field. They also

held an award ceremony where awards are given to students whose work, which had been earlier submitted by their teachers, was judged ahead of time. Hazleton Area School District students were fortunate during this ceremony.

The awards were given out in multiple categories. The Hazleton Area High School journalism students came home with three first place awards! Calyn Lutz was awarded for the best page layout, Yamilex Rodriguez was awarded for her photography, and Kyra DePersia was

awarded for best feature article. Among individual awards there were also overall awards given out. The Cougar Chit-Chat won the Spotlight Award! It was given out to HAHS for having an online version of our newspaper and also the ability to read it in Spanish. However that was not all. The HACC broadcasting students won for the tv show they have. The Hazleton Area School District students were recognized for their endeavors and hard work in media and journalism.

Aside from the awards the students

attended seminars and workshops. There were multiple speakers there such as Andy Mehalshick, John Meyer, and others not only from TV, but written media, radio, and more. The conference was a great experience, especially for those who are considering taking up journalism as a career. The Hazleton Area School District should be proud of the students were recognized for their work, along with the rest of the students involved in both the journalism class and broadcasting.

## Thanks for Caring

by Christy Havrilla

When most people think of a club, they think of the achievements the students have accomplished. People mainly think students are the sole reason for the success of a club. Although this is all true, the biggest reason for the success of a club is the advisor.

Mrs. Matsago has been serving as the HAHS school newspaper, "Cougar Chit-Chat," advisor for five years. From the start, she has turned the newspaper from a six page pamphlet into a twenty-four page paper. The school newspaper is also available online, which can be translated into Spanish.

Mrs. Matsago has gone above and beyond to make the "Cougar Chit-Chat" widely known throughout the Hazleton Area School District. Mrs. Matsago motivates students to excel to the best of their ability, whether you are a student of hers or a visitor.

From the moment you walk into class, she is constantly helping find ways to improve upon your work; her advice makes us stronger students. She helps each and every student turn their weakness into a strength, and she makes sure that someone's strength is used to their advantage.

There is never a time when Mrs. Matsago is not thinking about ways to better her classroom for the good of her students. No matter what type of day a student is

having, Mrs. Matsago instantly finds a way to improve their mood. Her room is a positive environment; it is a place where students never want to leave. The energy and enthusiasm is contagious. The classroom is filled with laughs and smiles for everyone to be a part of.

Mrs. Matsago has been fully dedicated to the success of her students, both in and out of the classroom. Seniors who are a part of the HAHS "Cougar Chit-Chat" would like to thank Mrs. Matsago for a great year filled with important lessons, and most of all, lots of laughs. We truly appreciate all of your time dedicated to both the newspaper and your students. You have been by our side every step of the way; no matter what the situation is, you have fully sup-

ported us to your best extent.

There is never a time where we could not count on you for your guidance or support. As seniors, you have helped us prepare for our next journey, whether it is college or a full-time job. Mrs. Matsago is a true role model to any students who had the pleasure of being a part of her classroom. She is a prime example of one of the finest teachers Hazleton Area High School has to offer.

Mrs. Matsago not only teaches her class to excel as students but also helps them to develop into the best they can be. The senior members of the school newspaper could not thank you enough for your devotion to us and the school newspaper this year!



# HAHS Dance Team Showcase



## 2015 Dance Team Showcase

Congratulations to the HAHS Dance Team on their successful performances in the 4th Annual Dance Team Showcase that were held on April 24th and 25th! The dancers spent months choreographing over fifteen different routines in several styles including hip-hop, belly dance, and salsa that were performed in the showcase. Dance Team captain Ronii Flores says, "Everyone has worked so incredibly to make this show a success. I'm so proud of all the dancers and this is one of the best showcases HAHS has ever seen!" The HAHS Dance Team is under the direction of Mrs. Stetz, who was also very proud of all of the hard work and dedication the dancers put into the showcase. Everyone who participated did an amazing job and should be proud of their accomplishments!



# Band and Chorus Visit Nashville, Tennessee!

by Jamie Gendimenico

At the end of April, the music department departed from Hazleton for their yearly trip. This year they took a long bus ride down to what we all know as "the music city," Nashville, Tennessee! There were 94 students who attended this trip along with multiple parents who chaperoned and of course Mr. Forte and Mrs. Sharanoff. The group left Hazleton Area High School at 3:00 AM Thursday April 30, 2015, and came home on May 3, 2015. The group had two tour guides their entire trip; they were a married couple named Barry and Dari Anne Amato. The trip was full of fun but the students also learned a lot while they were there.

When they arrived in Nashville, the first thing on the list was to take a tour of the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and see a laser water show. The hotel amazed most people in the group. They spent a lot of time in the atrium but were also able to see the ball rooms and other parts of the hotel. The next day was also very fun filled.

The students took a tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Schermerhorn Symphony Hall. They also learned about Goo-Goo candy which is only made in Nashville; of course they also were able to sample some. After they had a line dancing lesson taught by their tour guide Barry Amato, the day was spent shopping and then line dancing at the Wildhorse. Hazleton ruled the dance floor at the Wildhorse!

## Awesome Tour Guides

by Jamie Gendimenico

Students departed from Hazleton Area High School for their 15 hour drive to Nashville, Tennessee very early on April 30. The first thing on their agenda of events was to take a tour of the beautiful Gaylord Opryland Hotel. When they



*courtesy of Hazleton Area band and chorus students.*

## Students have a great time in Nashville, Tennessee.

Saturday morning both the band and chorus had clinics with professors at Vanderbilt University. Here they learned different ways they could make their music better. They learned things such as how much dynamics really can change a song and how to be confident without a director. Aside from the clinic that day, they drove down Music Lane and learned about the record and publishing companies there along with the "Musica" statue that stands there. They went to the Bicentennial Mall and saw a few monuments and learned different pieces of

history.

After having some free time at the Opry Mills Mall and eating dinner at the Rainforest Café, it was finally time for their performances! The band went first and then the chorus. They performed in the area in front of the Grand Ole Opry before people entered the doors. Many people stopped to watch and listen to both. The final number sang by the chorus, Party in the USA, was just a girls song and was sang a cappella. People gathered around and clapped along as the girls sang!

They were then able to attend the show at the Grand Ole Opry that night. They saw many older stars like John Conlee. They also saw a few new upcoming stars perform who were Canaan Smith and Lauren Alaina. The finale of the night was Reba McEntire! The trip was complete fun and is said to be the best trip the music department has ever gone on!

arrived at the hotel that evening they were met by the very well known Barry and Dari Anne Amato, who gave them the tour of the hotel. Little did the students know the married couple would be spending their entire trip with them.

Barry and Dari Anne came to the hotel, where the students were

staying, to meet them every morning. They told them about important sites they would pass as they went places and gave them little tours here and there. The two gave the students a line dancing lesson on May 1, before they went to the Wildhorse that night for dinner and more line dancing. Two other high schools were also visiting the Wildhorse that night but because of their help, Hazleton Area dominated the dance floor!

Barry and Dari Anne Amato are nearly celebrities in Nashville. They are famous for their dance lessons and have worked with many celebrities. They do not often do tours but were very willing to do so for the HAHS music department trip. The two met at the Opryland Themepark in Nashville, and also fell in love there. They have been working together since they met.

The students grew a connection with the couple while on the

"You guys were aca-  
licious!"

*Barry Amato*

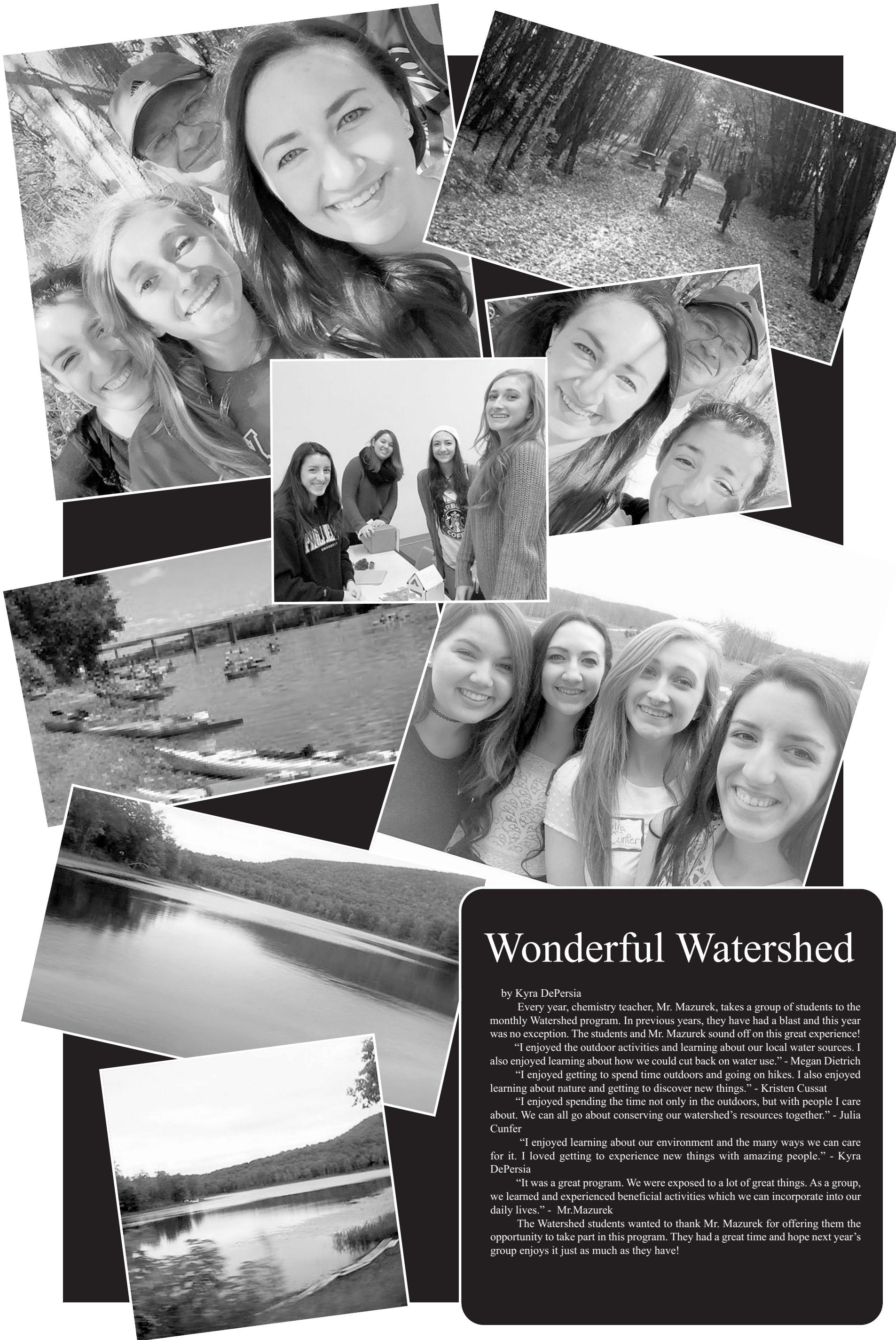
trip. Most admit they miss them, and many with they could go back and relive the entire trip. The couple invited the students to add them on social media, and hope to receive pictures of students line dancing at prom! They also invited the students to contact them if they find themselves back in Nashville at any time. All attending the trip were very grateful to have the experience of spending the trip with the well known couple and also for being able to get to know them.



*courtesy of Hazleton Area band and chorus students.*

Students from Hazleton Area School District rule the dance floor at the Wildhorse after their dance lessons with their tour guides Barry and Dari Anne Amato.





## Wonderful Watershed

by Kyra DePersia

Every year, chemistry teacher, Mr. Mazurek, takes a group of students to the monthly Watershed program. In previous years, they have had a blast and this year was no exception. The students and Mr. Mazurek sound off on this great experience!

"I enjoyed the outdoor activities and learning about our local water sources. I also enjoyed learning about how we could cut back on water use." - Megan Dietrich

"I enjoyed getting to spend time outdoors and going on hikes. I also enjoyed learning about nature and getting to discover new things." - Kristen Cussat

"I enjoyed spending the time not only in the outdoors, but with people I care about. We can all go about conserving our watershed's resources together." - Julia Cunfer

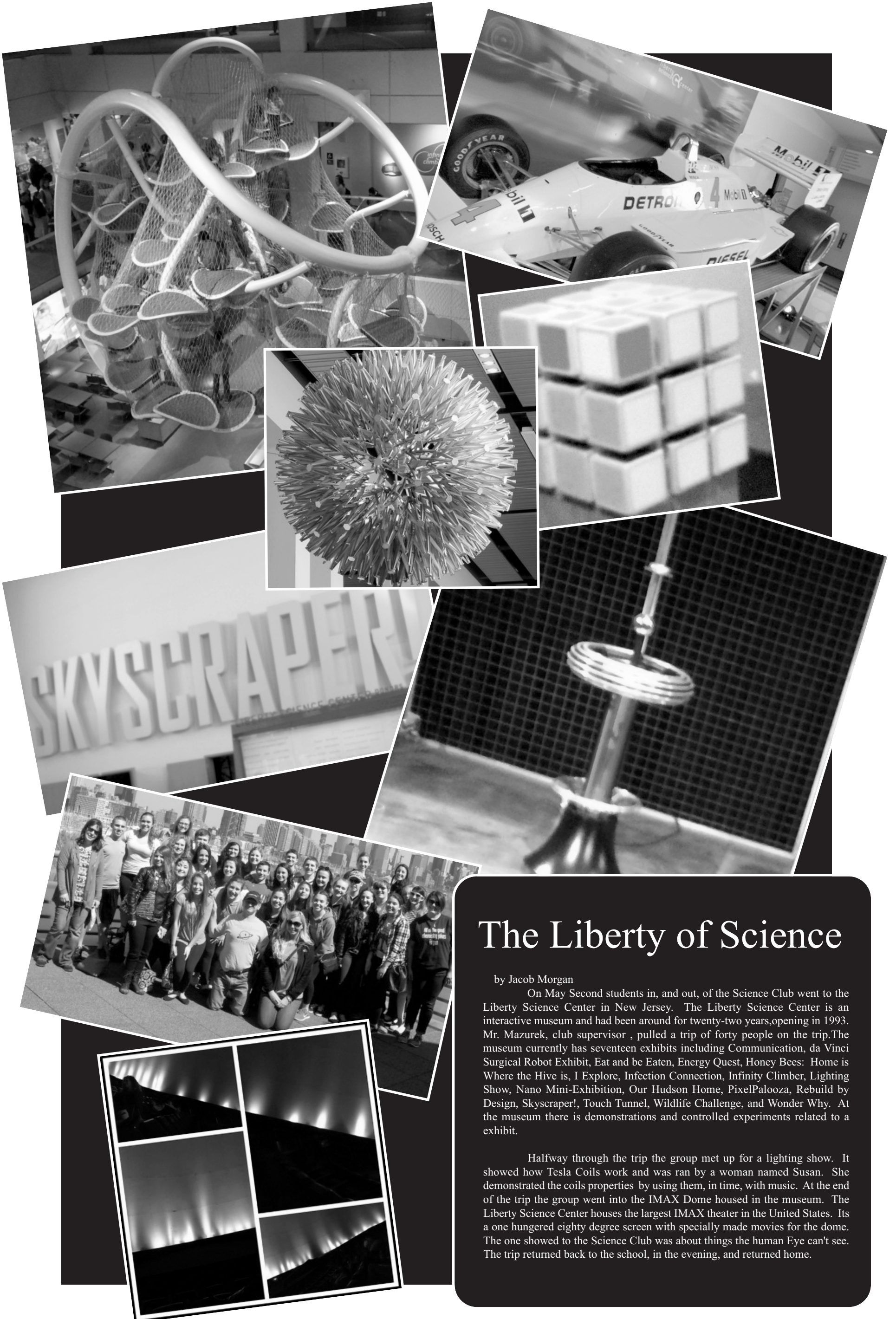
"I enjoyed learning about our environment and the many ways we can care for it. I loved getting to experience new things with amazing people." - Kyra DePersia

"It was a great program. We were exposed to a lot of great things. As a group, we learned and experienced beneficial activities which we can incorporate into our daily lives." - Mr. Mazurek

The Watershed students wanted to thank Mr. Mazurek for offering them the opportunity to take part in this program. They had a great time and hope next year's group enjoys it just as much as they have!



# Science Club Field Trip



## The Liberty of Science

by Jacob Morgan

On May Second students in, and out, of the Science Club went to the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey. The Liberty Science Center is an interactive museum and had been around for twenty-two years, opening in 1993. Mr. Mazurek, club supervisor, pulled a trip of forty people on the trip. The museum currently has seventeen exhibits including Communication, da Vinci Surgical Robot Exhibit, Eat and be Eaten, Energy Quest, Honey Bees: Home is Where the Hive is, I Explore, Infection Connection, Infinity Climber, Lighting Show, Nano Mini-Exhibition, Our Hudson Home, PixelPalooza, Rebuild by Design, Skyscraper!, Touch Tunnel, Wildlife Challenge, and Wonder Why. At the museum there is demonstrations and controlled experiments related to an exhibit.

Halfway through the trip the group met up for a lighting show. It showed how Tesla Coils work and was run by a woman named Susan. She demonstrated the coils properties by using them, in time, with music. At the end of the trip the group went into the IMAX Dome housed in the museum. The Liberty Science Center houses the largest IMAX theater in the United States. Its a one hundred eighty degree screen with specially made movies for the dome. The one showed to the Science Club was about things the human Eye can't see. The trip returned back to the school, in the evening, and returned home.



# Looking for a New Elective? Journalism might be for you!

by Lexi Rentz and Katie Gregasavitch

Don't know what elective to take next year? There are a many choices. So why not choose journalism? Journalism is a strong English class that will help you improve your writing skills and to become more independent. This class also helps you to express your originality and be more open and controversial about different opinions. Journalism will allow you to become noticed by teachers, students, and even colleges by your writing skills in the school newspaper.

The first student interviewed was Calyn Lutz. She took the elective journalism because she had the teacher, Mrs. Matsago, in English III, and wanted to have her again. In her opinion this class offers a way for students to work independently. She recommends this class for students because it allows you to be creative and get their name out there. Before entering this class, Calyn thought journalism would be writing a lot of articles. She did not expect it to consist of projects such as advertising and making power points. Her journalism semester can be described as rewarding, inspiring, and fun.

A sophomore, Mikey Paisley, was the second student interviewed. He picked journalism because he loves writing. He feels this class gives not only writing skills but also people skills. Mikey would



Photo by Katie Gregasavitch

From top left Calyn Kutz and Yamilex Rodriguz. From bottom left Mikey Paisley, Magnolia Martinez, and Christy Havrilla.

recommend this class as an elective to other students because it's a good experience and you get to interact with other students. Before this class began he expected a great deal of writing, but it turned out to be exciting and full of cool projects. This class can be described as fun and unpredictable.

The third student interviewed was Christy Havrilla. She took journalism as an elective because she wanted to better her writing and thinking skills. Also, she plans on minoring or getting a degree in the field of journalism. Christy feels this class offers a better understanding of journalism. "It also helps capture news in creative writ-

ing by opening your mind," she says. She would recommend this class to other students because it doesn't only help you with writing but develops you as a person. Before beginning the class of journalism, she expected strictly writing. It turned out to be more than just writing due to different projects and more ways to be creative. Christy feels this class holds new challenges everyday along with experience.

Magnolia Martinez was the fourth journalism student interviewed. She, agreeing with Calyn, enjoys Mrs. Matsago as a teacher and wanted to have her again. She feels this class offers a strong helping

of English. Magnolia would recommend this class because it is a good experience for college and lets you feel comfortable when writing. Before journalism began, Magnolia assumed it would be an extreme amount of writing, but it turned out to be very sociable, interesting, unique, and exciting.

A senior, Yamilex Rodriguez, was the fifth student interviewed. She joined journalism class because of Mrs. Matsago and to increase her writing. This class offers more than just certain topics, but different things that everyone can individually research. She would recommend this class to others because it's not only educational,

but fun. Agreeing with everyone else, Yamilex thought it would be a ton of writing but it has a lot more different options. Her journalism semester summed up in a few words is fun, controversial, hard, but worth it.

As you can see, many of this semester's journalism students enjoyed this elective. So if you're struggling to pick an elective, think about journalism. Now it's your turn to be the judge of that. Enroll for Journalism 1 with your grade level guidance counselor.

# Sophomore Advice for Rising Freshmen

by Katie Gregasavitch

The freshmen this year will become sophomore students next year. They have the experience of going to a new school, meeting new people, and being the youngest in the whole school building. So what advice do they have for next year's freshmen who will have to go through the same things?

Derek Oberrender says to smile, nod, and keep quiet. "You don't want to cause any trouble in your first year of high school."

Bry Gresh's words of advice are to not be nervous. She says it is not as scary as peo-

ple make it out to be. "It's just school with new and older people."

Another freshman, Josh Zukowski, says to mind your own business in the halls and not to stare. "Don't skip class! It doesn't make you 'cool.' It just causes you to become lost in your classes, which will end with bad grades." He says to get your work done and to try and put your school work first. "Pick a good crowd to hang out with, too. That'll help you a lot with your first year of high school."

Jeff Planutis answered to always respect your teachers.

That will get you a good reputation with them.

The last freshman to be interviewed was Jaycie Jennings. "Don't be late to school and to your classes. It catches up to you in the end." Being late can cause you to get ISS, which you DO NOT want.

So if you are a new freshman for the next school year, read some of these students' advice and helpful tips. They will definitely help you survive your first year of high school here at Hazleton Area High School.

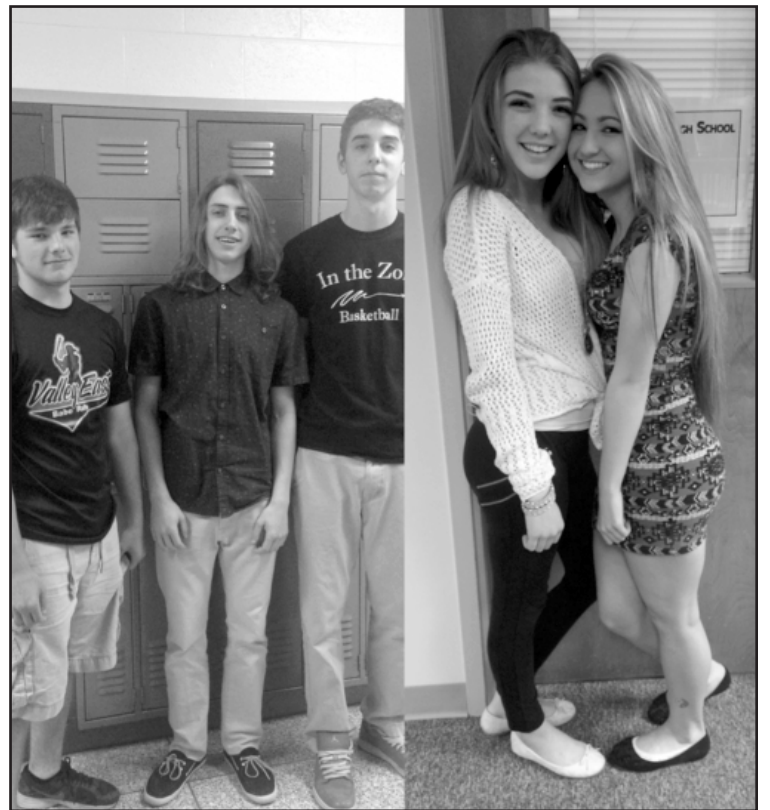


Photo by Katie Gregasavitch

From left; Josh Zukowski, Derek Oberrender, Jeff Planutis, Bry Gresh, and Jaycie Jennings

## Career Center Commentary by Brittany Slim-Almanzar



Keshia DeJesus would like to excel in culinary arts and appreciates the dedicated teachers.



Jowanda Tejeda and Amber Veras would love to see more field trips in broadcast class.



Irma Enriquez and Heaven Batista would appreciate more space to apply the practical concepts of nursing.



Samantha Linford thinks cosmetology could benefit from a larger space and allowing students to wear clothes more typical of a salon.



# Playing Favorites

by Tracy Vasquez

Magnolia Martinez -“Mr. Semuta because he cared about the education for the students and he became my favorite since first semester of my last year of high school.”



Onley Espino with her favorite teacher Mrs. White.

Edva Hoxhallari -“Mrs. Matsago because she has been great teacher, and I’m happy to have ended

my senior year with her as my journalism teacher. I will always remember her; she taught me to be a good writer, plus her great personality.”

Leandris Reyes - “Mr. Mazurek is my favorite because I have always gone to him whenever I need any help. He has helped me in deciding what I wanted to do when I go to college and he continues to encourage me in my future endeavors. I constantly go to him for advice. He’s a great and caring man.”

Onley Espino - “Mrs. White



Tracy Vasquez

On the far left there is Mrs. White and with Onley Espino and right next to them there is Mrs. Riedel with her student Kirsy Beato and also Leandris with Mr. Mazurek.

because she is very responsible, and she is very patient with my class even if we get a little out of hand. Also she educates us in a unique way, and I feel it’s a better way. She became my favorite since day one of her class.”

Kirsy Beato- “Mr. Cann because his funny and his class

was fun.”  
Crischely Polanco- “Mrs. Shemansky has been my math teacher in first semester, and she has been a great help in my life. She also helped me with my grades.”

Keasy Hernandez - “Mrs. Riedel is my favorite teacher because she’s always

there for me. She gives me advice to keep me going and show’s me that there’s always a better tomorrow. She helps me to continue to be positive and I appreciate everything she has done for me.”

## Goals after High School

By: Tracy Vasquez

Are you seeking for college goals, relationship goals, or even eyebrow goals? The future waits for you to accomplish your own goals. Graduation is approaching

and also college is on its way so what are your goals. Is it just finding you’re major or just making your eyebrows on fleek?

For Edva Hoxhallari it’s to go to college and also become famous one day. She

said “I’m going to Penn State and I’m goals for now is to Graduation College and become famous.”

Melanie Santana said “My goal after high school would be to go to Temple University so I can have a career and it will take me 4 to 6 years to accomplish this goal.”

Yamilex Rodriguez said “My goal is to go to the army reserve and attending Misericordia University to do law. Because it’s something I love doing.”

Brittany Zapotosky said “my goal is move away and become successful. I want to move to an area with lots of opportunities. It will

“Focused, hard work is the real key to success. Keep your eyes on the goal, and just keep taking the next step towards completing it. If you aren’t sure which way to do something, do it both ways and see which works better.”

*-John Carmack*  
take a lot of hard and determination.

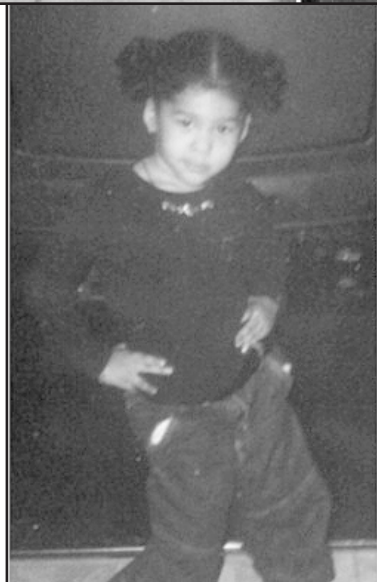
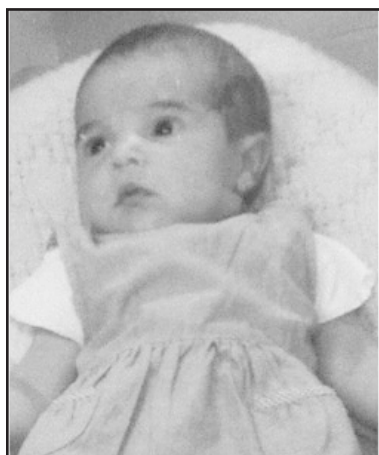
Kirsy Beato said “My goal is to go to college and be successful because it’s huge deal for me to go to college, and I want to be successful in life. I will be going to college right after high school, but I think it will take time to really become successful.”



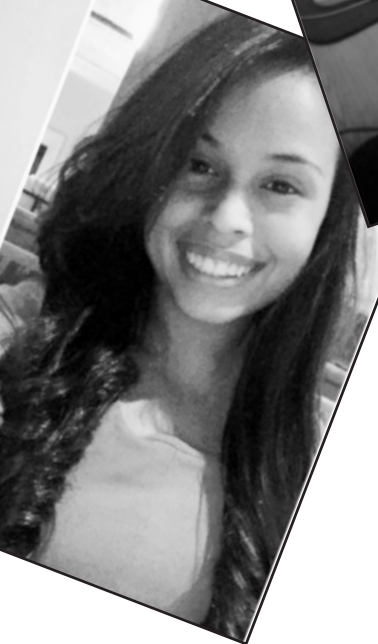
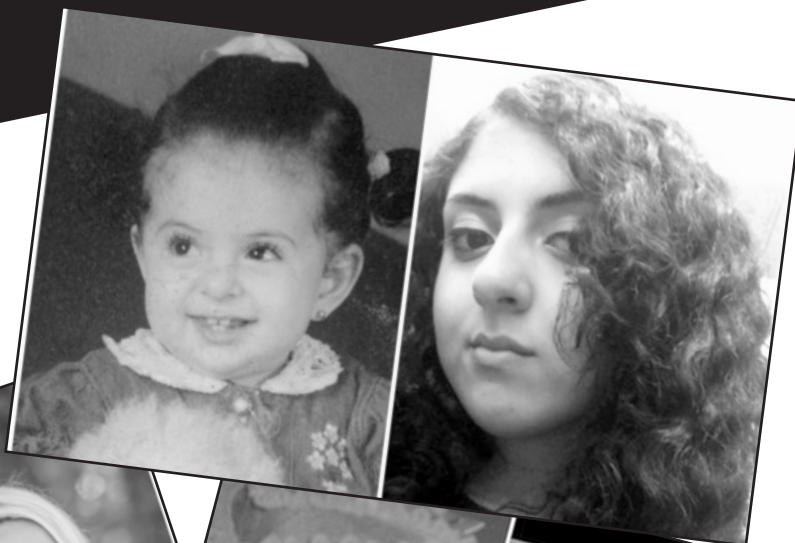
Photo by Jake Sachse

HAHS juniors work diligently in pursuit of their goals.





## *T B with the Seniors!*





# Wrapping Up Senior Year



## THIS 15 IT!

High school is said to be the greatest four years of your life sharing it with friends and making memories that may last forever. However, with senior year coming to an end hopefully you feel as though you have conquered those things. Just sit and think for a minute really how far you've come and how far you are going to go. Once you walked through those doors as a freshman there was no turning back. Now that you look back at it, you wish you were that freshman walking back through those doors again next year. You have come so far and have made so many new friends that you will carry with you for a majority of your life. The amount of help and support you have received from your teachers as they watched you grow and prosper is one thing you should always keep in mind. For seniors, it's almost time for a final goodbye. With prom and graduation approaching faster than you think, it's time to make your final memories. Once it ends, there is no turning back. Hazleton Area High School will always be something you will remember, don't forget it will always be here when you come back. The Class of 2015 will be one to never forget as they "make h15tory" with the continuation of their lives through college and one day in their career. With all that being said, best of luck class of 2015!



## From Cougar Athletes to College Athletes Moving on to Play Collegiate Sports

by Kayla Samec

As the Class of 2015 is closing, many doors are opening for those students going to college. Some students are also going above and beyond in their college career and get to experience what it is like to play the sport they love in a higher up, more experienced level. All of their hard work, countless hours of practice, and determination of getting better has all payed off. HAHS is very blessed to have so many outstanding talented athletes, and we are glad some of our cougars get to show the world how talented they really are. Here are some students who will be attending colleges in the Fall of 2015 to continue the sport they desire the most. Good Luck to everybody who will be involved in collegiate sports.

Athletes have been asked the following questions about continuing their athletic career in college:

- Where will you be attending?
- What division is it?
- What sport are you taking action in?
- How do you feel about playing in college?
- What will you do to prepare?

Hayley Wilkinson  
-Lock Haven



Photo Courtesy: Kayla Samec

Some Hazleton Area High School Athletes are showing everyone that hard work and determination pay off and are continuing their athletic careers in college.

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>-D2<br/>-Soccer<br/>-Shocked but excited because I never thought all the hard work would pay off<br/>- Lots of summer workouts that the coaches have given me; attending summer camps</p> <p>Abby Sachse<br/>-California University of Pennsylvania<br/>-D2<br/>-Softball<br/>-I am blessed to have the opportunity to play college softball, I am excited that hard work payed off</p> | <p>-Keep training and work even harder</p> <p>Joey Baran<br/>-Stony Brook<br/>-D1<br/>-Baseball<br/>-Excited for the opportunity<br/>-Weight lifting; conditioning in general</p> <p>Emily Malone<br/>-United States Military Academy<br/>-D1<br/>-Track and Field<br/>-I am excited to continue my career with a team as good as the Army</p> | <p>-They will give me a program to follow</p> <p>Felicia Grego<br/>-West Chester<br/>-D2<br/>-Swimming<br/>-I am excited to swim at a new level; I am looking to get better<br/>-I will be practicing a lot this summer and mentally preparing</p> <p>Selena Grazio<br/>-University of Pennsylvania<br/>-Ivy league<br/>-Field hockey</p> | <p>-Excited but nervous; excited to see the road ahead<br/>-I have summer packets; start an eating process/weight training and continue playing</p> <p>Jamie Kulaga<br/>-Caldwell University<br/>-D2<br/>-Bowling<br/>-I am excited to compete at a different level; a lot harder and the coaching staff<br/>-practice to get better</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

## So long Spring Sports! Cougars' Spring Sports Seasons Come to an End

by Abby Sachse

There comes a time when everything has to come to an end. Everyone is slowly counting down the days until the end of the school year, and for some of us, the end of our last High School sports season. For some of us our seasons will last a little longer than others, but all in all our final sports season as a Cougar will be missed and remembered forever. The Class of 2015 will leave a legacy in sports. As the Class of 2015 says, THIS IS IT. A survey was conducted with senior athletes from the spring sport season. The questions asked were as followed:

- What are you going to miss the most about your season?
- How do you feel that it was your last sports season at HAHS?
- What was your favorite part of the season?
- Will you be continuing your athletic career in college?

Emily Malone (Track and Field)  
-I will miss the bus rides and being with the girls every day at practice.  
-I am sad because I will miss all of the memories we have made for the past four

years and I will also miss the coaches.  
-Breaking the Invitational and Stadium Record at Pine Grove.  
-Yes at West Point.

Nico Makuta (Tennis)  
-The sassy remarks from my coach and the amount of sportsmanship our team acquired throughout the season.  
-I will miss the players and the coach.  
-The love that our team still had for the game after going 2-8.  
-No I will not.

Mikaela Browdy (Softball)  
-Playing with the same group of people since I was a freshman.  
-I am really sad because I am going to miss hanging out with my team and making great memories.  
-Winning the WVC Conference  
-Yes at King's College

Lauren Blakeslee (Lacrosse)  
-Being able to try something new.  
-I am glad I got to try it, it was a lot of fun

and we keep getting better.  
-Watching us all improve every practice and game.  
-I am going to participate in clubs and stay active  
David Klein (Baseball)

-I am going to miss my teammates because we all got so close and winning.  
-It's upsetting; I don't want it to end.  
-The playoffs  
-Yes at Penn State Harrisburg  
Carlos Rodriguez (Volleyball)

-I will miss the guys the most because they have been working really hard the whole season.  
-I am pretty sad, I have been on the team for four years and I don't want it to end.  
-We came together and played the best we could with a lot of new players. They played really well.  
-Yes



Photo by Abby Sachse

Athletics will always be a big part of HASD. Our seniors will leave a legacy that will never be forgotten.

## How Do the Athletes Feel?



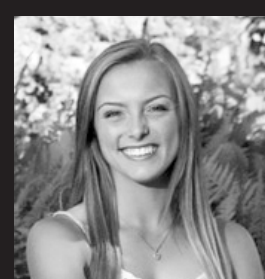
"A dream will always be a dream unless you do something about it"



"You must snatch victories from the jaws of defeat."



"Winning as a team is better than anything. It's great to share success."



"Winners never quit and quitters never win."