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THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

THE SENIOR ISSUE 2016

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Letter from the Editors: Nina Raneses & Duncan Hoag

Welcome to the 2016 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 last issue of the year, we look back at the four years we've spent with this year's senior class, the West Potomac Class of 2016. As the seniors move on to future endeavors, whether it be college, a gap year or otherwise, we wish them all the best and honor their accomplishments during their time at the World's Greatest High School. On behalf of the Wire staff, congratulations to the Class of 2016!

We hope you enjoy this very special senior edition of The Wire!

Thank You, *Wire* Patrons!

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June 2016

COLLEGE MAP



04-05

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Senior graduates shared their plans for after they walk to stage.

SUPERLATIVES

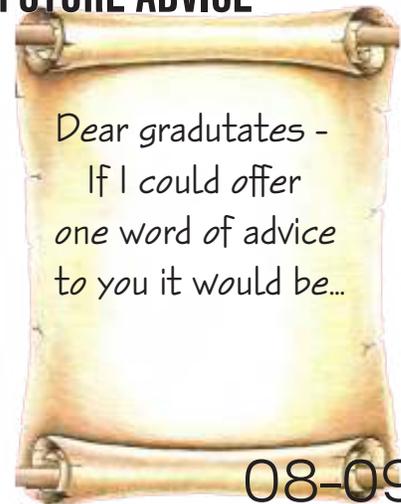


06-07

WHO'S WHO!

Best Hair, Future President? Find out who your classmates thought were the most super!

FUTURE ADVICE



Dear graduates -
If I could offer
one word of advice
to you it would be...

08-09

2015 GRADS WEIGH IN

After a year away from West Potomac, 2015 alumni give sage advice for this year's grads

FUTURE PLANS



10-11

WHAT'S NEXT?

From gap years, to international school, to enlisting in the military, grads share their plans for after WPHS that aren't a traditional four-year university

YEAR(S) IN REVIEW



12-13

2012-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Remember that time? We put together the most important events, statistics, and information from the last four years.

PROM-POSALS



16-17

PROM?

Who got asked and how? A showcase of the most creative ways people asked their peers to prom.

What's Next for The Class of 2016?

Oregon

University of Oregon:

Eric Waters

Colorado

Colorado College:

Jenny Sutton

Colorado Boulder:

Jonathon Flowers

Avery Woods

Hayley Reynolds

Arizona

Arizona State:

Abby Gwartney

Texas

Baylor:

Emma Kelly

Virginia

Virginia Tech:

Jacinda Djossou
Maguerite Djossou
Tam Hoang
Kylie McPherson
Jan Saraum
Mia Genuario
Kevin Arnez
Jennifer Thomson
Annabelle Miller
Caylie McCann
Phillip Flint
Hannah Berkan
Gina Oiki

NOVA

Daniel Diaz
Robert Iacovetta
Carter Sibley
Marquett
Patricia Peters

Astrid Flores
Sana Jobal
Madeleine de Dios
Abdu Duath
Carlos Trujillo
Ricardo Lau
Gabi King
Chris Jackson
Catherine Cushman
Kenia Morales
Giselle Villalta
Giovanni Gomez
Sergei Sciacca
Summer Awad
Umar Riaz
Denise Arias
Carlos Gavino
Valerie Hernandez
Anabele Kveremeh
Raza Khokhar

Xiomara Rosales
Gutierrez
Steve Castro
Mikial Boyce
Ricardo Lagunas
JMU
Gina Jackson
Sofi Portillo
Ashton Barnes
Sam Janssen
Ashley Alderman
Lena Harmata
Natalie Jurkowski
Hamza Badac
Natascha Woodard
Gracie Denton
Zach Day
George Mason University
Brian Cash
Julia Reid

Elleni Adhanom
University of Virginia
Emma Bass
Revathi Mohan
Taamson Joshua
Logan Petkosek
Jackson Kosmacki
Will Prater
Sydney Nixon
Michael Hayes
Jack Yager
Baylee Riggins
Audrey Alexander
William and Mary
Jason Vargas
Hannah Parros
Rose Guglielmo
Jenny Fiedler
Meredith Barber
John Muchnikoff

Alino Selnick-Esco
Mary Washington
Fiona Nugent
Subarna Barua
VCU
Sarah Yankson
Elijah Pennock
CNU
Duncan Hoag
Caroline Allen
Lydia Perez-Reyes
VSU
Kiya Robinson
Lynchburg College
Nicole Freewalt
Radford University
Austin Whitney
Leslie Alvarenga
Lydia Boateng
Stephan Ignjatich

Kelvin Adjei
Steven Zheng-Wang
Mary Baldwin College
Janet Flores
Norfolk State
Kyra Haskins
George Mason University
Gabriela Reyes
Alexandra Sasano
Juan Montana
Old Dominion University
Tatiana Dashiell
Elizabeth Bayer
Zaniyah Smalls
Sam Hammond
Bridgewater College
Jarrod Denham

Europe

European University Barcelona Spain:
Elodie Mosley
Richmond University (London):
Maddie McMullin

New York

Syracuse:
Jhoonwon Kim
John Whitney
United States Military Academy
DJ Pinter
Hudson Valley Comm. College
CJ Burch
The Juilliard School
Pablo O'Connell

Pennsylvania

Havorford:
Sarah Jesup
Lafayette College:
Gwendolyn Ghiloni,
Sana Khan
PITT:
Gabrielle Moore
Temple:
Emily Carbone
Penn State:
Andrew Maloney
Mesmore Testaye
Juniata College:
Audrey Wilson

Ohio

Miami University:
Marshall Novak
Cincinnati:
George Wright

West Virginia

WVU:
Paige Phillips

Tennessee

Vanderbilt:
Trish Wheeler

Georgia

SCAD
Jade Schaub
Naylbe Nassar

South Carolina

Coastal Carolina University:
Kylie Bostick
Andrea Buen
University of South Carolina:
Sarah Kanuch
Michelle St. John
Keeler Fina
Clemson:
Alexa White
College of Charleston
Christina Burnley

New Jersey

Princeton University:
Lucas Makinen

Delaware

Delaware State
Kennedi White

Maryland

Montgomery College
Kaitlyn Ceacba

District of Columbia

University of DC:
Matavin Williams

Alabama

Auburn University:
Max Wohlleben

Mississippi

University of Mississippi:
Sarah Gallagher

Massachusetts

Tufts College:
Olivia Ireland
UMass Amhearth:
Mia Hancock

Connecticut

Wesleyan University:
Alex Richwine

**Most Likely to
Become President**



Darrel Mensah & Logan Petkosek

**Most Likely to
Win an Oscar**



Jade Shuab & Jackson Kosmacki

**Most Excited for
College**



Will Prater & Lena Harmata

Introducing:
**SUPERLATIVES
2016**

**Most Likely to
Win a Pulitzer**



Evia Strobbel & Phillip Drembus

Greatest Gal Pals



Meredith Barber & Laura Powell

**Most Likely to Be
Featured in a Museum**



Pedro Martinez & Sarah Jesup

**Most Likely to
Make Someone Smile**



Lily Michaud & Michael Bell

Most Athletic



Kylie Bostick & Jamie Sara

Most Likely to Leave Early



Brendan Knapp & Keeler Fina

Most Likely to Become a Salad



Audrey Boling & Robert Iacovetta

Most Likely to Win a Nobel Prize



Olivia Ireland & Lucas Makinen

Best Bros



Jonathan Flowers & Michael Curtin

Most Likely to Throw Shade



Deja Petty & Jhoon Won Kim

Late Birds



Jenni Sutton & Jacob Morris

Drama King and Queen



Hayley Reynolds & David Jarsen

Most Likely to Win a Grammy



George Wright & Emma Kelly

2015 graduates offer post-graduation ADVICE

Well
the main things would be
that you may not find the best place for
you the first time. I'm transferring colleges next
semester because it just wasn't a good fit for me.
There's no shame in admitting that somewhere else
may be better. Just get out there and try new
things, college is the place to find out who
you are.

Cheyenne Engstrom

Don't
give in to the temptation
and miss school work. You're a senior,
of course you deserve to party but remember
to have those credits in line first. After that, go
wild, because that means you made it.

Joshua Bane

Realize
who your real friends are
and be extremely careful who you trust.
Most of all, don't put anyone or anything in
front of your priorities and set a goal and
don't let anyone tell you that you can't
reach it.

Patrice Parker

Be
excited for college, be
excited for that big of a change but
don't forget to enjoy who you are and
who you're with. Everyone around you is
going through the same changes you are.

Jamie Wheaton

I would
recommend to take everything
slow and don't rush through anything. I'm sure
everyone will say this but highschool and especially your first
year of college will fly by. Try to get involved in as much as you can
handle and really experiment with things outside of your comfort zone. Also,
get a planner and USE the planner! Stick to a schedule and keep everything
organized. Nothing is worse than needing a 105% on the final exam just to make
a C in the class because you didn't keep track of the very few assignments you
had throughout the semester. Finally, just enjoy it. That seems so simple, but the
semester can get so crazy that you forget to take a step back and breathe.
Just stay focused on what you're in college for and push yourself to
the best you can be, but also have some fun because you
(hopefully) don't get to do it again!

Erika Larsen

I'd encourage them to get involved with clubs right away. It's a great way to meet people outside of class and dorms and I waited till 2nd semester to take it seriously and I wish I had done that sooner. All schools have a giant activities fair. There's literally clubs for the most random and specific things anyone could find something for them. Also, everyone says this, but make sure you introduce yourself to your professors at the beginning of the year. Lectures can have hundreds of people but you'd be surprised how professors will remember you later since no one does that and it'll help later with grades.

Kelly O'Meara

Always do the things that make you feel good even when other people tell you that you're being ridiculous and don't put too much pressure on yourself and make friends at concerts!

Corrine James

Things are going to change a lot, you are going to find new friends in college or in a career if you are not going to college, you'll find your people, really and you'll also find more about who you are too. There is a lot of change but don't fight it, it is the best thing that will happen to you, in my opinion. That's not to say you'll find yourself completely cut off from your life in highschool, but you have so much more freedom and with that, you really can find yourself, your people and what you love doing so don't worry if you don't keep in touch with all of your friends because they're going through the same things. It's probably the biggest change you've experienced so far in your life, but don't let that scare you and push you away from it, embrace it and live in the moment.

Claire Sedlak

Don't let yourself get distracted by anything. Set a goal and get tunnel vision and try to find out who in your life is actually trying to help you, not bring you down. Don't let a closed door stop you, that just means that another door has opened, never give up on anything, it will be worth it in the future.

Ashleigh Holzworth

Compiled by Wingel Caburian



Road to the Future

Graduates who are breaking the mold and doing things other than a trfour year college after high school talk about why they chose their path

Duncan Hoag & Matavin Williams

Editor-In-Chief & Reporter

As the school year ends, many seniors are looking forward to attending a four-year college in hopes of attaining a diploma in their chosen field of study. However, other seniors have involved themselves in other types of postsecondary education, including military school and trade school.

Senior D.J Pinter, who will attend the West Point military school in upstate New York this autumn, discussed the main differences between traditional four-year schools and military schools like West Point. Military school is far more demanding, he explained, both in terms of time and commitment.

“The biggest difference is the sacrifices you have to make. You sacrifice a lot of free time as your days are scheduled out from 6 am to 7 pm. In addition to this you have to do some training each summer, so you have to give up part of your summer break each year,” said Pinter.

Along with the strict routine cadets must keep, Pinter also stressed that those who complete their time at West Point are entitled to positive employment prospects and free tuition.

“At West Point you have to be a lot more discipline with your time and give up some freedom. However, in return you get a guaranteed job after college, pay nothing in tuition, as well as all the intangibles that an education at West Point provides.”

For Pinter, the decision to attend West Point was not part of the original plan, even when he had completed his application to the school.

“I never planned on attending a military school. I decided to apply to West Point after some prodding from my dad and even after finishing the application process I wasn’t set on going if I got in. Once I got accepted it took me about 2 months to decide to attend, and it would’ve been longer if they didn’t have a deadline on responding,” said Pinter.

Pinter cited the chance be have an automatic job in the military after completing college, as

well as the presence of many opportunities for adult life.

“I ultimately decided to pursue West Point because it was my best option for school. It sets me up with a job in the military and gives me opportunities and experiences that I wouldn’t get through a four-year college or even through ROTC. Attending West Point is a completely unique experience that sets you up for life,” said Pinter.

On another side of the spectrum is Sean Bednareck, who’s taking the vocational school route.

“I was primarily motivated by my parents, who had both pursued the same career that I am taking,” he said.

Bednarek’s parents are both retired engineers, which he said is what motivated him to pursue engineering. As well as his family legacy, the difference in cost for trade school vs. regular college program was also a factor for him choosing this career path.

“The main difference is the difficulty of the classes and the focus. The classes are all



DJ Pinter

Attending West Point military school to ultimately become an Army officer

focused on the one subject you care about,” Bednarek said.

Despite that contrast, the application process was apparently similar to those used by traditional four-year colleges, if not less expensive.

“It [the application process] was relatively the same for me; it was honestly cheaper than normal college,” said Bednarek. “It’s an opportunity to learn how to function with other people in the world.”

As opposed to both military school and vocational school, some students, such as senior Maddie McMullin, are studying abroad for a year before attending college or entering the workforce. McMullin, who will be studying abroad in the United Kingdom, was motivated by her desire to attend the University of Southern California (USC), but when her application was denied, USC offered to send her overseas as part of a study abroad program before allowing her to attend the school during her sophomore year in college.

“The University of Southern California has



Madeline McMullin

Studying abroad in the United Kingdom

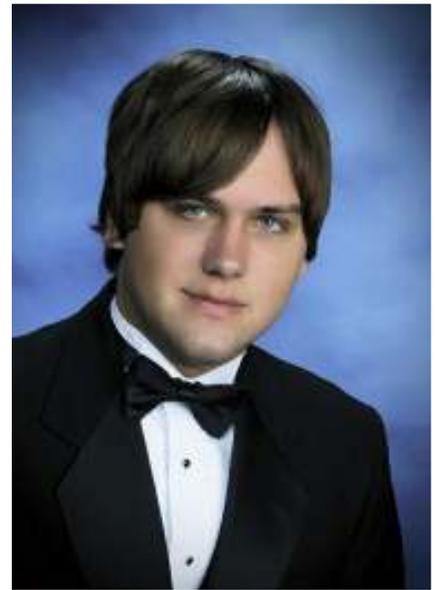
been my dream school since I was little, and I didn’t get in. But they gave me the opportunity to go abroad for a year, and then I could go to USC my sophomore year, so I thought it was worth it to go abroad to be able to go to my dream school,” said McMullin.

McMullin stated that although she wanted to study abroad at some point during her college career, she did not expect to do so during her freshman year in college. She also said that her previous travels in Europe made the decision easier to make.

“Studying abroad was something I had planned to do during my my college years, but never for the first year of college. But when USC offered me a spot in this program it was hard to say no. Also, my family has travelled to Europe several times and I love it there, so it made saying yes to this opportunity much easier,” said McMullin.

The opportunity for vocational advancement also fit well with McMullin’s possible future majors, including international relations and international business.

“I will be studying international relations



Sean Bednarek

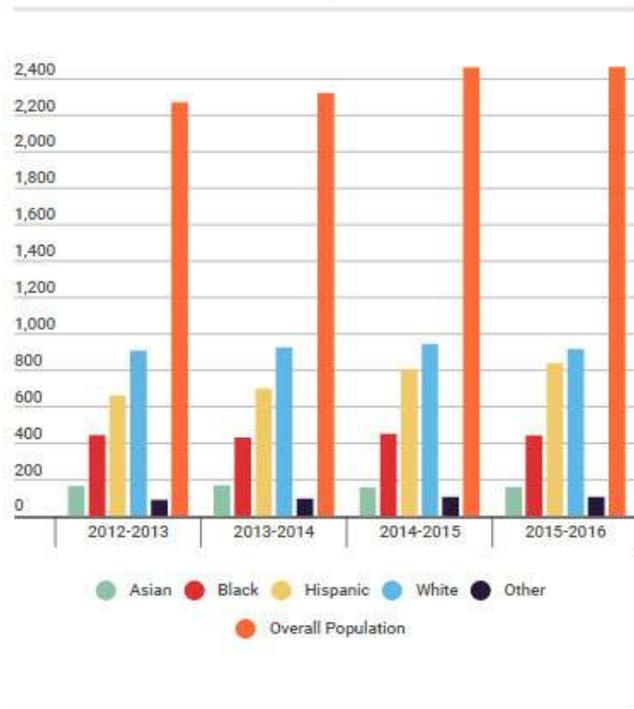
Attending NoVA and ultimately study engineering

or international business, so by being in a different country it will be something I can put on my resume in the future...Also, the connections I could make by being [in the U.K.] and also learning about the economic system of a different country will be very useful,” said McMullin.

Increasingly, alternative options for post-secondary education are becoming more and more plentiful, and West Potomac seniors are likely to pursue those opportunities next year and well into the future alongside their peers. Although most students continue to prefer a traditional education at a four-year college, other options exist for those willing to look for them.

Your High School Years in Review

Student Demographics



Varsity Football Win Lose Ratios

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
6-5	4-6	4-6	8-4



Principal Cliff Hardison died at the age of 60 in 2013

Choir Director Ernest Johnson retired after 25 years at West Potomac



Theatre Over the Years

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016

Fall Play: Dracula
Winter Play: Night of the Living Dead
Spring Musical: Young Frankenstein

Fall Musical: Avenue Q: School Edition
Winter Play: Peter Pan and Wendy
Spring Musical: Monty Python's Spamalot

Fall Musical: Little Shop of Horrors
Winter Play: 8, The Play
Spring Musical: The Addams Family

Fall Musical: American Idiot
Winter Play: The Outsiders
Spring Musical: Starlight Express

2012



Gotye's *Somebody That I Used to Know* topped the charts.



Marvel's *The Avengers* brought in over 600 million dollars at the box office.



Barack Obama was reelected after a campaign against Mitt Romney.



20 children between the ages of 6 and 7 died in the third deadliest mass shooting.

2013



Macklemore and Ryan Lewis's *Thrift Shop* was the top song of the year.



The second Hunger Games movie, *Catching Fire*, was the top movie of the year.



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.



The controversial movie, *American Sniper*, earned the highest domestic box office.



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 after the November bombings.

2016



Justin Bieber's *Love Yourself* is the top selling song of the year thus far.



Marvel's newest movie, *Captain America: Civil War* has brought in the highest box office.



Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders filled the news in preparation for the November elections.



The internet celebrated when Leonardo DiCaprio won an Oscar for the movie *The Revenant*.

Blast from the Past: Prom

by Andrea Lugo & Mia Slone

Mr. Thomas Cadorette

The girl in the picture is my ex-wife.



Ms. Kara Weiner

My freshman year when I went to prom, I won a ticket into the “money machine” and won \$60 which was pretty cool.



Ms. Laura Pendelton

My friends and I had a blast riding around in the limo before and after prom. Just being together was a lot of fun.



Ms. Britney Corbett

My best prom memory is getting dressed with my best friends!



Ms. Brandi Martino

After prom, taking our party bus into NYC and wandering around Times Square in our dresses and tuxedos.

Mr. Paul Laguna

One of the most memorable moments was when I called my date by a different girl's name. Hayfield 1992



Ms. Whitney Huntington

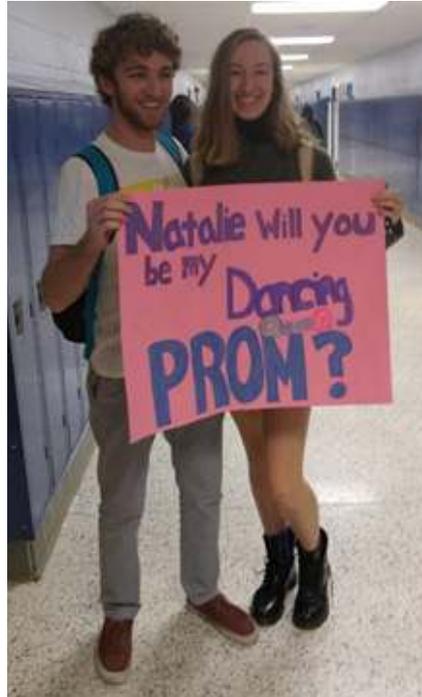
My favorite memory from prom was when a kid with down syndrome won prom king and the whole prom erupted with cheering and applause

West Potomac Prom Proposals

by Jonathan Milam



Laura Powell was asked by Timothy Makinen in the Senior Parking lot. He wore a Karate Gi in order to stick to the theme of his poster. He even brought chop sticks in order help the sushi pun.



Chris Jones asked Natalie Murphy to prom to the tune of the song Dancing Queen by ABBA. This pun plays off of her personal dancing career.



Senior David Jarzen proposed to fellow senior Elizabeth Rader using a very large amount of pickles displayed outside Springbank Arts Center.

Matt Fannon proposed to Anna Zuffi by cooking cupcakes and frosting them to spell out ¿Prom? during their AP United States History class.

Be Yourself

Aaron Helmick

Senior's

There is something to be learned from every situation; good or bad. Reflect often! All the best in your future endeavors.

Ms. Rosenberg

Good luck to all graduates & may the force be with you.
L. Cee

The life of the individual only has meaning insofar as it aids in making the life of every living thing nobler and more beautiful.

Eisen

Mr. France

Don't take life too seriously, no one gets out alive. Make mistakes, go out of your comfort zone, and make decisions that make you happy.

No matter the situation, always stay true to what you believe.

-Mrs Landon

"Live the life you want to live and always be the best version of yourself"

-Kara Weiner

The best way to be successful is to always be inquisitive and always be kind! -Sm

My favorite quote is 'Be the change you want to see in the world!' -Ghandi.

The class of 2016 has been truly impactful as Barnes and leaders. I am so proud of what you have accomplished and can't wait to see what you will do next!

our world's greatest graduates go on to accomplish. Remember you are always a West Potomac Wolverine!

-Aloof Case

I just want to say one word to you. Just one word. Are you listening?

Plastics.

Tom Cadorette

"You only have one chance to make a first impression."

"Action speak louder than words"

"If there's a will, there's a way"

"Don't tell me what I want to hear, do what I want you to do."

Always do the right thing.

Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get

F. Gump
& Lombardi