

# THE WIRE

Volume 32 Issue 4

June 2017

WEST POTOMAC  
HIGH SCHOOL



WEST POTOMAC  
HIGH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IS A TRADITION



THROUGH THE

THE *World's Greatest Students & Sta*

# SENIOR ISSUE

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This issue's cover was created using Adobe InDesign. The images used for the cover and table of contents were taken by Claudia Santa Anna and Whitney Huntington.

## Letter from the Editor:

Nina Raneses

Welcome to the very special 2017 "senior issue" of The Wire! First, we'd like to thank our readers, patrons and everyone involved in the production and ongoing support of our student-run publication. In this issue, we celebrate the accomplishments and look back on the memories of West Potomac's Class of 2017. As I reflect on three wonderful years at The Wire, I remember all of the people who made my time here so special—my advisors, Mr. Cadorette and Mrs. Huntington, my fellow staff members, and of course, our wonderful school community, who I've had the pleasure of covering since I was a sophomore.

I sincerely hope my fellow seniors enjoy this collection of memories from their four years here. Class of 2017—Congrats, and continue being the amazing people I've come to know on our four-year journey.

Signing off for my last time as Editor-in-Chief,  
Nina Raneses

## Thank You, Wire Patrons!

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# Senior Issue

## 2017



04-05

**By the Numbers**



06-07

**Post-Grad Advice**



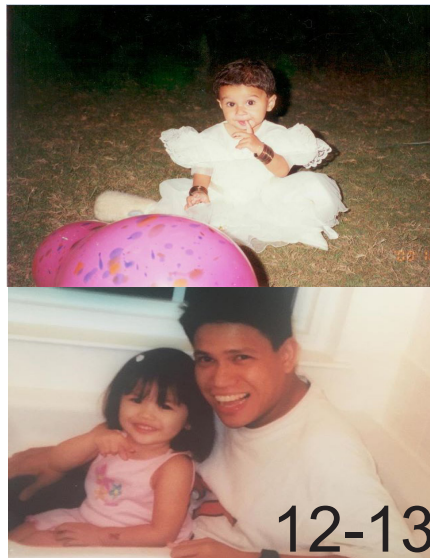
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**Our Staff from Then and Now**



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**Four Years in Review**

# WEST POTOMAC CLASS OF 2017

BY THE NUMBERS

\* based on survey data as of June 1, 2017

559

number of students in graduating class

5

average number of colleges applied to

JMU VT VCU  W&M

\$3,521,879

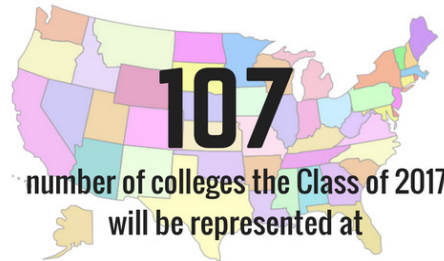
amount of scholarship money earned, both renewable and non-renewable

1,372.9 days

32,951 hours

1,977,060 minutes

time spent enrolled at west potomac  
(09.03.13 - 06.21.17)



number of different schools in  
Virginia

26

11

number of  
different schools  
in Pennsylvania,

the second most popular state  
after Virginia

2



number of  
students  
studying  
abroad  
for their  
1st semester



3

number of students  
taking an  
internship  
before going to school

# Oh, the Places You'll Go!

American University  
Appalachian State University  
Arcadia University  
Arizona State University  
Auburn University  
Bates College  
Belmont University  
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Borough of Manhattan Community College of the CUNY  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Bowie State University  
Bridgewater College  
Brigham Young University, Idaho  
Bucknell University  
California College of the Arts (San Francisco)  
Christopher Newport University  
Clemson University  
College of Charleston  
College of William and Mary  
Colorado State University  
Columbia College Chicago  
Dickinson College  
East Carolina University  
Elon University  
Fordham University  
Franklin & Marshall College  
George Mason University  
Hampden-Sydney College  
Hampton University  
Harford Community College  
High Point University  
Iowa State University  
Ivy Tech Community College  
James Madison University  
Liberty University  
Longwood University  
Mary Baldwin University  
Marymount University  
Michigan State University  
Morgan State University  
Mount St. Mary's University

New College of Florida  
New York University  
Norfolk State University  
North Carolina State University  
North Country Community College  
Northern Virginia Community College  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Old Dominion University  
Pace University, New York City  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pennsylvania State University, Abington  
Pennsylvania State University, Altoona  
Pratt Institute  
Prince George's Community College  
Radford University  
Randolph College  
Regent University  
Saint Francis University  
Saint Joseph's University  
Santa Barbara City College  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Shenandoah University  
Southern Methodist University  
St. John's University - Queens Campus  
Stetson University  
Stevenson University  
Stratford University  
Temple University  
Texas A&M University  
The Ohio State University  
The University of Alabama  
The University of Montana, Missoula  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
The University of Texas, Austin  
United States Air Force Academy  
United States Coast Guard Academy  
United States Naval Academy  
University of California, Davis  
University of Connecticut

University of Delaware  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Kansas  
University of Kentucky  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
University of Virginia  
University of Virginia's College at Wise  
University of West Florida  
Vassar College  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Military Institute  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia Wesleyan College  
Wake Forest University  
Washington College  
Wesleyan University  
West Virginia Community College  
West Virginia University  
Western New England University  
Wilmington University



# West Potomac's Class of 2016 Offer Advice on Post-Graduation Life

Don't be afraid! First semester might be rough because the adjustments to college life are huge, but put yourself out there and be confident in yourself. If you do that, you will make friends who appreciate you for who you are. - Meredith Barber, College of William & Mary

I would just say that whether you are going to college or not, being able to find a balance is essential so you don't go crazy. You can't always be only working or only partying, etc. being able to balance each part of your life makes your life as a whole better. - Philip Drembus

In college for most classes at least half of the material is expected to be learned by you outside of class, by reading your textbooks and assigned reading. In high school I never read the textbook because everything was covered in class but in college it's an absolute necessity. You will never be able to do all the reading you're assigned, but you have to learn which ones you need to do. But overall do as many of them as you can because they're as important as going to class generally. - Jake Hardison, University of Virginia

**Find time to do the homework.  
Getting done early is the best  
thing you can do for yourself.-  
Matavin Williams, NOVA**

For the first semester, definitely try to take it easy. You have an entire degrees worth of classes to take so don't overwhelm yourself the first semester. Try to get a feel for what you want to do, if you don't know already, by taking a variety of different classes. You might end up having an affinity for something you thought you hated. - Huda Khan, Northern Virginia Community College

Don't ever be afraid of a challenge or worry that you might fail. The best way to learn is from your mistakes and you are going to make a lot of those. Apply yourself 100% to whatever you choose to do. - Michael Curtin, U.S. Naval Academy

*College is definitely your chance for freedom and to experience new things but don't forget what you came to college for, just remember to make time for your classes and don't underestimate the time commitment. - Elijah Pennock, James Madison University*

*Don't be afraid to try something new. Try going to all the dining halls, join all the clubs that you're interested in, and meet as many new people as you can especially if any of those things pushes you outside of your comfort zone. - Audrey Boling, Virginia Tech*

*Don't walk into your first semester of college nervous or unsure about whether you'll fit in or have fun. Everyone is thinking the same thing, just put yourself out there and see where it takes you from there. - Hunter Vagt, James Madison University*

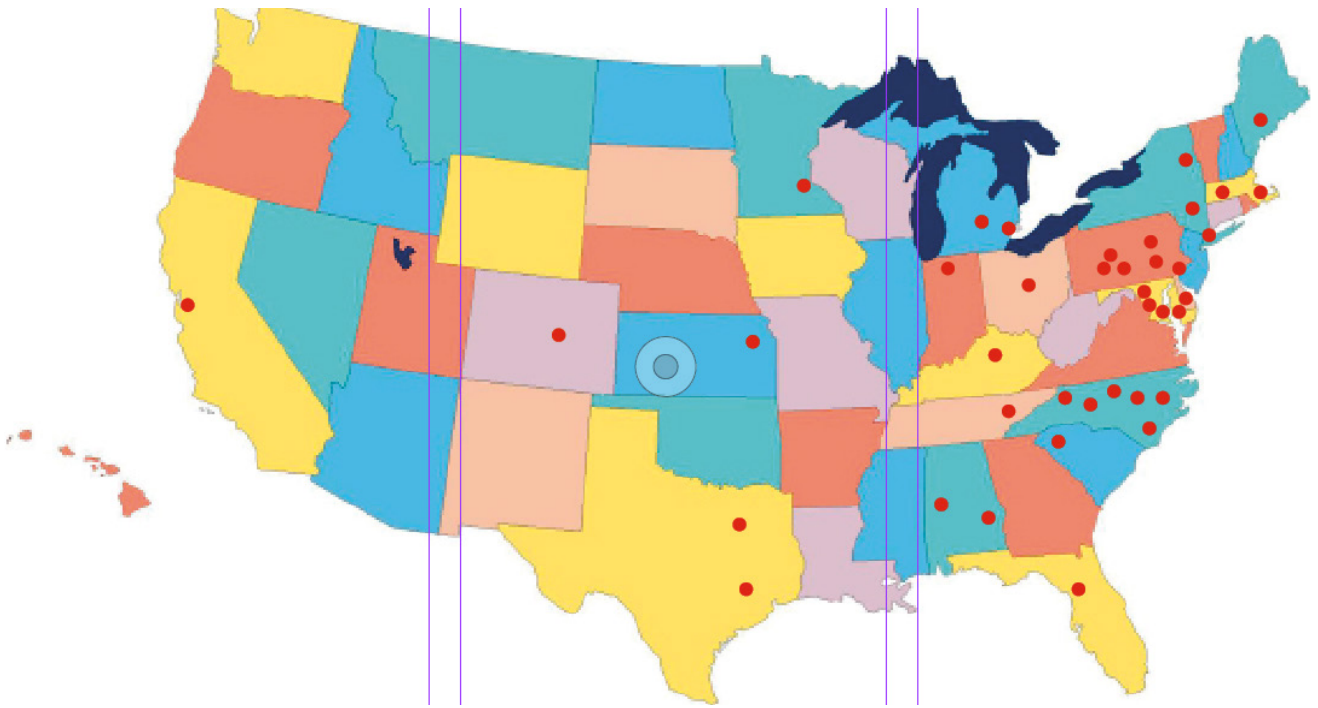
*In a nutshell, college is like high school on steroids. Everything you liked about high school is present, times ten. Everything you hated about high school is present, times ten. For example, the social aspect of school is present in college at a much higher level than high school. On the other hand, it can be far more stressful than high school at times. All things considered, the best part about college is the absolute freedom you have to pursue whatever path you want and that there are resources present that can turn your abstract dreams into a tangible reality. - Darrel Mensah, Virginia Tech*

*I would say don't worry too much about adjusting to college life, because it's not as much of a leap as it seems. Put some faith in your previous experiences and let them help you through the present. - Duncan Hoag, Christopher Newport University*

***I'd say to give yourself time to adjust to school and don't worry if things aren't immediately perfect. Learn to appreciate your professors and peers and be open to everyone! - Jenny Sutton, Colorado College***

*My best advice would be to never lose your inner child, your head, or your dreams. Your inner child to help you keep an open mind and heart for all people (both the lovers AND the haters); your head to help you step back no matter how tough life gets, accept anyone's past is the past, and focus instead on what YOU can do to change the future. It is often the case that finding a way to make your dreams into a reality is even more satisfying than if your dreams had always been your reality. - Michael Bell, College of William & Mary*

# What's Next for The Class of 2017?



## Alabama

University of Alabama

Hugh Moffitt

Hannah Thompson

Auburn University

Sara Bates

Sarah Much

## California

California College of

the Arts

Lily Shin

## Colorado

US Air Force Academy

Allie Puskar

## Connecticut

US Coast Guard

Academy

Grayson Wheeler

Wesleyan University

Emily Smith

University of

Connecticut

Lindsay Cullen

## Delaware

University of Delaware

Emily Flaherty

## Florida

New College of Florida

Elizabeth Bowerfield

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## Indiana

University of Notre

Dame

Juliette Burham

## Kansas

University of Kansas

Andrew Fisher

## Kentucky

University of Kentucky

Kayla Congleton

## Maine

Bates College

Theresa Willmott-

McMahon

Bowdoin College

Liam Houlgate

Safiya Osei

## Maryland

Stevenson University

Cory Jones

US Naval Academy

Nick Hogan

Washington College

Grace Moery

## Massachusetts

Boston University

Helen Kitrosser

Western New England

## University

Joey Africano

## Michigan

Michigan State

University

Hunter Baldwin

University of Michigan

Jacob Raman

## Minnesota

University of

Minnesota

Natalie Lorca

## New York

Fordham University

Sean Franklin

North County College

Ty Taylor

Pace University

Kailey O'Farrell

St. John's University

Wingel Caburian

Megan Ruelas Mendoza

Vassar College

Julianna Sprague

## North Carolina

Appalachian State

University

Grant Benick

Nicholas Crow

East Carolina

University

Savannah Beeby

Elon University

Taylor Stephens

High Point University

Joseph Chromey

North Carolina A&T

Destinee Parker

University of North

Carolina

Nelson Flores

University of North

Carolina Wilmington

Katie Buell

## Ohio

Ohio Wesleyan

University

Bela Starinckek

## Pennsylvania

Franklin and Marshall

College

Liz Brodie

Bloomsburg University

Maggie McDonald

Dickinson College

Elizabeth Imphong

Temple University

Kyle White

## Arcadia University

Cayla Cotton

Saint Francis

University

Branden Lisenby

Pennsylvania State

University

Precious Asumadu

Sammy Entabi

Pennsylvania State

University Altoona

William Didden

## South Carolina

Clemson University

Megan Fuqua

## Tennessee

University of

Tennessee

Brittany Frydenlund

## Texas

Southern Methodist

University

Sophie Adler

Texas A&M

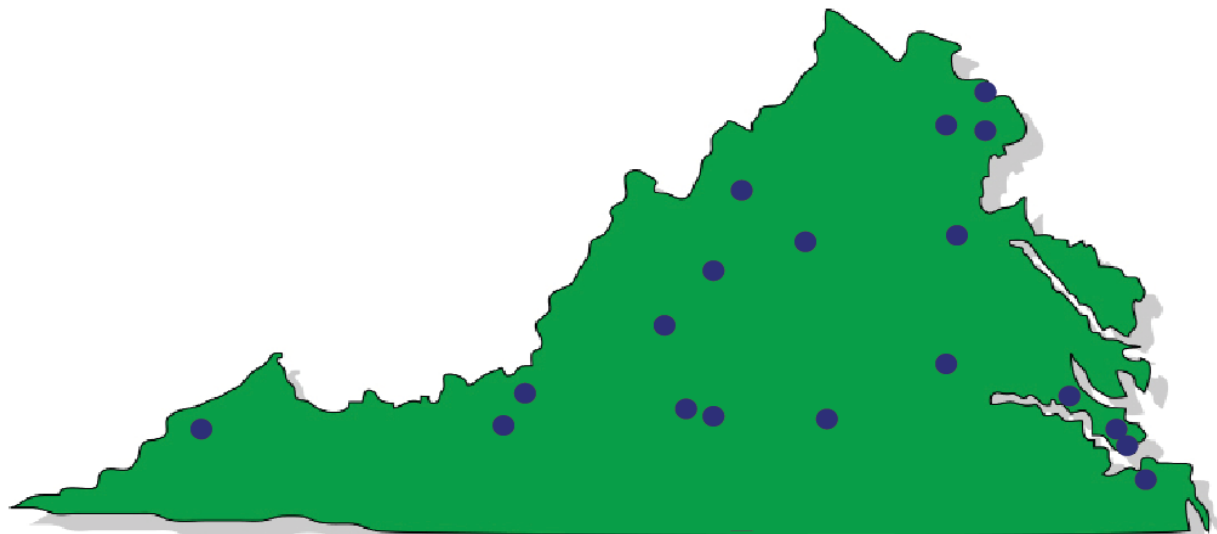
Rachael Brautigam

## Washington DC

Georgetown University

Maddie Finn





George Mason

University

Shahtaj Ali  
 Katharine Amato  
 Jesse Benitez  
 Luciana Ducceschi  
 Tyler Hawley  
 Suferah Khan  
 Zulemy Loza  
 Andrea Lugo  
 Loretta Morgan  
 Tony Nguyen  
 Jordan Nixon  
 Omar Rahim  
 Jason Seiler  
 Ethan Walker

Northern Virginia

Community College

Taniha Ayala-Martinez  
 Samantha Cordon  
 Carinne Cousinne  
 Elena Fernadez  
 Aminah Ford  
 Jae Kwon  
 Rebekah Murphy  
 Ann Pham  
 Karen Riva  
 Michael Tassew  
 Rebecca Roberts

Univeristy Of

Virginia

Martha Gallagher  
 Evie Galvan  
 Cait Hagan  
 Rachel Hardison  
 Haleigh Hopper  
 Pilar Jimenez Larre  
 Borges

Frankie Mananzan

Alden Myers  
 Daniel Rayder  
 Jonathan Rimmington  
 Ian Schurr  
 Amara Vo  
 Claire Woods  
 Katie Woods

University of Virginia

Wise

Dajon Belifield

Univeristy of Mary

Washington

Idaresit Ekpuk

Megan Hook

Virginia Tech

Itiola Akingbola  
 Carolie Bowman  
 Tara Boyle  
 Luke Cchran  
 Carter Engvall  
 Nick Firesheets  
 Marley Gilliam  
 Kristinagulczewski  
 Megan Herrup  
 Natalie Hohman  
 Emily Madden  
 Ella Moore  
 Andrew Ring  
 Colin Ring  
 Thomas Schudlich  
 Anna Ustun  
 Jenni Wheaton  
 Allison Wood  
 Amy Zelaya

Radford University

Luke Belanger  
 Mahaley Cassadey  
 Cam Danielson  
 Xavier Kimes  
 Mia Slone

Virginia

Commonwealth

University

Margarita Alexo  
 Iman Aziz  
 Priya Bredeck  
 Kearra Bright  
 Leo Clifford  
 Tyler Chui  
 Raelyn Davis  
 Pia Fermin  
 Kenia Guevara  
 Mackenzie Para  
 Peter Skudlarek  
 Ashlee Taylor  
 Daniela Weil

Old Dominion

University

Justine Annan  
 Rachel Dinkle  
 Yadira Hawkins  
 Tiffany Luc  
 David Riggles  
 Andrew Taylor

Christopher Newport

University

Laura Aaron  
 Gabriel Caicedo  
 Lindsay Freewalt  
 Sanjay Hawn  
 Jonathan Middleton  
 Jennifer Newton

Katie Schweikhardt

College of William  
and Mary

Annamarie Arleth  
 Ryan Huck  
 Benjamin Marin  
 Jeffrey Petit-Freres  
 Sebastian Ruiz  
 Claudia Santa Anna  
 Marco Weil  
 Joe Welch  
 Ana Zuffi

Hampton University

Jabari Resper  
 Lauryn Thomas

James Madison

University

Justice Arthur-Mesere  
 Max Barrett  
 Emma Calogero  
 Madeline Day  
 Matt Fannon  
 Jimmy Figiola  
 Kelsey Krause  
 Alex LaGow  
 Dylan Mellinger  
 Hannah Monroe  
 Micaela Newlight  
 Lauren Rogers  
 Victoria Rulapaugh  
 Joey Slagle  
 Sarah Vermillion  
 William Wells  
 Brenna Whalon

Liberty University

Julia Pope

Virginia Military

Institute

Will Nicholson

Longwood University

Vivian Castellanos

Randolph College

Paige Edwards

Mary Baldwin

University

Julyssa Martinez

Maymount

University

Mary Peterson  
 Sarah Sauers

Norfolk State

University

Lawrencia Agyemang

# Signing to Serve

Three West Potomac seniors have opted to attend the United States' service academies, including Air Force, Coast Guard and the Navy. For some, the decision was a long time coming, while for others it was more by chance.

## Allie Puskar-Beckett

---



### **Q: Why did you choose the Air Force?**

**A:** I chose the U.S. Air Force Academy because they have a great medical program and also the fastest swim team out of all the academies. I wanted to swim in college no matter what.

### **Q: What are you looking forward to the most about next year?**

**A:** I'm really looking forward to being on the swim team. Since we're a varsity sport at the academy, we're sponsored by Nike and they give us lots of apparel we can wear. I'm also super excited to meet more people and have more connections while there.

### **Q: How long have you thought about or wanted to attend the school you're going to?**

**A:** My parents actually forced me to go on a visit to the academy for swimming, and I was actually

dreading the trip. I never wanted to go to USAFA prior to that, and it was mainly my parents making me go. I knew a little bit about the academies prior to that, since people I knew had gone to them, but I still didn't know a lot. I decided that USAFA was the school for



me on the last day of my 3 day recruiting trip. I decided it was the college for me because I grew up in a huge military family, and I knew I would miss the benefits the military had (since my dad just retired) and

also my huge family. Going there and sitting down at their meals and seeing everyone's Element (sub group consisting of 10 cadets that you have to do activities with and have meals with) I realized how much of a family

everyone was and how everyone had each others back. I really loved that aspect and I also loved how if I ever needed anything even after my visit people gave me their numbers and told me to text them any questions I had. Just having so many people want to see you succeed was amazing and I honestly just felt at home. I actually ending

up waking to Walmart at midnight with 2 other swim recruits who are from Virginia and we all bought so much Air Force gear because we all knew that this was the school for us.

# Nick Hogan

---

**Q: Why did you choose the Navy?**

**A:** I choose to go to Navy because I have family history there, my grandfather was USNA class of 1953, and my father also served in the Navy.

**Q: What are you looking forward to the most about next year?**

**A:** To be honest, it's probably going to be the people, the service academies have some of the most dedicated and qualified individuals that you will ever see, so when you put them all together, great things are going to happen.

**Q: How long have you thought about or wanted to attend the school you're going to?**

**A:** I've probably wanted to join the military since about 6th grade, but got really interested in the academies in 8th.



# Grayson Wheeler

---

**Q: Why did you choose the Coast Guard?**

**A:** I chose the Coast Guard Academy for its emphasis on humanitarian missions. The Coast Guard protects our shores and citizens, and I would be honored to serve our country in this way. As a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, I will have various choices for a career, all of which I would be eager to do. I switched into JROTC my senior year to help get me into the military mindset. My only regret is not taking COL Bullard and CSM Pearson's class sooner!

able to make a difference through my career and working in a team alongside other like-minded people. I also look forward to competing for USCGA's rifle team. Go Bears!

**Q: How long have you**



**Q: What are you looking forward to the most about next year?**

**A:** I most look forward to being

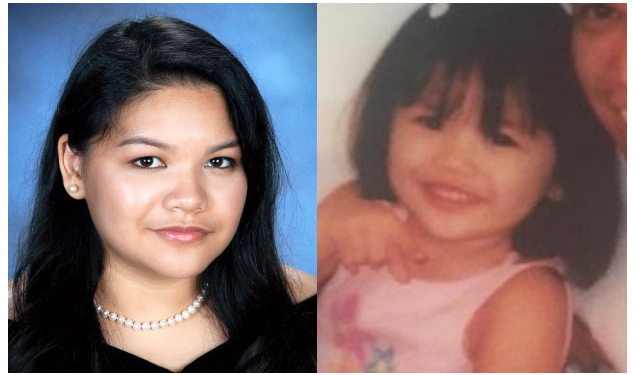
**thought about or wanted to attend the school you're going to?**

**A:** Between Sophomore and

Junior year in high school, I met the Coast Guard Academy rifle coach and learned about the opportunity of attending USCGA as a recruited athlete for rifle. It was probably the first time I seriously thought that I might be on track to be competitive enough to shoot at the college level. Thinking it over for the next year, balancing my academics and rifle competitions, I decided to apply to

the CGA in the fall of 2016. To be competitive in NCAA rifle, one must shoot Air rifle (60 shots standing) and Smallbore (20 shots, 3 positions) at a consistent scoring level. In addition to competing for the high school varsity team, I had been accepted to an area club team that routinely competed in these disciplines and provided Olympic calibre coaching. I believe my dedication to my sport is what set me apart from the Coast Guard Academy application pool.

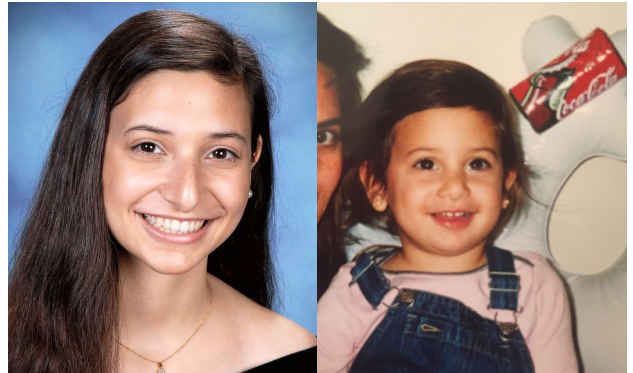
# So Long, Senior Staff Class of 2017!



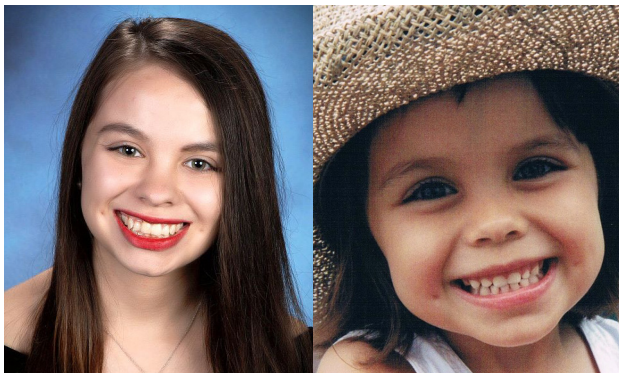
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Shahtaj Ali: Editor



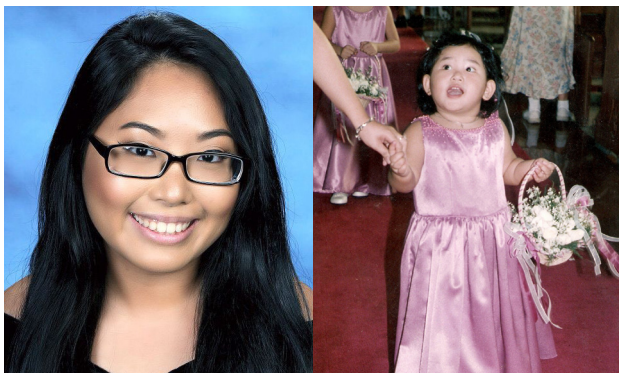
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Claudia Santa Anna: Editor



Drew Taylor: Reporter

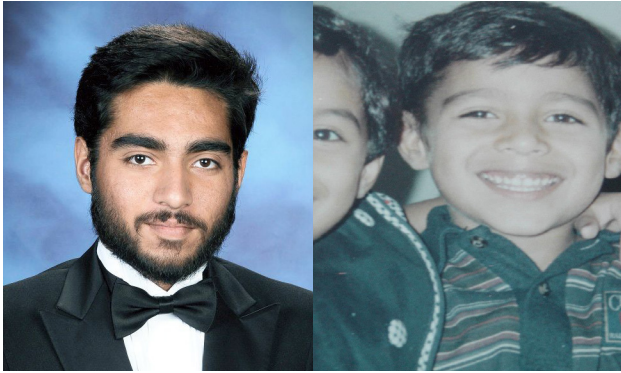


Wingel Caburian: Team Leader



Grant Benick: Team Leader

Not Pictured: Cooper Rosenberg, Omar Rahim



Armaghan Faisal: Reporter



Joseph Chromey: Reporter



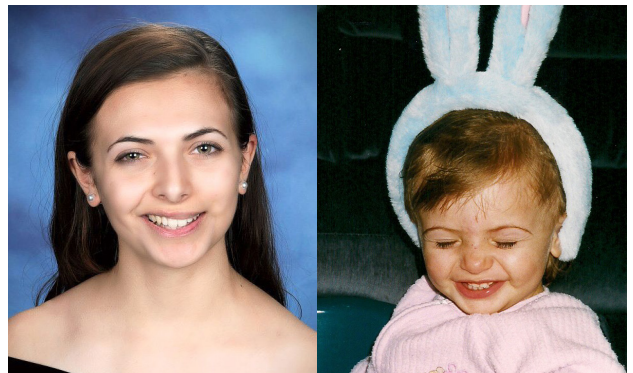
Hugh Moffitt: Editor



Jimmy Figliola: Team Leader



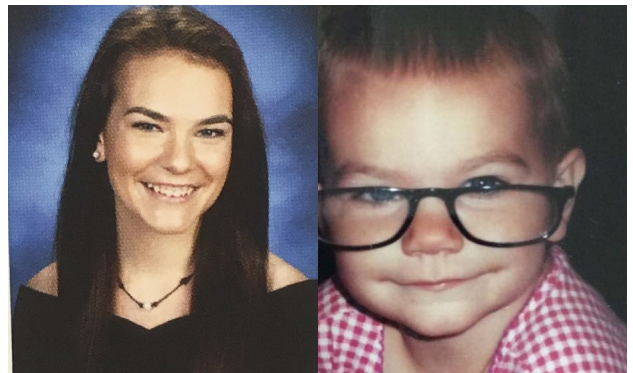
Jonathan Milam: Team Leader



Kristina Gulczewski: Reporter



Mia Sloane: Business Manager



Jordan Nixon: Reporter

# Blast From the Past



*Ms. Kara Weiner*



*Mr. Thomas Cadorette*



*Ms. Laura Pendleton*



*Ms. Nicole Borghard*



*Ms. Brandi Martino*



*Mr. Paul Laguna*



*Ms. Melinda Hedenberg*



*Ms. Jessica Ladnon*

# 2013



Macklemore and Ryan Lewis' "Thrift Shop" was the top song of 2013



The second Hunger Games movie, "Catching Fire" was the top movie of the year at the box office.



Edward Snowden leaked information on government surveillance, sparking national controversy.



The Harlem Shake dance craze dominated the internet.

# 2014



"Happy" by Pharrell Williams was critically and popularly adored.

## AMERICAN SNIPER



The controversial movie "American Sniper" earned the highest domestic box office earnings in 2014.



The Ferguson protests brought police brutality to the front of the social conscious.



Celebrities and individuals participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge to raise awareness for ALS.

# 2015



"Uptown Funk" made its way to the top of the charts early in the year and maintained its position as top selling song of the year



The new Star Wars movie, "The Force Awakens" dominated the box office.



The Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in all 50 states.

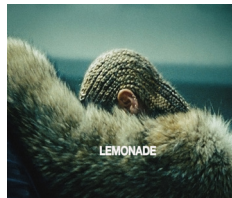


The world came together in support of Paris, France after the November attacks

# 2016



Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling" was the best-selling song of 2016



Beyoncé released "Lemonade" an hour long visual film with an album, it went on to win Best Urban Contemporary album at the Grammys.

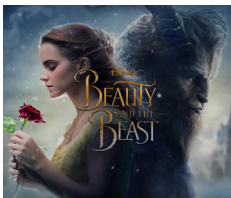


Republican candidate Donald Trump won the 2016 Presidential election, against democratic competitor Hillary Clinton.



"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" was the top grossing movie of 2016, it was released December 10.

# 2017



Emma Watson and Dan Stevens starred in the year's highest grossing film thus far in the live action "Beauty and the Beast"



Ed Sheeran topped the Billboard 100 charts for 10 weeks straight with his single "Shape of You"



Presenter Warren Beatty misread the card for Best Picture-- mistaking "La La Land" for "Moonlight"



Millions of people around the world attended the Women's March, marching for a variety of reasons.

As Oscar Wilde once said,  
"The only thing to do with good  
advice is to pass it on. It is  
never of any use to one self."  
Good luck, Class of '17, and  
don't take any wooden nickels.  
Mr. Cadorette

"Read"

Mr. Rigby

Students of the class of  
2017,  
The Latin word "Cor" meaning  
"heart" is the root of "Courage"  
Your courage has brought you  
this far, and your courage will  
carry you forward. Mr. Rigby

Find your voice and be heard.  
Sit in the front of the class.  
Stand up to bullies. Exceed expectations.  
Read. Explore. Create. Go into  
Shatter complacency. Conferences!

Ed Chapman

2017,  
Surround yourself with positive  
people. Strive to do good for  
the world. And never start a  
party with a full trash can  
(this is both a metaphor + actual  
advice).  
Love, Miss B

Get to know professors  
so that they know you -  
remember

build connections for success.

Class of 2017,  
Congratulations! I am so proud of you  
all. It has been a pleasure teaching  
many of you your freshmen and  
senior years. I have loved getting  
to know you and can't wait to  
see what comes your way in  
the future. I know you all will be  
successful. Enjoy the rest of your senior  
year and last summer before school/  
military/work. It goes fast - live it  
up! keep in touch and come back  
and visit! ♡ MS. MCBRIDE