



DE EQUITIBUS

INSIDE



Knights' strong season ends in nail-biting quarterfinals. Page 6



Team solidarity helps swimmers sharpen performance. Page 7

TPA Senior Cappello-Lee working to find cure for cancer

By Clara Moffitt

Senior, Tiffanie Cappello-Lee had the amazing opportunity to be accepted to intern at the Pancreatic Cancer Research Lab at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (or TGen for short) in downtown Phoenix. TGen is a facility that contains different labs studying different types of cancers and genetic mutations.

"I worked primarily with zebrafish," Tiffanie says, "I took care of them, bred them, selected embryos, [and] injected the embryos with genetic mutations." These genetic mutations create pancreatic cancer. She then took pictures of their growth and development with the mutation. The hope was that the zebrafish would develop cancer. If the fish do develop the cancer, Tiffanie says, "we can treat them with potential treatments that one day may save the lives of many."

The potential growth of cancer is measured with green fluorescent proteins, that will light up when placed under a special microscope. The proteins would

glow green wherever the cancer is.

Due to her love for learning and meeting new people at the lab, Tiffanie greatly enjoys her research. Tiffanie got involved with her research when she first joined a lab at ASU. "From there I wanted to get a grasp on the different sciences so I applied to the Helios Scholars Program," she states.

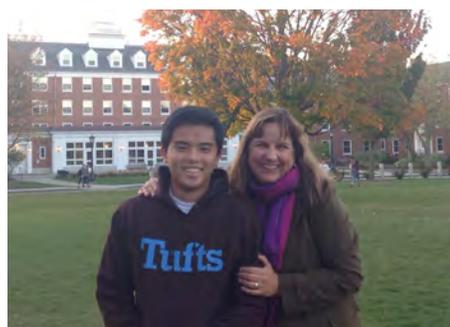
Tiffanie suggests to ask around and email professors if you want an opportunity like hers. Professors email addresses can be found on the ASU website. She says that professors are surprisingly willing to let high school students intern for them.

After such an incredible experience, Tiffanie decided that she "will probably pursue something in STEM in university. I do enjoy research, so I'll probably join a lab."

Furthering TPA's mission to develop life-long learners, Tiffanie says, "Honestly, I love learning, so each day I would go into the lab and learn something new."



Tiffanie at work in her lab at TGen.



Tempe Prep alums are leaving their mark across the globe, from Victor Dinh at Tufts University to Pau Tonnesen and his dad in North Korea.

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Younger volleyball players perfect skills, prepare team for promising 2016 season

By Emma Moriarty

As soon as the multitude of peppermint lattes and gingerbread frappuccinos fill coffee shops everywhere, fall sports all come to an end. As winter approaches and the holiday season begins, Tempe Prep's varsity volleyball team shows that they have much to be thankful for. With three experienced freshmen joining, the team has seen great improvements and will have some amazing players for the upcoming seasons.

One of these talented freshmen, Gracie Brittain, shares her optimistic experience: "Being a freshman at first was a little strange because I didn't really know anyone very well. However, as the season progressed I made great friends from all the classes. It was a blessing being able to

have so many players to look up to, and was the main reason I got better this year. I learned so much this season and had such a great time!"

It's great to see how the team really exemplifies the true spirit of Tempe Prep and enthusiastically welcomes new teammates. By having such positive attitudes, they really allow the team to become the best it can.

Junior Claire Carmody gives her perspective on the ups and downs of the competitive season, "This year was very different than other years I've played volleyball. This year we never fully played to our full potential and really meshed until state. We really pulled through and made it to quarter finals where we lost to Greenway, who then continued on and won state.

We didn't let them win without putting up a fight though. We actually scored only a few points difference from the team that lost to them in finals." It's awesome to see that the Lady Knights are keeping a good spirit throughout their wins and their losses.

When asked what the highlight of the season was, Claire responds, "I'd say the best game we ever played was when we beat Agua Fria, the No. 5 seed team. We came back from being down 0-2 and won the last three sets. It was such an amazing team and will never forget that game or the amazing teammates I played it with."

Overall, the varsity volleyball team has seen vast improvements and will continue to do exceptionally well at every game and practice. Here's to a great season! Go Lady Knights!



Cross Country creed: Don't ever stop!

By Emma Moriarty

"Whatever you do, don't ever stop running." These words were some that sophomore Rachel Dinh came to run by. They were said by her older brother Victor, a freshman at Tufts University, and Tempe Prep Cross Country alum.

"My brother was really enthusiastic when I told him I was doing cross country," Rachel explains, "He said to never walk. I took his advice and found out that running is as much a physical sport as it is a mental one. After the first day of practice I was so tired it seemed impossible that I would be able to run the next day, but I did. It was so hot. The team helps a lot. Run-

ning with people to motivate you makes it much easier, but it is also important to find motivation within yourself. My first 5K time was around 28 minutes, but I just kept pushing myself every practice and every meet. I can't wait until the season begins next year!"

Rachel finished at the sectional meet by cutting nearly 6 minutes off her original time, an amazing feat especially for one who joined this year. It is great to see that our athletes are so motivated to improve and use each other's strengths to help them. Let's hope that our cross country team continues doing so well each year!



Vivien Champ works on her balance.

Passion plus hard work equals gymnastics success for TPA student

By Vivien Champ

My passion is gymnastics. It is a passion you have to want to move on, or want to succeed at even if you feel like giving up.

Gymnastics is my passion because it makes me strive and do my best to get where I never thought possible. Once you give up it is harder than you imagine redeeming what you have lost. As Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas once said, "hard days are the best 'cause that is when champions are made."

For gymnastics and for competing you have to have the mental ability and the physical ability to really perform your best and the ability to believe that you can perform your best. What I mean is you could really want to do gymnastics and you could say it was your passion, but then you might not do any skills at all you might struggle a lot with where you want to be and where you think you are.

Gymnastics can take many tries and fails and many months before you master a skill you really want. A skill that I really need was my cartwheel on high beam which basically is a cartwheel on a wooden beam 16.4 feet long, 4 inches wide, and 4.1 feet off the ground. This skill took me over a year to finally master and I'm still not always consistent on landing it.

And just like any sport, the love of doing it can be shared by more than one person. "Gymnastics is my passion because it is fun and I want to go to the Olympics one day" says Hailey, a level three gymnast. "Gymnastics is my passion because I like the sport, I like pushing myself, and it's fun!" says Emma, a level four gymnast.

Gymnastics is my favorite sport and I will do it until I can't possibly do it anymore.

Swimmers rely on team support to improve their performance

By Chris Moffitt

The TPA Varsity Swim Team understands the concept of teamwork. Although a heavily individualized sport, our 2015 swimmers truly pulled together as a team to showcase an astonishingly impressive season.

In the final State Meet, the team made unbelievable achievements. Junior David Hudson finished third place in the 100 yard Butterfly and sixth place in the 200 yard Individual Medley. Junior Jeffery Snoddy finished seventh place in the 100 yard Breaststroke and seventh place in the 50 yard Freestyle. Senior Co-Captain Bronson Stephens finished 25th in the 100 yard Fly.

TPA also had two relay teams with swimmers Bronson Stephens, Jeffery Snoddy, David Hudson, Junior Aron Mcbay, and Freshman Joshua Cisneros-Kinney, that were very successful. This relay team finished fifth in the 200 Medley relay and seventh in the 200 Free relay. All these amazing accomplishments of, as Coach Stephens says, “our group of small but mighty boys” led TPA to win eighth place overall out of more than 100 Division 2 schools.

The team’s astounding season did not happen by chance. It happened because of

dedicated hard work and sincere camaraderie. Co-Captain Katherine Riffle describes a normal day of practice saying, “we do kick sets and pull sets that have a similar difficulty level to warm-up routines for track runners... It’s just a killer on the leg and arm muscles... [We also swim] long distance to build stamina, which is similar in difficulty to the long distance runs for track, except, when you’re in the water, you must also intensely control your breathing.”

Katherine also describes the emphasis for teamwork on the swim team. She says, “our swimmers watch each other’s form and help each other improve. It is also important to swim with each other and stay on the same interval to help with pacing and stamina.”

Bronson quantifies the rewards from these practices by saying, “I feel that, from all the work I’ve put in, I’ve gotten a lot faster. I dropped a whole second in the 50 Free in just three months.” This is a huge achievement in swimming. Moreover, from this accomplishment and others, Bronson says that, in order to succeed, “I learned how much work you really

need to put in, how much pain you really



Jeffery Snoddy finished 7th at State in the 100-yard breaststroke.

need to take, and how much you really need to want to win.”

What speaks the most for this year’s swim team, however, is that during the State Meet, the entire team — both girls and boys — were there cheering on the team’s top five swimmers. The team had begun the season together and they would finish the season together.



Bronson Stephens took 25th at State in the 100-yard fly.



David Hudson took 3rd in the 100 fly and 6th in the 200 IM.

Junior High athletes finish successful fall season, launch into winter sports

By Cole Klassen

Winter is finally upon us and gratefully, temperatures have fallen below 90 degrees and all is nice and breezy. However, this sudden temperature change has only served to drive junior high athletes.

Soccer

The soccer team played admirably this season, working hard and doing well. They powered their way all the way up to the quarterfinals, where they lost to Northwest Christian. The team played very well, but were not able to keep up with the massive Northwest team. Fortunately, very few players are leaving, so the team next year should still be going strong. Coach Macdonald had this to say, “I am

very proud of the team, they improved greatly throughout the season. The Klassen siblings, Caroline Webster and Tiara Soesilo all played incredibly well.” Also, the coaches would like to thank John Zello for his leadership. Congratulations to the soccer team and good luck next season.

Cross Country

Cross Country has only just started, but Coach Granville already has his goals in mind. He wants to make sure that everyone can push themselves as far as they are able in the support. He says that “Watching a great runner is a thing of beauty. And I’ve never met a runner who wasn’t full of goodness...might be the runner’s high.” Good luck and have a great cross country

season.

Softball

Softball has just begun, but the passion on the field is obvious. With 5 or 6 new players, Coach Waddell’s main goal is to foster a love of the game, as well as improve and play the best they can play. To him, the most important thing about the game is sportsmanship. “Sportsmanship is in line with truth. We will never cut corners, and put in hard work. When done right, softball is a beautiful game.” Here’s hoping that softball continues to thrive.

Good luck and good job to all sports teams and enjoy the winter weather



Gabe LeBeau (23) clears a path for Connor Woltz during the Knights' game with American Leadership Academy.



Alexi Reboulet snags the American Leadership Academy quarterback for a sack. More photos at deequitibus.com

Strong Knights season ends in nail-biting quarterfinal game

By Carter Sampson

Our varsity football team's tremendous 2015-16 season was brought to a close on Nov. 14 in a nail biting quarterfinal game against the Round Valley Elks. This year the Knights confirmed their position as a perennial title contender and one of the most physical teams in Division V.

Despite a team of only 30 players, the 12 seniors and their younger teammates put together an 8-4 record. They battled out close games with two of the top teams in Division IV: Northwest Christian and Snowflake High School. With only one regular season loss to a team in the same division, our Knights secured a playoff spot through disciplined, defensive football.

Unfortunately, the journey ended when the Knights had to travel to Eager (nobody's first choice for a vacation spot) and play in extremely cold (for Arizona) weather. The game against Round Valley

was close into the final seconds, until the Elks finally pulled away with a 12-6 win.

Anything short of a championship was a tragedy to the players and coaches, but the season remained an unforgettable experience for all. Senior linebacker/running back Isaiah Brittain said of the season, "It didn't end the way we wanted, but it was fun. It's been a good 3-4 years with these seniors."

While the season was cut short, our Knights certainly played at a championship level — outscoring opponents 376-163, and averaging 219 rushing yards per game. These statistics testify of the heart of the team, dominating at the line of scrimmage and playing passionate, stout defense.

Here's how Coach Brittain sums up the season: "The 2015 Knights were not supposed to be a good team. But these 12 Seniors believed otherwise. In their four years they were 38-13. They were

in the quarter-finals twice; the semi-finals twice; and as juniors, advanced to the state championship. But more important than all these accomplishments is this: They played the great game with great passion and they forged friendships that will stand the test of time. May God continue to bless the KNIGHTS!"

The future of the program remains bright, considering the 8-1 Junior High team and the 5-0 Junior Varsity squad. The JV team outscored opponents 220-30, preparing the players to bring their success into the varsity stage. Under the leadership of our fantastic coaching staff, led by Coach Brittain, our program is sure to continue its winning ways.

Congratulations and thank you to all those involved with our great football program. We Believe!

Jr. Hi. team finishes season with impressive 8-1 winning record

By Hayden Sampson

The TPA Knights Junior High football team had a great season. They went undefeated in the regular season and had amazing playoff games. Not only did they earn the best record the Junior High team has ever had, but they learned spectacular lessons of leadership and hard work. They placed runner up in the championships and played well.

Coach Kartchner said: "Our season was very successful this year, with many new

players added to the team. We were able to achieve an 8-1 record and second place in the league. Our thanks are to the players, parents, varsity staff, and athletic department for a great season. We look forward to watching the young men in other sports the rest of the year."

Although they did not win the championships, the effort was the best that Junior High sports has ever seen. Many of the eighth graders had their most outstanding game of the season during the semifinals.

Not only did the eighth graders have a good season, but it was a great learning opportunity for the younger players.

Daryl Bailey, an eighth grader, says: "It was a great season. We worked and played well. It was a total team effort."

It was a tremendous pleasure to play for the Knights, and is exciting to know that one of our Tempe Prep teams went so far. Thanks to all those who supported the Knights, and cheered them on.

Tonnesens venture into N. Korean ‘heart of darkness’

By Rachel Neglia

North Korea is a country of paradoxes. It proclaims itself “democratic,” and yet is the most tyrannical state in the world. It names its economic condition “prosperity,” while most would decry it as impoverishment. It asserts independence from the international community, but its very existence depends on foreign aid and tourism. This summer, TPA alumnus Pau Tonnesen and his father, Bill, experienced the many inconsistencies of the “Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” firsthand.

Americans rarely travel to North Korea. According to Koryo Tours, a popular travel agency that services North Korea, Americans comprise only about a quarter of North Korea’s 5,000 to 6,000 western tourists. In fact, the US State Department explicitly warns all who plan to enter the country: “The Department of State strongly recommends against all travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea.” This warning, though daunting, cannot hamper the curiosity of those who have an abiding interest in the country.

“Bill has been reading about North Korea for a couple of years now,” Mrs. Tonnesen explains. “He thinks no other country in the world is as isolated as the DPRK and this is very interesting to him.” When Pau qualified for the 2015 World Track and Field Championships in Beijing, China, he decided to take advantage of North Korea’s proximity, and paid the country a visit.

The Tonnesens’ journey began in Yanji, China, where they crossed the Tumen River into Tumen City, North Korea. Pau explains that entering the country was “Exciting and scary, almost like walking into a jail cell.” They encountered a security checkpoint, where they were physically searched. “There was security at the entrance and at the exit,” Pau says. “We thought that it was going to be a lot worse than it was... When we got there they just opened our phones, flipped around... They didn’t know what they were looking for.” Despite facing a minor setback when Mr. Tonnesen was found to have a South Korean bank note, they passed the checkpoint and were on their way.

Throughout their entire stay, the Tonnesens were accompanied by two “minders” – members of the state party responsible for guiding, translating for, and keeping an eye on tourists. According to Mr. Tonnesen, “Their job is to show you what they believe is the best of North Korea... You’re going to stay, within economic reason, in the best possible hotel, eat the best possible food... Everything is done to show you the very best of the country.”

For Pau, the minders’ presence added to the country’s fabricated impression



Pau Tonnesen, right center, and his dad, left center, were invited to visit a North Korean elementary school.

in his mind: “What [the minders] want is money... It makes a huge difference in their lives how much money you give them. While you’re there, they try to act like the nicest people in the world so that you give them money. As soon as I sat down in my bed in my hotel at night, I felt like it was fake... like they were going to try to be nice but then we were going to be arrested...”

On their first night, they stayed in Hoeryeong, in the north of the country.

Mr. Tonnesen explains that the farther north one travels from Pyongyang, the country’s “show city,” the more obvious the widespread impoverishment becomes. “What we found was a kind of pre-industrial country,” he elaborates, “You will travel for hours on the ‘highway’ and see zero or one to two cars. You will see 15 to 30 ox-carts.” Tourists are supposed to be shown only the very best of the country, but in the north, where there is no electricity or running water, they gain a more candid view of how the people really live. In fact, the North Korean government has kept the north of the country closed to tourists until only recently due to its underdevelopment. The Tonnesens visited Rason, a special economic zone in the north, but the more prosperous economy

there is only due to concentrated foreign investment.

In Chongjin, the Tonnesens visited an English class at an elementary school. “They told us not to tell the children that we were American,” Mr. Tonnesen says. North Korean propaganda demonizes Americans for its problems, while simultaneously holding that the country has none. In the school’s hallway, for example, was a painting of an American priest “carving ‘thief’ into the forehead of a starving Korean child that stole an apple.” Children are taught to accept this manufactured hatred from their early stages of education; indeed, the entrenchment of the propaganda machine further isolates the country from the international community.

Despite experiencing North Korea’s rampant oppression firsthand, the Tonnesens’ goal “was not to tell the people we met how great America was. It wasn’t to tell them how bad their country was. The point was to get out safely.”

Over the past few years, only a handful of tourists have been arrested in the country, but the risk is ever-present. “The most dangerous thing you can do is proselytize,” Mr. Tonnesen says. Apart from that, disrespecting North Korean leader Kim Jong-un can also spell trouble for a visitor. The Tonnesens were constantly reminded of the risk of disrespecting the Kim dynasty, and were even told that they could not fold a newspaper bearing an image of Kim Jong-un.

When asked whether more Americans should visit North Korea, Mr. Tonnesen quickly replies, “No.” Although they should not attempt to travel through the country, however, individuals should undoubtedly seek to learn from tourists who have successfully emerged from North Korea’s façade of freedom and prosperity. By learning from the first-hand testimony of visitors, he said, we can shed at least a little more light on this “heart of darkness.”



Bowing to the ubiquitous leader statues throughout North Korea is mandatory.

TPA alumni flourishing at East Coast colleges

By Chris Moffitt

Although Arizonans may think of prestigious East Coast universities — with their Einstein-brained students and Abominable Snowman-invoking weather — as immensely foreign, it turns out that these universities are much closer to home than we realize. They are especially so when considering the number of TPA alumni attending those schools. Over fall break, I had the opportunity to journey along the East Coast with my mom (aka Mrs. Moffitt, the College Counselor) and visit a few of our many Tempe Prep alumni currently attending undergraduate and graduate programs all along the East Coast.

Our first stop was Benjamin Franklin's University of Pennsylvania where we met with Justin Wang (TPA'2012). Although I expected to see someone who resembled the "Fiddler on the Roof" I remembered from seventh grade (yes, he was the guy shredding on the fiddle), he walked up to us in purple frat-style Euro-swig shorts and I knew Penn had become his new home. Justin then took me to his Classical Chinese class. I was amazed to see how similar this Ivy League college class was to TPA's Greek and advanced Latin classes. His class worked together to translate an original ancient text — exactly what we on the Classics track do at TPA.

We then drove forty-five minutes to Princeton University in New Jersey. After walking through the almost transcendent beauty and serenity of the Princeton campus, we had a dorm dinner with our two TPA alumni studying there: Caleb Peckham (TPA'2013) and TJ Smith (TPA'2014). While eating, we began talking about what they loved most about their school. Caleb said, "I love how Princeton really focuses on developing its students in community. The academic programs,



TJ Smith, left, and Caleb Peckham at Princeton.

the clubs, the athletics, etc. are more than just the activities — more than 'things to do.' They're about making awesome friendships, meeting new people, and really growing holistically."

Of course, as the old *De Equitibus* Editor-in-Chief, Caleb was sure to also mention the benefits TPA gave to his education saying, "TPA's focus on the humanities and the Western Tradition has equipped me with the skills to hold my own in any discussion or conversation, along with giving me the confidence to be an articulate and personable engineer." Feeling confident about our TPA experience and excited about college life, my mom and I then said goodbye to our Princeton friends and prepared for our next day.

We traveled on to Connecticut to have a tour and lunch in the dining hall at Yale University where Hannah Peckham is pursuing her PhD in Theology. Yale had the classic Hogwarts-style residence halls and the best grilled cheese sandwiches of all the colleges, but our dinner at Williams College in Massachusetts took the prize for organic foods in a picturesque village.

We next drove through forests of stunning fall colors in Vermont and arrived at Dartmouth University in New Hampshire. TPA also has two alumni studying there: Alexander Agadjanian (TPA'2014) and Rachel Matsumoto (TPA'2015). Alexander has taken his TPA *De Equitibus* reporting skills to work on the newspaper staff at Dartmouth. As a new freshman, Rachel seemed to be literally bouncing off the Dartmouth colonial-style walls with an unconstrained happiness at the home she had found there. She seemed to know every other person we passed. When asked about her college choice, she said, "I just love the community that I have found here. People care so much about each other and are willing to go out of their way to help others."

Rachel also acknowledges the help TPA has given her saying, "TPA taught me the value of a sense of wonder and depth of inquiry. Even though in high school those terms became a little old after a while, I am truly starting to see how valuable it is to have that background for college classes and choosing a career."

Our next stop was Tufts University overlooking Boston to enjoy a tour and dinner with another recent TPA graduate, Victor Dinh (TPA'2015) who is majoring in Computer Science. Victor attends Tufts on an incredible full-ride QuestBridge scholarship thanks to his hard work at TPA. Considering this and his many other successes, Victor told me something profound. He said, "One thing I like [about] college in general, is that it feels so much better to succeed because you are totally

responsible for your own success." If successes in high school feel great, just imagine how good they will feel in college.

Victor also mentioned one specific attribute of Tempe Prep that helped him succeed as a college student: "Tempe Prep has a classroom atmosphere that makes it easier for students to ask questions about anything." Understandably, this is a skill that is vital for college success.

Our final stop was Columbia University in the middle of New York City where we got to meet with TPA's very own Ivy League basketball star, Camille Zimmerman (TPA'2014). Her height and athleticism made it very easy to find her. She showed us her surprisingly large dorm



Camille Zimmerman and Chris Moffitt at Columbia University.

room overlooking Manhattan and then took us to her kitchen. Though a mere sophomore, Camille makes use of her valuable independence to save money by cooking her own meals with ancient grains from her sister's own Hayden Mills flour business. Camille has taken control of NYC as well as the basketball season that is just beginning.

As we were flying home from our adventure, I couldn't help but notice the gleam in my mother's eye. I asked her about it and she said, "It was just such a fun trip and a thrill to see so many Tempe Prep students that were happy and completely engaged in their college adventures. Isn't it exciting to know that our curriculum and teachers at Tempe Prep prepare our students to be so successful and soar in such highly regarded international universities?"

It sure is. And it is just as exciting to think what our upcoming TPA graduates will experience in their own unwritten futures.

Peter McQuaid's culinary career is sizzling hot

By Billie Nagy

Since *De Equitibus* last spoke with him, TPA senior and superstar chef Peter McQuaid has been up to a great deal of exciting new things. Back in March, the bright-eyed opportunity-seeking chef began his fast paced career at James Beard award nominee Chef Silvana Salcido Esparza's restaurant, Barrio Urbano. After working and gaining experience, he later accepted a job offer from Food Network star Chef Beau MacMillan at his restaurant, Elements, at Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort, in Scottsdale.

Today, Peter not only continues to work at the distinguished restaurant, but is gaining precedence in the food world by making numerous event appearances and cooking with famous chefs. Two of the more prominent events Peter has thus far attended include the AZ Central Food and Wine Festival and the 2015 Taste America James Beard Dinner, "which was a fantastic way to meet new chefs and definitely one of the best experiences I've had so far this year," Peter says.

In this year alone Peter has cooked with two famous chefs, Food Network's *Restaurant Impossible* host, Robert Irvine, and MasterChef star, Graham Elliot.

Beside continuing his work at the "Farm



Peter McQuaid at work in the kitchen at Elements..

fresh American/Modern Asian Cuisine" Elements at the Sanctuary Resort, Peter is now working as a chef at restaurant il Tocco. As he says, it's "A company where we throw private dinners, underground restaurants, have dinner tastings in our chef's den every week for 12 people, and have many very high end clients," though he doesn't like to brag. Amazingly, he is even the private chef for television UFC commentator Mike Goldberg, which "still seems a bit insane to me, but I couldn't be any happier about it."

As for future plans, Peter will surely be busy. He'll be competing again next March in the C-CAP (Careers through Culinary Arts Program) "for huge scholarship opportunities and the chance to show what

I've learned in the restaurants, as I'm a top prospect this year."

As for college plans, Peter has been accepted into his top two choice culinary schools: the Culinary Institute of America in New York, and Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. Though Peter has not yet decided which school he will attend, he is clearly excited about everything his future will bring, no matter the school.

Similarly, he is current being approached by the Food Network show, *Chopped*, and is "absolutely thrilled" to be making plans with them for 2016. It's truly amazing how setting one's mind to something can lead to great accomplishments. We wish you all the luck in your future endeavors, Peter!

Senior Jasmine Antony is QuestBridge Finalist

By Rachel Dinh

Remember Senior Victor Dinh, who received a full-ride scholarship from QuestBridge? Well, this year's aspiring senior Jasmine Antony is well on her way to reaching the same goal. She recalls how she was introduced to the program: "I first heard about QuestBridge when Victor Dinh of the Class of 2015 got into Tufts through the program. Though I didn't actually think of applying until Mrs. Moffitt mentioned it to me. If it weren't for her, I probably wouldn't have even tried."

QuestBridge is a non-profit organization that helps high-achieving, low-income students obtain scholarships to thirty-six universities, including Yale, Dartmouth, and Notre Dame through the National College Match. To apply for QuestBridge, Jasmine had to send in an application that included her extracurricular accomplishments, her financial background, and two essays. All her hard work paid off, because on Oct. 21, she received an email stating that she was a QuestBridge Finalist.

Being a QuestBridge Finalist did not mean Jasmine immediately received a full-ride scholarship to her school of choice, but it did bring her one step closer. The next step was applying to 12 partner



colleges and ranking them in order of which one she wanted to attend most. The National College Match application counted as a college application, but Jasmine also had to submit additional

required essays to each of her top college choices. The first of November was the deadline, so the next few days from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1 were spent frantically writing and compiling personal info and other documents.

Jasmine recalls her struggle: "It was very challenging to keep track of every single detail; I made so many checklists. I spent about four hours every day working on applications and paperwork. The legal documents and financial papers were nearly undecipherable, so I had to learn a lot of terminology." Through Mr. Schuster's writing tutoring, Mrs. Moffitt's guidance, and hours of dedication, Jasmine submit-

ted her 11 college applications on time.

Jasmine has high hopes for her future. She hopes to be accepted into one of her top three colleges, Pomona, Tufts, and Swarthmore, and study engineering. Her goal is to "help make the world a better place." Even though the whole process of scholarship applications can be intimidating, TPA students have a head start. Jasmine says, "TPA best prepared me for all the essay writing. Here, I learned how to use words to convey my thoughts in a well-paced, eloquent manner. That is a skill that will benefit a student all their life."

As for applications in general, Jasmine says, "Apply. Even if you don't think you'll get it, apply anyway, and give it your all. The benefits lie way beyond winning the actual scholarship. Applying for QuestBridge taught me a lot about the application process, and I had an excellent opportunity to practice writing essays. There are so many different scholarships out there, you just have to persevere."

On Dec. 1, she will find out if she has been accepted to one of her college choices. Good luck, and congratulations on becoming a QuestBridge Finalist, Jasmine!

More online!



Academic Field Day is TPA's traditional mid-semester break to mingle and play quirky, fun games. How did it all start?

Find out at:

www.deequitibus.com

Plus you'll find more photos and expanded articles at www.deequitibus.com!

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The De Equitibus staff meets every Friday morning at 7:30 in Room 503.

Anyone interested in participating is invited to attend.

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Tempe Prep's Speech and Debate team members assemble for a group photo.

Tempe Prep Speech and Debate team racking up impressive accomplishments

By Lindsay Newfeld

'Tis the season of all-nighters, extra shots of espresso, and snazzy pant suits — at least for the members of Tempe Prep's speech and debate team. Debate season has started and while Tempe Prep has a small team, we more than make up for it in dedication and determination. At the Red Mountain tournament, the first of the year, Tempe Prep only had ten competitors entered, but still managed to make a strong showing.

Seniors Rachel Neglia and Erin Guiney both made it to finals in Upper Impromptu, a limited-preparation event in which competitors are given seven minutes to compose and deliver a coherent speech. Rachel placed fourth overall and Erin, sixth. Sophomore Lindsay Newfeld reached finals in Lower Impromptu, placing fifth overall. Additionally, senior Enrique Favaro placed third in his house for Congressional Debate and fifth overall in Extemporaneous Speaking, another limited-preparation event.

Tempe Prep as a team placed fourth, which is outstanding considering we compete against schools such as Desert Vista and Hamilton that have teams with hundreds of students.

In accordance with the exhausting schedule speech and debate poses, the next tournament of the season occurred the very next weekend at McClintock High School. Again, Tempe Prep proved its worth with such a small team. Freshman Morgan Cryder reached semifinals in Prose, an outstanding achievement for her first tournament. Sophomore Aimee Cheng

also reached semifinals in Extemporaneous speaking and was named the top novice speaker in that event. Enrique Favaro won the tournament in Extemporaneous speaking and reached finals in Congressional Debate along with other seniors Rachel Neglia and Erin Guiney.

For sophomore Aimee Cheng, the best part of a tournament is "seeing all of my friends who compete with other schools, and debating of course!"

At our latest tournament, held at Mountain View High School, Tempe Prep again did well. Enrique Favaro placed third in Impromptu speaking out of 108 entries and made it to the top six in Congressional Debate along with Erin Guiney. Sophomore Harish Ilango broke to semifinals in Extemporaneous Debate for the first time as well. This tournament also gave our junior high team a chance to experience competing.

While this debate season has been off to a slow start and we've suffered the loss of some great teammates, we can still make this an amazing year. With two very strong senior captains, a group of dedicated sophomores, and some impressive novices, the sky is the limit.

For Harish Ilango, "I'm most looking forward to Fullerton [a tournament held in Long Beach, California] It's our first out-of-state tournament and it will be cool to perform at a national level."

If you're ever interested in joining just come to a meeting after school Monday or Wednesday in Room 404!