

# The Accolade



JAIME PARK

04

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SUNNY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL  
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# LANCERS LAND ON MARS

*Sunny Hills alumnus puts his former school on the "Red Planet"*

**TYLER PAK**

*Asst. Sports Editor*

The distance between Earth and Mars is 33.9 million miles away.

But the words, "Sunny Hills High School," appear on both planets.

That's because an alumnus working for NASA got approval to inscribe his alma mater's name on a chip on the top deck of InSight's spacecraft, which arrived Nov. 26, 2018, on the fourth planet from the sun on a windy area near the equator known as Elysium Planitia.

"My years at Sunny Hills absolutely shaped not only my academic life, but also fed my fire of self-confidence," said Jerry Stoces, Class of 1984 who works for NASA as an independent contractor. "I wanted to have Sunny Hills be a part of our writing the next chapter of exploring the Red Planet."

InSight's mission is to study the planet's interior using geophysical instruments. Scientists hoped to not only learn about the structure of Mars, but gain insight on questions about the formation of earth-like planets, according to NASA's InSight factsheet.

Stoces said he was working on the design phase of the project in 2010 when he came up with the idea of putting the school's name on the spacecraft.

"[The spacecraft design, mission operations and launch teams] initially started micro-etching names of the teams that worked on the spacecraft we launch throughout the solar system, then began expanding it to include others," Stoces said.

The NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory micro-etched the names



Reprinted with permission from Jerry Stoces

**WELCOME ABOARD:** Sunny Hills graduate Jerry Stoces experiences the feeling of zero gravity in the spacecraft "G-Force 1."

onto the spacecraft.

While Sunny Hills students were unaware of Sunny Hills' name being in outer space and on another planet, many who were informed about it reacted with surprise.

"That's just crazy and unbelievable," sophomore Andrei Caspellan. "It shows how people are able to do anything they want with the right mindset, dedication and hard work."

Others, like senior Sohae Yang, felt inspired upon finding out about Stoces' work.

"I think it's really great that the alumnus did that because it just comes to show that anyone here can go on to do amazing things," Yang said. "[It] made my head spin at all the possibilities there

could be for someone coming from Sunny Hills – no matter what field they're interested in."

Chemistry teacher Walter Haberaecker said this feat shows the potential impact students can have on society.

"At the heart of science is the wonder of exploration and discovery," Haberaecker said. "It is exciting that Sunny Hills can be a small part of this history, and a testament to the impact that Lancer alumni can have on the world after leaving our halls."

In 1982, Jerry Stoces heard of NASA's idea of a "Citizen in Space."

Desperately wanting to be the first, he said he wrote to the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to try and get

letters of recommendation.

One month after graduating from Sunny Hills, Stoces said NASA held a press conference in Washington, D.C., announcing that alumnus had the most recommendations to fly on the space shuttle.

Though he was never able to be a passenger on the shuttle, as President Reagan decided that a teacher would be the first to fly, the foundation for his passion was set.

Though Stoces' mission has been accomplished, he hopes that another SH alum will follow after his path: "Wouldn't it be great if another SH graduate visits the InSight Spacecraft one day in the future?"



Reprinted with permission from Jerry Stoces

**TAKEOFF:** NASA's InSight spacecraft ascends to space.

## 18 valedictorians to graduate this school year

**ANDREW HONG**

*Staff Reporter*

For the first time in school history, Sunny Hills High School will have 18 valedictorians to represent the Class of 2019, school official said.

"This is the largest amount of valedictorians we have ever had in [SH] history," principal Allen Whitten said. "We have so many students that earn that academic title, and these students are just incredible."

Though no official records are kept for each graduating class'

valuedictorians, according to past issues of *The Accolade*, the most in the 21st century date back to 2003 when that graduating class had 12.

"At first, I was surprised that there were 18 of us, but honestly, after thinking about it, our class is really hard-working and has a culture of aiming high," senior Diana Wang said. "I was really happy that I was chosen, [and] in a way, it made me feel like everything I worked for was worth it."

Along with the students' determination to maintain a consistent high grade point average

throughout their high school career, the high-quality education that Sunny Hills provides also plays a key factor in students' success, Whitten said.

"We have amazing students, families and faculties who teach at a high level and love working with our students," he said.

As a result of this year's large number of valedictorians, auditions were held on May 10, selecting six out of the 10 students who volunteered. Students who auditioned were personally informed by Whitten the following week.

"We had a panel of teachers

and administrators [who selected students] based off [their] auditions," he said.

The names of the six selected valedictorians will be revealed on May 30, the day of the graduation ceremony.

Whether a student secured one of the six spots or not, every valedictorian's journey has taught that any task can be accomplished with the right mindset, senior Megan Fu said.

"I realized that I'm more capable than I think I am, whether it be academic endeavors or otherwise," she said. "A lot of the

time, it was about more than just getting the grades; it was about achieving something I had set my mind to."

This year's large group of valedictorians represents Sunny Hills's credentials as a high-ranking school, Whitten said.

"Sunny Hills is one of the top high schools in the country and consistently ranked very high in the state," he said. "We just have a lot of amazing kids, and to me, it is very fitting that we have 18 [valuedictorians] because it represents the overall caliber of our students."



KIMBERLY MORALES | theaccolade

**ROWING:** Senior Anna Lee takes her handmade boat across the Sunny Hills pool on May 20th.



# Sunny Hills sets sail

*Physics students partake in the annual boat races as part of an extra credit opportunity*



PAUL YASUTAKE | theaccolade

**CELEBRATING:** Senior AJ Galang cheers as his boat makes it across the pool.



MEGAN SHIN | theaccolade

**STRUGGLING TO STAY AFLOAT:** Chemistry teacher Alexander Hua paddles in a vain attempt to prevent his students' boat from sinking into the pool.



PAUL YASUTAKE | theaccolade

**TERRIFIED:** Student support services teacher Kellie Ma tries to stay afloat.

## The Accolade named finalists for third consecutive year

CHLOE LEE

Entertainment Editor

For a third consecutive year, an issue from The Accolade has been named a finalist for the Best High School Newspaper award in an annual contest sponsored by the Los Angeles Press Club.

The school newspaper's Oct. 26, 2018, issue titled, "New Perspectives," will go up against a Dec. 7, 2018, publication of The Pearl

Post of Daniel Pearl High School in Lake Balboa and three entries from The Matador of San Gabriel High School — a Jan. 24, 2018, March 15, 2018, and Nov. 9, 2018, issue, according to the L.A. Press Club's website.

First to third place winners in this category for the Press Club's 61st Southern California Journalism Awards ceremony will be announced June 30 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel

in Los Angeles.

"We submitted the 'New Perspectives' issue in October for the Orange County write-offs' Best of Show contest in which we placed first by the narrowest of margins," Accolade adviser Tommy Li said. "So I'm sensing that this would be a tense race to the final."

Besides Li, junior Michelle Buckley, the 2019-2020 editor-in-chief [EIC], plans to attend the awards ceremony, hoping for the

best.

"We worked really hard to produce a newspaper worthy of winning," Buckley said.

If The Accolade takes the top prize, which comes with an eight-foot tall, clear acrylic trophy, it will be the first high school publication to win for three consecutive years, which leaves Li with nothing but praise for the staff.

"To be a finalist for the third year in a row simply

means our students have kept up our newspaper program's award-winning tradition," he said.

Winning would also mean all the changes that The Accolade experienced this school year, such as the smaller paper size, have paid off, said senior Noah Somphone, the 2018-2019 editor-in-chief.

"We wanted to spice it up a little, and we felt like it was really hard for readers to hold the broadsheet size,

which was what we had originally," Somphone said. No matter the results next month, Li said he is proud of the staff and his students' efforts.

"I sense that things will only get better for us — in terms of future awards possibilities," he said. "So if you're reading this and want to join our national, state and local award-winning program, be sure to contact your counselor and sign up for Journalism 1."

# CLASS OF 2019 VALEDICTORIANS

*Sunny Hills awards 18 students the title of valedictorian after four rigorous years of high school*



**Erica Bae**

**Yale University, psychology**

*How did you find out that this school fit for you?*

"I trusted the system, and I felt like [I] belonged there because they had picked me over other people and really saw my personality through the essays."

*Describe your feelings when you got accepted into the school.*

"When I got accepted into Yale, I was really happy because even though it was not my dream school, I felt really relieved since it is like all my work in high school got paid off."

Compiled by Megan Shin



**Bryant Chung**

**University of California, Los Angeles, math**

*Can you describe your feelings when you got accepted?*

"I was relieved because I had gotten rejected by six schools and was losing all hope for my future."

*What advice would you give to underclassmen?*

"Make sure you enjoy those afterschool walks to town center because after everyone starts driving, you will never want to walk again."

Compiled by Megan Shin



**Kelvin Chung**

**University of California, Los Angeles, chemistry**

*If you can redo one year of high school, which one would it be and why?*

"If I can redo one year, it would be senior year because I feel like I didn't try hard enough on my college applications."

*What do you do in your free time?*

"Since I'm basically done with high school now, I choose to either sleep or rot nowadays."

Compiled by Lauren Kim



**Nisha Desai**

**University of California, Riverside, math**

*What are your thoughts on finishing high school?*

"I'm a little sad because I won't get to see my friends as often, but I'm mostly excited to graduate and to go to college."

*How does your college decision influence your career and your future?*

"Going to University of California, Riverside [UCR] as a math major will help me eventually become a high school math teacher."

Compiled by Megan Shin



**Tara Desai**

**University of California, Los Angeles, undeclared**

*What was your greatest challenge in high school?*

"Waking up."

*What are some of your trusted techniques for getting straight A's?*

"Just do the work. A lot of the time, the difference between an A and a B can be your participation or homework grade."

Compiled by Aaliyah Magana



**Isabel Dhillon**

**Scripps College, economics and psychology**

*What advice would you give to students who are aiming to be valedictorian?*

"Establish a relationship with your teachers at the beginning of the year and show them that you are going to work hard."

*What words would you use to describe yourself?*

"Hard-working, passionate and a bit neurotic."

Compiled by Aaliyah Magana





### Megan Fu

**University of California, Los Angeles, English**

*Do you think taking harder classes benefitted you more than taking more standard classes?*

“Taking harder classes definitely benefited me in the long run. Although it’s a pain [when] you’re going through it, especially during AP and IB test season, [it ultimately] helps with your chances in college.”

*How does the phrase “Work smarter, not harder” apply to your achievement as valedictorian?*

“That phrase definitely started applying more the worse my senioritis got. Now instead of covering tons and tons of material, I just cover the basics and pray for the best.”

Compiled by Megan Shin



### Aldric Gozon

**University of California, Berkeley, electrical engineering and computer science**

*How do you feel about this recognition?*

“I feel very proud to be a valedictorian, and [I] am happy that my efforts throughout these years have come to fruition.”

*What is one of the best experiences from high school?*

“One of my favorite experiences from high school was participating in Mr. Sunny Hills. While I didn’t win, I’m really happy I succumbed to the pressure [from] my friends. It was fun performing in front of everyone!”

Compiled by Hannah Jeong



### Jeren Huang

**University of California, Los Angeles, computer science**

*Did you think you would become valedictorian freshman year and why?*

“Not really because I didn’t have amazing grades in elementary or middle school, especially in English, but [in high school], I focused on fixing my weaknesses.”

*How do you feel about the large number of valedictorians this year? Does this discredit the title?*

“No, I think the large size just shows how great the class of 2019 is.”

Compiled by Hannah Jeong



### Rosie Jang

**Johns Hopkins University, neuroscience**

*How rewarding is it to become a valedictorian?*

“It’s very rewarding. I am getting recognized for all the 4 a.m. nights I spent crying in my bed while writing an essay or finishing homework. I would like to give myself a pat on the back for working my butt off.”

*Which class posed the biggest threat to your valedictorian status?*

“I hated AP US History. It was the worst class I’ve ever taken. I had a great teacher, but I didn’t have enough brain cells for it.”

Compiled by Lauren Kim



### Minji Kim

**Northeastern University, pharmacy**

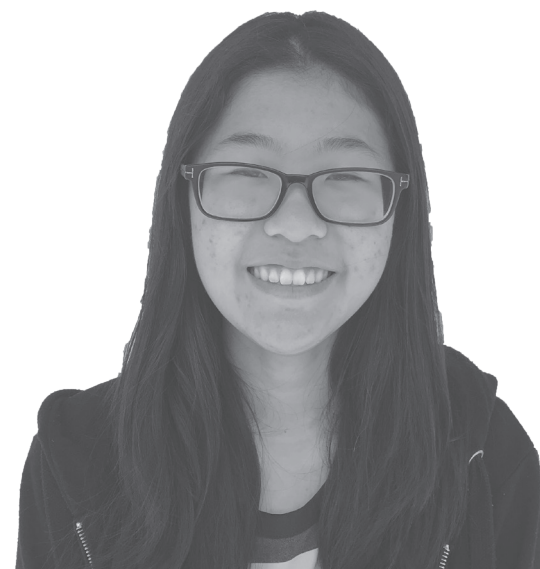
*How do you balance your social and school life?*

“To be honest, I failed to balance social and school life. Though I saved some time to hang out or grab a quick meal with friends, I mostly sacrificed my social life to stay home and study.”

*What was the hardest class for you, and how did you get through it?*

“The hardest class for me was AP Chemistry. I got through that class by previewing and reviewing the materials, getting help from tutors and cramming all the information the days before the exam.”

Compiled by Lauren Kim



### Erin Kwak

**University of California, Los Angeles, undeclared**

*Who has been the most influential person in your time at Sunny Hills and why?*

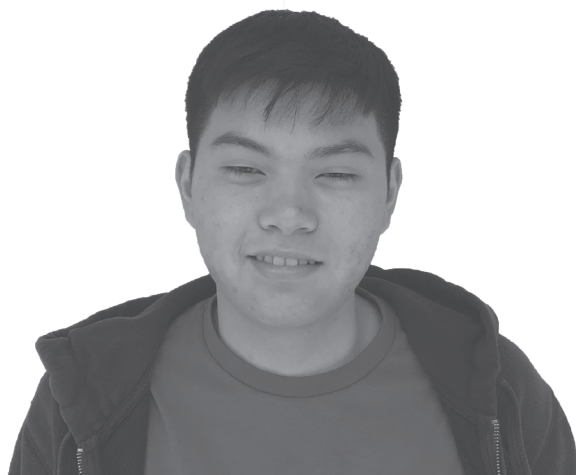
“I can’t choose just one person because everyone — whether I interacted with them a lot or a little — impacted and taught me a lot. I think since my closest friends and my mom were part of it the most, I would probably have to say that they influenced me the most.”

*How do you think Sunny Hills has prepared you for life after graduation?*

“It taught me how to interact with different types of people in different types of situations. I’ve also learned about myself and how I work, study and play.”

Compiled by Chloe Lee



**Nathan Ly**

**University of Southern California, chemical engineering**

*What career do you see yourself in 10 years later?*  
“I see myself working as a chemical engineer at some firm.”

*What’s one advice that you would give to underclassmen?*

“One advice would be [to not] freak out too much about screwing up your grades; otherwise you’ll get overwhelmed and then actually fail. Adversity is natural, so just do your best and don’t stress too hard.”

Compiled by Chloe Lee

**Camryn Pak**

**Stanford University, political science**

*What are some of your study habits?*

“I would watch Netflix, sleep around 10 p.m. and then wake up at 3 a.m. to do homework.”

*What are some words of wisdom for students?*

“If it’s not the due date, it’s not the ‘do’ date.”

Compiled by Lauren Kim

**Aylen Park**

**Williams College, global health and latin american studies**

*Which year at Sunny Hills was your favorite and why?*

“My favorite year was freshman year because I had moved from Argentina just a couple weeks before school started; despite that, ever since the first day of freshman year, I have met so many amazing friends that have been with me all the way to this last week of senior year.”

*What was your family’s reaction when you were chosen as valedictorian?*

“My family was very proud of me because even though I moved from a Spanish-speaking country to the U.S, I was still able to succeed in my studies while still enjoying every moment of high school.”

Compiled by Chloe Lee

**Rebecca Park**

**University of California, Berkeley, biology**

*What obstacles, if any, did you overcome while attending Sunny Hills?*

“Definitely balancing academics with sports (tennis), orchestra, school clubs and volunteer work, along with maintaining a social life has been the most challenging aspect of my high school career — I’m totally for the ‘work hard, play hard’ mindset, but [it’s] definitely easier said than done.”

*What was your favorite year of high school? Why?*

“Without a doubt, senior year. Despite also being the most exhausting year of high school, I can’t deny that making it on homecoming court and going to the Troy v. Sunny basketball game, Mr. Sunny Hills, stag and prom made this year that much more worthwhile. Plus, it’s pretty nice to finally be on top of the food chain.”

Compiled by Hannah Yi

**Brianna Vo**

**Washington University in St. Louis, neuroscience**

*Anything you would like to say for the next incoming seniors?*

“Senioritis is literally the worst thing that will happen to you. You think that it’s not going to hit you, but it will. Trust me because there’s no running away from it.”

*How does it feel to finally be done with high school?*

“I’m a little bit sad [because] I have to pay for my education now. I should’ve tried harder for a scholarship.”

Compiled by Hannah Yi

**Diana Wang**

**University of California, San Diego, psychology**

*What is one piece of advice you would give to the underclassmen?*

“If you’re unsure whether to try something, just do it. It’s OK to make mistakes.”

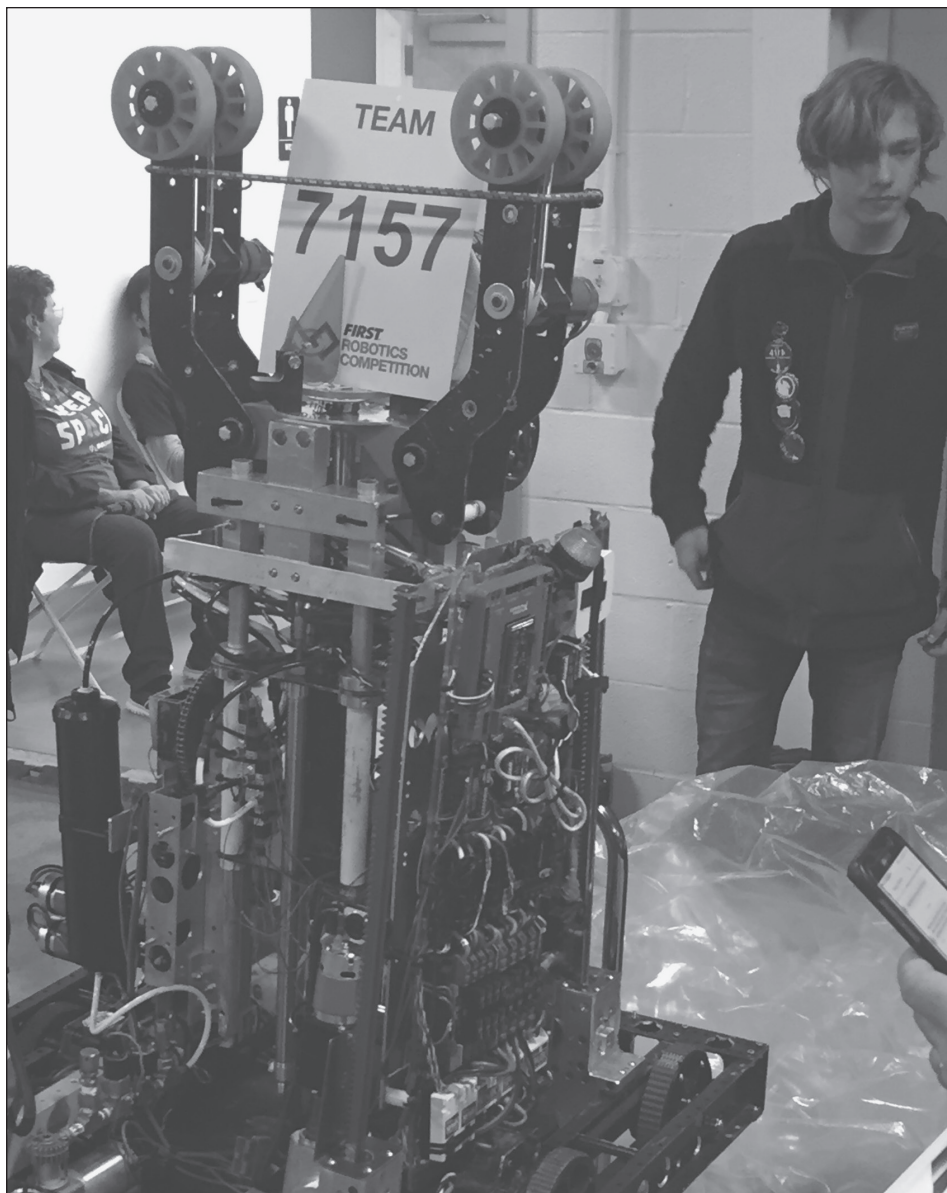
*What was your favorite part experience at Sunny Hills?*

“My favorite experience at Sunny Hills would have to be playing with my water polo team and winning our CIF quarter final game when we were the lower-seeded team.”

Compiled by Hannah Yi



# SH, Brea form Mubotics



Images reprinted with permission from Dan Zanone

**READY FOR ACTION:** MuBotics, also known as Team 7157 from Sunny Hills and Brea Olinda studentse, gets ready for one of its competitions.

ISAAC CHOI

Staff Reporter

“Mu” is a prevalent Greek character in mathematics and also happens to echo a “meow” as a homage to Brea Olinda High School’s mascot, Wild Cats.

So that’s how the squads from Sunny Hills and Brea Olinda came up with the name of its robotics team — Mubotics, a group of 30 students from Sunny Hills and Brea Olinda that has competitively programmed and built robots throughout this past school year.

Brea’s junior Johann Dizon said two years after its formation, his school decided to team up with Sunny Hills.

The collaboration between these two schools started because Brea Olinda did not have a permanent place to do its robotics work.

Since a spacious work environment is crucial for construction with tools and all sorts of equipment, the group

teamed up with Sunny Hills.

Dizon said he was excited to see Mubotics expand upon its potential capabilities.

“[Before], we just went around to borrow tools from peoples’ garages, and we did not really have a solid base of operation,” he said. “But now with Sunny Hills, we are able to use their shop, and Engineering Pathways to Innovation and Change teacher Dan Zanone helps us out.”

Junior Deiniel Jones Casta, who joined this year, said the Mubotics team includes a separate group that does the mechanical work — a 3D modeling team that aids the computer design with the prototypes.

So far, the collaboration has brought positive results.

Zanone said the team placed 14 place out of 60 teams at a recent competition.

“We did really well, and we also got chosen for the finals so we actually competed all the way to the quarterfinals,” he said.

## Legendary champs

It was a 3-0 win against Troy High School in the first League of Legends high school championship tournament in the North America Scholastic Esports Federation.

Along with the April 27 victory came a giant gold trophy and a \$2,500 check for the Sunny Hills five-member squad.

“Troy was a tough opponent and very competitive,” said the team’s general manager Myra Deister. “The team practiced more than usual because they knew this and had lost to Troy two times this season. They wanted to be competitive against them and they were.”

Deister pointed to sophomore Erik Kim as a key player.

“He was always even or ahead of his opponent and can carry games if needed,” she said.



**GAME ON:** Senior Alan Shin and his four other League of Legends teammates will compete at a first-time League of Legends High School Invitational May 26.



Images reprinted with permission from Sunny Hills League of Legends general manager Myra Deister  
**NO. 1:** The five-member Sunny Hills team celebrates its first-place title at the League of Legends tournament in the North American Scholastic Esports Federation finals at Long Beach. The April 27 first-time event also came with a \$2,500 check for the championship team.



## California

ArtCenter College of Design  
 Azusa Pacific University  
 Biola University  
 California Baptist University  
 Cal Poly Pomona  
 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
 CSU Channel Island  
 CSU Chico  
 CSU Dominguez Hills  
 CSU East Bay  
 CSU Fresno  
 CSU Fullerton  
 CSU Long Beach  
 CSU Los Angeles  
 CSU Monterey Bay  
 CSU Northridge  
 CSU Pomona  
 CSU Sacramento  
 CSU San Bernadino  
 CSU San Diego  
 CSU San Jose  
 CSU San Marcos  
 CSU Stanislaus  
 Cerritos Community College  
 Chapman University  
 Concordia University Irvine  
 Cypress College  
 Fullerton College  
 Hope International University  
 Humboldt State University  
 Irvine Valley College  
 Laguna College of Art and Design  
 Long Beach City College  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Mt. San Antonio College  
 Occidental College  
 Orange Coast College  
 Otis College of Art and Design  
 Pacadena City College  
 Pepperdine University  
 Pomona College  
 Rio Hondo College  
 Santa Ana College  
 Santiago Canyon College  
 Scripps College  
 Stanbridge University  
 Stanford University  
 The Master's University  
 UC Berkeley  
 UC Davis  
 UC Irvine  
 UC Los Angeles  
 UC Merced  
 UC Riverside  
 UC San Diego  
 UC Santa Barbara  
 UC Santa Cruz  
 University of Southern California  
 University of the Pacific  
 Whittier College



## Hawaii

University of Hawaii at Mānoa  
 University of Hawaii at Hilo

## Oregon

Lewis & Clark College  
 Oregon State University

## Nevada

University of Las Vegas Nevada

## Idaho

Boise State University  
 College of Idaho

## Utah

Brigham Young University  
 University of Utah

## Colorado

United States Air Force Academy  
 University of Colorado Boulder  
 Fort Lewis College  
 University of Colorado Denver  
 University of Denver

## Arizona

Arizona State University  
 Grand Canyon University  
 University of Arizona

# Where are the SENIORS going?\*



## Florida

University of Miami

## Oklahoma

Oklahoma State University

## Washington

University of Washington

**\*DISCLAIMER:** This graphic shows colleges that have been reported to The Accolade by a portion of around 525 total senior students. This compilation is also student-reported and may contain some errors.



Illinois

Greenville University  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Northwestern University  
University of Chicago

Indiana

Indiana University Bloomington  
Marian University Indianapolis

Michigan

Concordia University Ann Arbor  
Michigan State University  
Northern Michigan University  
University of Michigan

Montana

Montana State University

Nebraska

University of Nebraska Lincoln

Massachusetts

Boston College  
Boston University  
College of the Holy Cross  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
MCPHS Boston  
Northeastern University  
Williams College

Maryland

Johns Hopkins University

New York

Columbia University  
Bard College  
Clarkson University  
Fordham University  
Hofstra University  
Ithaca College  
Manhattanville College  
New York University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Skidmore College  
Syracuse University  
University of Rochester

Pennsylvania

Gettysburg College  
Penn State University

Washington  
D.C

American University  
George Washington University

Iowa

Georgian Court University

Tennessee

Vanderbilt University

New Jersey

Rutgers University

Virginia

Virginia Tech

Kansas

Kansas State University  
University of Kansas  
Wichita State University

Georgia

Emory University

North Carolina

Mid Atlantic Christian University

Minnesota

St. Cloud State University

Ohio

Denison University  
Kenyon College

Connecticut

University of Connecticut  
Yale University

Missouri

Washington University in St. Louis

Texas

Baylor University  
Southern Methodist University  
Texas Christian University  
University of Texas at Austin





# Sonic speeds to wrong direction

ALEX PARK

Asst. Opinion Editor

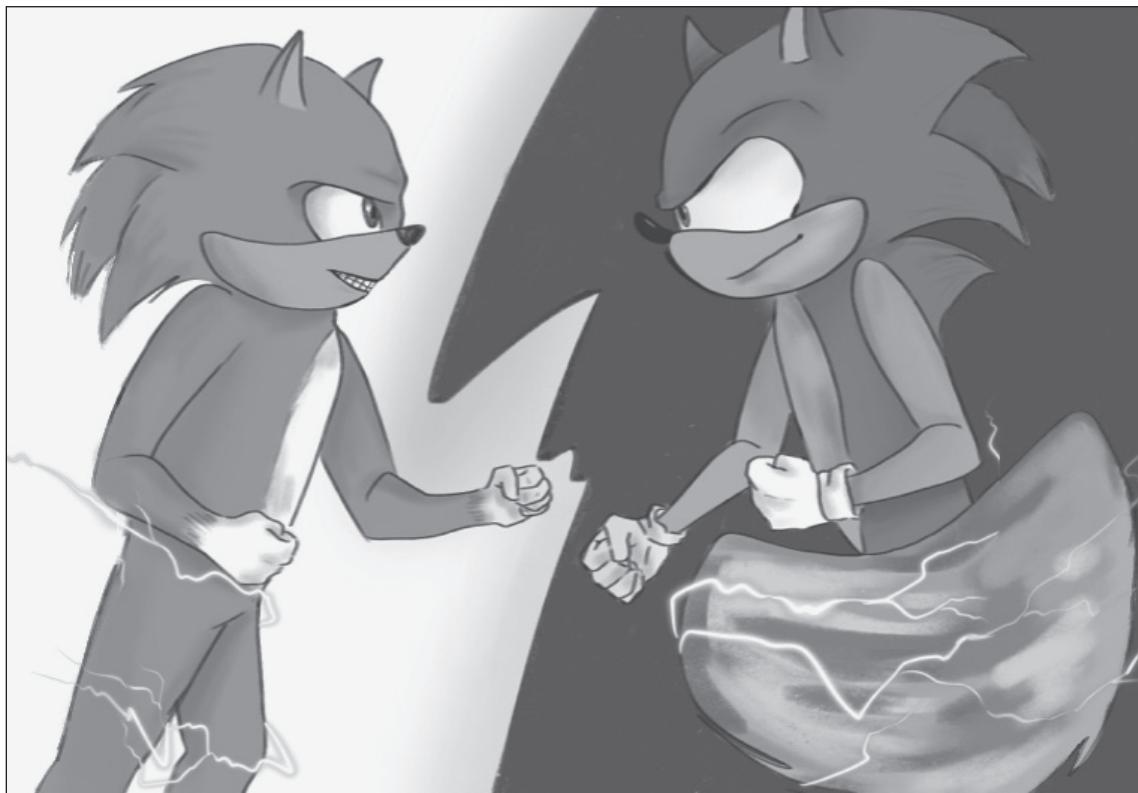
Instead of seeing a cute, dark blue-furred character battling with its powerful spin dashes, we see an ugly, grotesque creature flashing its disgusting smile and calling itself Sonic the Hedgehog.

Sonic fans learned of this maligned representation when they saw the trailer for the live-action movie “Sonic the Hedgehog” on April 30 and have since voiced their disapproval through social media.

As a mega-Sonic the Hedgehog fan who watched the animated series “Sonic X” and played many of Sega’s video games like “Mario & Sonic at the Olympic Games,” I was very excited to hear that a movie version would be released.

I watched the trailer with high expectations when it was released, and along with many fans, I was outraged at how the graphic designers completely missed out on Sonic’s key visual characteristics. His figure eight-shaped eyes, short height and dark-blue skin were nowhere to be seen.

Unfortunately, Paramount Pic-



ERIN LEE | theaccolade

tures destroyed Sonic’s original image as the hedgehog became furry like an actual hedgehog and also developed very human-like characteristics like its teeth and tall height.

As a result, on May 2, two days after the trailer’s disclosure,

Fowler announced that Sonic’s design will be changed. Fortunately, the movie’s release date still remains unchanged.

“Thank you for the support. And the criticism. The message is loud and clear ... you aren’t happy with the design & you want

changes,” director Jeff Fowler wrote on Twitter. “It’s going to happen. Everyone at Paramount & Sega are fully committed to making this character the BEST he can be...”

At first, I had zero intention of watching the movie because I was

disgusted by the terrible depiction of Sonic; however, I changed my mind because I was pleased to see Fowler’s willingness to take the fans’ opinions into account and redesign the character that his production worked so hard to make.

My biggest hope for the graphic designers is that they will revert to the original, animated version of Sonic as much as they can. Hopefully, when I watch the movie in November, I won’t have to frown whenever I stare at the character that is supposed to be Sonic.

Fans may have had bitter feelings about Fowler and Paramount Pictures, but they must also consider that redesigning a new Sonic is a very difficult decision because redesigning it will lead to changes in many parts of the movie like the fighting scenes, which would be a very stressful process for filmmakers.

Meanwhile, I’m going to take a wait-and-see approach to this. To ease all of our worries, why not join me in my “Mario & Sonic at the Olympic Games” marathon? Starting... after finals next week, of course.

## Remake brings a ‘whole new world’ for Disney fans

HANNA OLTMAN

Asst. Feature Editor

It was an animated film originally released on Nov. 25, 1992.

It became the highest grossing film that year, making over \$504 million in worldwide ticket sales.

That was nearly 30 years ago.

And today, Disney is banking on the fact that it still appeals to moviegoers with its live-action remake of “Aladdin.”

Though comedian Robin Williams is no longer around as the voice actor of the Genie, Disney hired Will Smith (“Runner”) to play the title role. Mena Mas-

soud (“Run This Town”) plays the thief, while Naomi Scott (“Power Rangers”) plays princess Jasmine.

Despite the skepticism about this version of “Aladdin” circulating on social media, Disney might have created another hit.

“I find it really cool when Disney can take classic movies and remake them to be more relevant with our time and technology,” said junior Kyra Hughes, who is planning to watch the film

Aside from obvious technological advancements, there is a different mood between the cartoon version and remake. While

the original movie’s atmosphere is magical, the newer trailer is more dramatic with its plethora of riveting jumps.

“It’s like the Renaissance period for Disney movies,” said junior Alex Alonzo, a Disney fanatic. “Since [the movies] are pretty classic, it is good to see them have a modern twist.”

However, the students on campus aren’t the only ones excited for this new movie.

“I don’t think [the new movie] is going to top the original one, but I am going to see it,” math teacher and Disney-enthusiast Amanda Morris said.

Although the teachers seem to be leaning towards the classic, they are excited to see how the movie has changed.

“It is interesting to see [‘Aladdin’] again and see how they re-adapted it,” math teacher Cristian Bueno said. “I still prefer the original, animated version.”

Despite the positive feedback, some Disney fans remained resilient in avoiding such remakes.

“I think the movie is going to look creepy with CGI instead of the whole thing being a cartoon,” said sophomore Samantha Mejia, who has

seen almost every Disney movie twice.

It seems that the reactions to “Aladdin” are two-sided with the majority split between positive feedback and controversial ratings. Either way, Disney fans will find out this weekend.

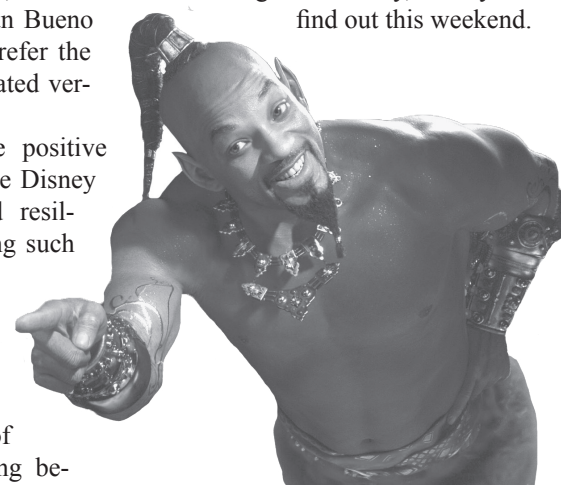


Image used with permission from Walt Disney Pictures  
**FREE AT LAST:** In the trailer, Genie looks at Aladdin before performing his powers.





## STAFF EDITORIAL

# How too many valedictorians may not be good for the school

Seniors made an extraordinary accomplishment this school year by producing 18 valedictorians, nearly double the amount from last year's 10.

Such a feat requires tremendous consistency, diligence and effort, which are all qualities we need to be successful in society.

When one of our reporters asked principal Allen Whitten what he thought about this large number of high achievers, he said it proves Sunny Hills's credentials as a high-ranking school.

However, *The Accolade* begs to differ. Having 18 valedictorians may not benefit our school because it damages the prestige that comes with this title. So to ensure that the valedictorian status is worthy of its recognition, Sunny Hills should conduct an overall analysis on whether our academic level is actually decreasing or not.

Doing this is crucial for future valedictorians because if admissions counselors catch wind that approximately three percent of the students won this title, they may not think highly of it.

"If a school has those extremely high-end numbers (of valedictorians), then I would quickly assume that grading isn't very rigorous at all at that



KAREN LEE | theaccolade

school," said Jim Rawlins, president of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, in an interview with NBC news. "My gut instinct as an admission director is that I'd start to wonder a bit even at four."

Of course, this is not said to demean the intelligence of this

year's valedictorians.

The concern here lies in the effects this amazing accomplishment may have on the following year's graduating class.

Sunny Hills currently has a great reputation among the community – thanks to various factors like the recognition from the

US News and World Report as "One of the Best High Schools."

So, while it is understandable to stay overjoyed at the accomplishment that the seniors this year have made, we must make sure it does not undermine our prestige by proving to others that Sunny Hills is a great school.

## Letters to the editor

I really enjoyed reading "Boys volleyball made official" [Sports] and "Bill to allow 17-year-olds to vote smart idea" [Opinion]

For Pak's article about boys volleyball, I liked how he added quotes from many people. I believe it was a great way to bring in different views and sides about boys volleyball.

I also enjoyed reading Jack Leydiker's article because it makes *Accolade* have a great purpose to not only inform SH students about what is happening at school, but also in the state.

—Umbert Caseres, sophomore

I thought the article, "Marvel at 'Avengers: Endgame,'" an interesting article to read.

I think it was clever how the article writer (Annie

Bang) included a short summary of the "Endgame" plot so that it wouldn't be hard recalling certain events of the movie.

Lastly, I really liked that the writer put in certain scenes from the movie into the article. It was enjoyable reading an article like this, and I'm looking forward to reading more.

—Holy Cho, sophomore

I am impressed with the last issue, and I agree with seniors learning CPR because that will help when someone is in need of that treatment.

This could help save lives and educate ourselves into what we must do in these situations. I look forward to training for CPR so that when someone around me needs help, I'll know what has to be done.

—Karen Duran Chavez, sophomore

I found the article "Hang up on Phone restriction bill" very interesting. I didn't realize that this bill was even proposed. I personally think that students should make their own decisions about using phones since it is their own grade that is on the line. It's a very insightful article.

—Carson Irons, sophomore

*The Accolade welcomes signed letters to the editor with full name sent to Room 138 or theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.*

*The staff reserves the right to edit. Because this is the last issue of the school year, any letters related to it will be published in the first issue of the 2019-2020 school year.*

## For the record

*The Accolade* regrets the following errors from the May 3 issue:

In a feature article titled, "Computer science aims to program for success," Computer Science AB class was in the photo caption but not in the story as a class that Sunny Hills High School offers.

In a feature article titled, "An epic collaboration," it should have been made clear that the collaboration between some Sunny Hills students and Nicolas Junior High School students is not in Sunny Hills' Engineering Pathways to Innovation and Change [EPIC] program. EPIC has its own robotics team known as MuBotics, which collaborates with some students from Brea Olin-da High School. It just so happens that the team with some Nicolas students also includes students in the EPIC program.

the accolade

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# Hindsight is always 20/20

**NOAH SOMPHONE**

*Editor-in-Chief*

A senior friend told me during my sophomore year that high school was a four-part series, saying that I would only understand when I was in his place. It went something like this:

Freshman year — Huge friend groups assemble, hanging out with each other. We're trying to figure it out.

Sophomore year — We start to split. People form different groups, seeing who they want to spend their time with. We can't be that close to everyone.

Junior year — This is when we find our real ones.

Senior year — We only spend time with our real ones.

Although, originally, I thought this

monologue was just my friend trying to be philosophical. Sure enough, I do understand. But it only happened after I looked behind me. Herein lies the saying "Hindsight is 20/20."

Yes, this is true. It doesn't just apply to relationships, love or whatever you want to call it. Things do happen, and it hurts. People leave. You lose things that you love. Your goals change.

I guess a lot of it has to do with switching viewpoints. Sometimes, we're stuck with so much tunnel vision that we have to zoom out to see the bigger picture.

Focused on that one A? I almost dropped out of AP Lang when I realized David Wolf would be my teacher. Now, he's one of my favorite people at school.

How about those friendships? I've learned so much more from the pain than

the happiness it brought me.

Let's take a step back. In the midst of all of the struggle, pause and take a breath. Be still. Think.

Feelings suck. If we were to look at them technically, they're just signals that the brain sends to the rest of the body when we experience something.

But that's not how they really feel. Instead, we go through random cycles of emotion, trying to comprehend what exactly happened to us. Don't resist. Embrace them and look back. Learn from your mistakes because when you do, that's where you grow. Sometimes, your biggest error will turn into your greatest joy, as it did for me.

Whatever you're feeling at that point in time, it will always get better. Believe me. Hindsight is 20/20.

# A reflection of regrets

**MINJI KIM**

*Feature Editor*

"High school is a four-year audition for college admissions."

That was my one and only motto during my freshman year of high school. As I stepped foot on what others called their "new home," I could've cared less about the memories and the experiences I would cherish throughout high school. Why? Because college is what really mattered.

As I take a step back to reflect on "freshman me," I can't help but laugh at how ridiculous this motto was and how I threw on myself an unnecessary amount of stress and pressure.

At first, I refused to participate in

any school dances and only joined clubs for the sake of adding an extra line of accomplishment on my college application.

As a result, I lost opportunities that Sunny Hills offered and neglected the fact that my identity was not just a couple of letter grades and numbers.

It took me four years to go to my first Sunny Hills basketball game on Jan. 29 — coming out of the gym after our school beat Troy High School, 43-40, I instantly regretted not participating in more events. I've never seen our school have so much spirit and pride. Chanting the words, "this is our house," made me feel as if I were finally home.

It took me four years to go to a school dance — seeing the senior class dressed in their glamorous attire at

this year's prom made me realize that our time together was limited. Most importantly, it took me four years to realize that I shouldn't have let my grades consume my identity.

My advice is short and simple: Make yourself at home here at Sunny Hills and get involved. Don't wait to have fun after high school.

It's easy to get caught up in the idea that you're stuck at the school you go to. I thought this during the beginning of my freshman year. I just couldn't wait to get away. And in the midst of it all, I didn't see the memories being made — the memories that made me who I am — until senior year.

Truth is, I love my school. No other school would've given me the same opportunities, friends and environment than Sunny Hills.



# Accolade adventure

**SHINE LEE**

*Asst. News Editor*

Yes, I know that academics are not the biggest factor in high school; however, what can a shy girl like me — who even hesitates to ask questions in class — do besides keeping up with grades?

I heard from previous alumni about how important extracurricular activities were — in terms of getting into college by adding specks of flair on the application. So, I always wanted to be a part of a community or a club, but I was afraid of talking to strangers. Nevertheless, joining *The Accolade* allowed me to conquer this fear.

In Journalism 1, I was still not interested in viewing or writing for the newspaper — only reading it after each production for the sake of a monthly quiz that Mr. Li

gave. Joining the staff was a totally different story.

During my first year in *The Accolade* as an introverted staff reporter, I continued to face difficulties: interviewing people and asking editors questions regarding the article. In spite of that, I became more interested in journalism.

"Late nights" are production weeks consisting of Mondays to Thursdays before publication on Friday; we end around 8 p.m. — or even up to 1 a.m. — on the last day of production. However, as I interviewed and wrote more stories, I thought I was well-prepared and ready to step up and become an editor; however, the real struggle came during my second year on staff.

I realized during my second year in *The Accolade* as an assistant news editor, I took on more responsibilities, such as designing pages.

Some days were more stress-inducing than others, such as the time when interviewees did not respond or when reporters failed to work on their stories.

I realized working on layouts paled in comparison to just writing. Every minute mistake on my article and page and inconceivable situation had to be imagined.

Every action I make on layouts, regardless of how trivial it may seem, reflects upon the newspaper and student body because we are the voice and the representation of the school.

Though we do not receive as much recognition compared to our effort and time, I hope that *The Accolade* will thrive. It means a lot to me that the future generations of journalism students are prepared and excited to participate in a group effort like I did, especially because the experience helped me cope with my introverted nature.



# Color me stoked: Defining passion

AUDREY JO

Entertainment Editor

High school is like a blank canvas: It starts off fresh and clean until the realization sets in that a million possible choices can define a student's high school experience. As a student and aspiring artist, I had to learn early that no path taken would be easy.

Though I found my passion for art around the age of 12, I had never taken a professional art class during middle school. I finally decided to invest in my "talents" when I entered my freshman year of high school in 2016.

My off-campus art teacher was not certain if four years would suffice in creating a top-of-the-line portfolio, but I was not concerned.

Based on my previous school experiences, I assumed that I would simultaneously earn high grades, participate in every club possible, join many extracurricular activities and pour all my efforts into my portfolio.

However, these hopes were quickly shot down, and I began to fall on my face. Courses like English and chemistry became increasingly difficult, and I became more concentrated on these classes rather than focusing on my main goal of completing art projects.

My extracurriculars turned out to be the most time consuming of all, as I joined the school newspaper, *The Accolade*, and Link Crew. I had an amazing experience with both programs, but they drained the time I needed to improve my art career.

When I finally had moments to myself,

I worked on my sketchbooks, paintings and doodles — virtually anything that would make up for the hours lost at school.

Despite my initial struggle to balance my schoolwork and college pursuits, it became easier once I learned how to prioritize certain aspects of my life through trial and error in classes.

I'm extremely happy with the way high school turned out for me — even if some days were more nerve-racking than others.

For all those out there who are also aspiring artists: I invite you to take the time to find your roots — your purposes for pursuing art — and think deeply about where its stance is in your life. Chances are, this passion is much more valuable than any "A" could possibly be.



# Fulfilling my long-awaited destiny

Allison Louie

Feature Editor

Self-fulfilling prophecy, according to dictionary.com, is a prediction that causes itself to become true, by the very terms of the prophecy itself.

The first time I encountered this phrase was in fifth grade while reading a book called "Becoming Naomi Leon" by Pam Munoz Ryan. Wasn't a prophecy already something that was meant to be fulfilled, regardless?

I realized the answer once I entered high school.

Ever since I was young, I dreamed of going to University of Southern California [USC] after hearing stories that my dad would tell me once he came home from work — discussing the football games, the classes and his laboratory experiments. As

a result, I wanted to make myself, as well as my family, proud by doing the best I could.

I woke up every day, reminding myself that I am doing this for my future and heading off to school with a bright attitude.

Optimism played a key role when I dealt with late nights and piles of homework. I worked hard in school and did the best I could. Even when I dealt with unsatisfying scores with huge tests or projects, I held my head up high and sought to redeem myself.

Although it meant spending money on tutoring, I wanted to be better because if I didn't try my hardest, I would blame myself for not reaching out to my dream.

Though there were times when I felt less confident about getting into my dream school, the decisions weren't in my hands

after all. Regardless, my family and friends often prayed for me, easing my worries.

Then, that day finally came when I heard from USC.

That agonizing moment arrived when I had to wait for the undergraduate admission board to post online my admission.

I anxiously clicked on the button. My eyes were shut — all my hard work amounted to this.

Dear Allison — I didn't want to look, but I willed myself to. Then, the next words made my heart stop. After that, disbelief and happiness flooded in. I did it.

Although people may not believe it, having this self-fulfilling prophecy motivated me to do my best. I did that, and I'm sure for those who are still somewhat unsure, you should try it.

So don't settle for less. You'll only miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take.



# I became the eyes of Sunny Hills

KIMBERLY MORALES

Photographer

Call me crazy for enjoying standing behind sweaty, smelly football players for every game for almost three months, but that's what happened. From watching them start off their season by losing short of one point to becoming city champions, they have shown me how far my Lancers have come in the past four years. But if I'm being honest, I didn't care about football until I started shooting it for *The Accolade*.

If you can't tell by now, I'm not really associated with *The Accolade* for my writing — but for photography. To that, I give thanks to Sunny Hills' photography teacher, Mike Goulding, who taught me the value of taking a photo when a story failed to be put into words. But I'll admit,

I didn't want to do it at first, but I'm incredibly grateful that he convinced me to.

*The Accolade* has tested my patience but, most importantly, my "people" skills. Think being a photographer is easy? Try hunting down students to take a simple portrait or getting that action shot when the lineman is running faster than your camera can focus.

But reflecting on my senior year, I'm more grateful for the "click" I made with people rather than the "click" of the shutter of my camera. After joining *The Accolade*, I was surprised to see what and who I didn't know from Sunny Hills. (*To Carlos Serrano from Mr. Sunny Hills: Hi, I'm glad we met each other, and congratulations again on winning!*)

Aside from the hectic moments, capturing dear occasions has connected me more with my peers. Spending my senior

homecoming with my clunky camera was worth it when my friends' faces lit up after seeing themselves in my viewfinder. Spending my Friday at a Senior Night was no big task when parents come up to you asking, "Can you send me these?" Being the person to capture these moments gives me satisfaction beyond compare.

Whether my assignment was watching our "Warburton Way" sign being changed to "Lancer Way" or documenting the time our women's soccer team took CIF champions, I was there. Photography has made me the eyes of Sunny Hills.

Unfortunately, my career with photography for our newspaper must come to an end, but I'm grateful for my short-lived year. Thank you, *The Accolade*, for teaching me to cherish these moments forever. Although I won't be taking your pictures anymore, this certainly won't be goodbye.







ROSIE JANG

*Web Editor-in-Chief*

Let's break down the past four years of heaven and hell: The sun didn't quite shine in my life at Sunny Hills.

My friends have called me a sloth as I can barely function with less than six hours of sleep. Taking full AP/Honors classes through four years, I was a living zombie-like sloth, treading through the school campus as I could barely open my eyes and see the sunlight.

However, after interacting with all of my peers, some of whom I hope to keep as lifelong friends, I see Sunny Hills quite differently. When there's a sunrise, there's also a sunset. Good days are always followed by the bad ones, and I even anticipated something bad to happen

whenever my week went too smoothly. These experiences shaped me, and I know the sun will follow me wherever I go — sometimes hidden behind clouds or shining on full blast on my naked, sunglass-less eyes.

It's safe to say that I'll miss everyone. I'll miss the late-night car rides, the countless food comas and even the petty fights. To those who stuck by me through thick and thin or to those who I recently grew an unbreakable bond with: You are all on my mind 24/7, and I love you for being who you are (*you know who you are, so if you're reading this, then shoot me a text*). I'm thankful for the teachers who imparted their wisdom and genuine love and care for me: Ms. McCarty, thank you for helping me find the passion for reading, and I have recently started reading

some books; Mrs. Kim, my love for sleep has gotten the best of me this senior year, but I truly love your first period AP Biology class and talking to you about my life problems at times; Mr. Li, I'm sorry for my constant procrastination, but every one of my three years with you has taught me more and more. I learned a lot along the way, and I'll cherish each and every memory and person I met at school.

I have only one piece of advice for every burnt-out person reading this — spend time for yourself to regenerate. You can't always be living in the dark and expect things to go well; go out and meet some new people, and the sun will rise in your life, like how it finally did in my life at Sunny Hills. And thank you, reader, for spending the past few minutes reading my sappy good-bye letter.

# An end to every beginning

TIFFANY LEE

*Web Managing Editor*

Key word: comfort zone.

And shattering that — big time.

My life's algorithm was carved in stone: I would attend my dad's alma mater as an English major, become a teacher and, as a side job, mold into that Pulitzer-winning, best-selling novelist that my parents always envisioned me to be.

Yeah, spoiler alert: It didn't work out. It was in sophomore year when I realized my utter disinterest in expository essay writing (essentially the entire curriculum of an English major) that I began to research different career paths apart from teaching. That soon-to-be Pulitzer Prize winner? Gone — as well as my daily habit of writing fictional

stories. Everyone has a "thing," whether it's singing, painting, or even filming mukbangs (YouTube eating shows). Writing was mine, and I lost it. I lost my "thing."

I felt clueless. It was my initial encounter with the feeling of not having a path — a feeling in which I had absolutely no idea of where my life would take me.

And trust me: I've tried it all. I attended a six-week summer program for journalism in the summer of my junior year, only to be ignored by a plethora of strangers who didn't want to be interviewed. So journalism (*Sorry, Mr. Li*), was definitely off my list.

I started to take politics upon myself, slowly becoming more immersed and interested in political news, only to realize I wanted nothing to do with politics

as a career path.

At one point, I was even set on becoming a film major, very momentarily joining Theatre Tech and even going on film school tours, a time in my life even I can barely explain because film was definitely not for me.

But, if you're reading this because you share a similar situation with me, I'm sorry I can't give you a proper answer. To be completely honest with you, I'm not exactly ecstatic about the combined business and communications major that I'm about to pursue in college, but I guess this is the point of this article.

Wish me luck. If you see me struggling as a freelance writer in New York, then hopefully you'll know that I want more — that I'm trying for more. But everything takes time; everything's a process.



# Pressures rise through high school

JANA YI

*Managing Editor*

Expectations pile up more and more, year after year. The lasting memories of my high school career are the pressures and burdens my peers and family members set upon me.

From the start of freshman year to the end of my senior year, my memories are filled with peers who looked down on students that did not meet their standards, parents gossiping about the "dumb kid" and expectations of who I was supposed to be. Having a tiger mom (a strict or demanding mother who pushes her child to high levels of achievement) only added to my many stressors.

At home, I was supposed to be the straight-A student who shouldn't go hang out with my friends — unless it was for a project. My parents expected me to do whatever they

wanted me to — from volunteering at hospitals one day a week for three hours to earning community service hours and awards.

On top of my parents' expectations at home, my friends had their own assumptions about me — a good student who isn't burdened with extra stress.

I tried to be a people pleaser and wanted to maintain these expectations to meet everyone's standards, but all it did was wear me out, distracting me from discovering my passions and interests. I gave in to my parents' demands by doing every class and extracurricular activity that they signed me up for.

Initially, I complied with my parents' orders of going to tutor every day, studying for hours, going to speech and debate camps and giving up the fun plans that I had. But, I later realized that I lost sight of what I wanted to do in college and the interests that I wanted to develop.

Learn from my mistakes, find your interests and pursue them. Although they seem important to every student's high school career, grades and extracurriculars are not as crucial as they seem.

Understanding what you want to do in college, building your own character and finding your own path to succeed are the most important aspects of your character to discover during high school.

I am not insinuating that extra tutoring and getting ahead in school are a waste of time. However, there are more significant aspects of life and high school than creating a cookie-cutter application of community service and awards solely because you want to get into the "best school."

High school is just another step to help you figure out which career path you want to pursue, which cannot be found through endless hours of studying and mindlessly following your parents' instructions.



# Crossing the finish line of his SH career

## Daniel Scott's legacy to remain after years of running success

HANNA OLTMAN  
Asst. Feature Editor

When it comes to cross country, there's no such thing as "canceled practice." Even through rainstorms and heatwaves, the running never stops. But through thick and thin, one man has been there since the start: Daniel M. Scott.

For the past 18 years, Scott has been working tirelessly to build the SH cross country and track and field team. Each year, his endless dedication inspires a new generation of runners to carry on the team's legacy as one united family.

Since his time coaching, he has managed to get the girls varsity cross country team to CIF for 19 years straight, to finals six times and to state three times. The boys varsity cross country also made it to CIF Prelims 15 times, to finals twice and as of 2018, to state.

After racking up such a staggering streak, Scott has decided to move to Northern California with his family for personal reasons but hopes to continue coaching.

Despite his absence, Scott will live on in the hearts of his runners.

"Coach Scott was always there for everyone," sophomore Emiliano Zavala said. "He always saw potential in people and really made a great family here at Sunny Hills."

Whether it be during a seven-mile run or in the midst of personal drama, Scott would always be there to pull his runners through, yelling on the sidelines to "drop those arms" and reminding athletes that "we have to want it."

"Coach was a big part of teaching me discipline and being responsible for my actions," senior Angelina Paredes said. "He was the best cross country [and] track coach Sunny Hills had and will ever have."

Scott always reminded his runners to



**A NIGHT TO REMEMBER:** Cross country runners freshman Julissa Herrera (left), sophomores Sneha Amin, Dayel Martinez, Samantha Mejia and Isha Patel pose with head coach Daniel Scott on his last day at the track banquet.

not settle because if they want to accomplish something, they have to work for it.

"In the moments when everyone was out of energy, tired or just weren't pushing their hardest, Coach Scott would motivate us to go faster by saying, 'Come on guys! You're not going to get faster if you're just going to settle!'" freshman Julissa Herrera said.

He will be missed by not only his athletes, but also by his coworkers, whom he stood by relentlessly over the years.

"Change happens and is a good thing," coach Jon Caffrey said. "Coach Scott was a fantastic coach and leader on campus, [and] we will miss him tremendously."


By working hard and pushing his team to do its best, Scott has paved a path for any new incoming coaches — despite no coach being chosen to fill this position yet.

"We will find the best coach for our program, [and] we expect to continue to compete for championships every year," Caffrey said.

With or without their coach, the cross country and track and field teams plan to carry on Scott's legacy by keeping his motivational speeches at heart.


"If you decide to join a sport, club or even get a job, give it your all," hew said. "You only go to high school once — don't leave with any regrets."

### SPRING SPORTS INFOGRAPHIC




#### Baseball

- 10-5 League Record
- Made it to second round of CIF




#### Boys Golf

- 9-0-1 League Record
- Freshman Steven Chung and junior Howard Yoon advanced to CIF regionals for individuals



#### Softball

- 3-7 League




#### Swim and Dive

Boys:

- 4-1 League Record
- Senior Lawrence Mao qualified for CIF finals


Girls:

- 5-0 League Record
- D3 Runner-up



#### Boys Tennis

- 7-3 League Record
- Seniors Noah Somphone and Stephen Kim advanced to CIF individuals for doubles



#### Track and Field

Boys:

- Finished third in league

Girls:

- Finished second in league





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Professor Li!