

COVID-19 | The Delta variant

## 'I didn't have anything left.'



**OVERWORKED**  
Nurses and physicians are at a breaking point, with ICU wards and hospital beds filled to absolute capacity during the second wave of COVID-19.

You're probably thinking: Not another COVID-19 story. Well, honestly, we're tired of writing about it. But, the sad truth is, COVID is still with us. And it's more dangerous than before. The Delta variant has shown us we are not out of the woods. Frontline workers and the school itself are having to re-think approaches to keeping our community safe. Here are stories from those who face the battle head-on each day.

**T**uesday, Aug. 25, 2021, there were 98 patients in the emergency room of Baylor, Scott & White Medical Center in Irving.

The emergency room only had 50 beds. In each lay a patient.

All 98 were suffering from the same illness: COVID-19.

"That's the first time I've ever heard of that in my entire 30 years of working at this hospital," Nursing Administration Manager Lawrence Scarbrough said.

That Tuesday, Scarbrough rushed to the emergency room to help a patient on the edge of death: a bedside nurse had pressed an emergency code button that summoned 15 team members into the room from all over the hospital — nurses, doctors, even anesthesiologists.

"We worked, and we worked, and we worked on this one patient," Scarbrough said. "I saw five different nurses doing chest compressions — they had to trade out because they were becoming so exhausted."

After inserting a tube into the patient's lung for respiration, staff prepared a defibrillator.

One. Two. Three shocks.

A heartbeat returned for an instant. Then, it disappeared for good.

*continues on page 4*

**STORY** Austin Williams, Toby Barrett, Peter Orsak **ARTWORK** Cooper Cole

## Plans for hybrid gym-natorium move forward; to replace Hick's Athletic Center

by **Will Pechersky**

Following the tornado in October 2019, Headmaster David Dini and the school began planning to replace the Hick's Athletic Center, which was levelled completely.

In replacement of the area, the school hopes to build a multiple story building with a gym and a natatorium as two of the most prominent features. Before construction can begin, the school has to take certain logistical steps.

"We had to get a recommendation from the planning and zoning commission," Dini said. "That had to go to city council, and then city council had to approve those revisions. It required a long process, which was finally

completed in June."

With the recent construction of the Winn Science Center, the school has experience in progressing through the many parts of the building process.

"We've had a committee that's been meeting for over a year on this project," Dini said, "So we're now at the point where we've got architectural candidates, but then you have a lot of other vendors too — we'll have to have a contractor, the firm that will build the building. There are a variety of other partners that we'll have to have on a project like that, much like we did with the Science Center."

To account for other future needs of the school, detailed planning regarding the athletic center and its surroundings is

needed beforehand.

"In this case, there are a lot of moving parts because of the building's location on the campus," Dini said. "The tennis center around it, the alley that ends into the property, the fence line on Orchid Ln. and any potential future development on the north end of campus."

Athletic Director Sean Lissemore is also playing a role in the decision-making process of developing the new center. A natatorium, basketball courts, tennis courts, a locker room and storage stand out as some of the initial hopes for the center and the construction around it.

"What we've been trying to do is to reach out to our coaches and staff to get feedback on some of these ideas,"

Lissemore said, "and we've actually been on some site visits to look at different natatoriums — Highland Park, Jesuit — to really start broadening our horizons."

Lissemore hopes to make improvements that put the school in a position for future growth and success.

"The main mission is to provide a facility that meets and exceeds our school's programmatic needs, addresses present and future needs for physical education and supports all of our athletic programs," Lissemore said. "So the ultimate goal is to think about the long-term objectives of our programs over time and what we're trying to accomplish in support of the overall mission of our school."

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History instructor Harry Flaherty takes the helm of the football team this year.



## The loophole that broke Congress

by **Myles Lowenberg**

There is one Senate rule that explains why most promises on the campaign trail never become reality, even when the party has a majority in Congress. It is an accident and a technicality. And it has a funny-sounding name.

The filibuster allows the Senate's minority party to debate any bill brought up—forever. There's no time limit. The only way to override it is to end debate with 60 votes.

Aaron Burr, fresh off winning the Ultimate Founding Fathers

Deathmatch in 1805, decided that the Senate's rules were too complex. Senators got rid of the motion that allowed a simple majority to end the debate. But, they never actually intended to allow the Senate to argue forever. The constitution never wanted to require more than a simple majority in the Senate to pass laws.

So how does all of this affect us today? You'll have to meet the most powerful Joe of the free world—Joe Manchin. See, Democrats have the slightest majority in the Senate, with it being deadlocked at 50-50 with Vice President Kamala Harris as the tiebreaker. The Democrat's 50th vote is Manchin, who was elected in West Virginia, a state that voted for Donald Trump by over 40 points.

Democrats would love to pass bills on many of Biden's campaign promises, but the filibuster stands in the way. Today, almost all Senate Democrats are likely to vote to remove it.

Democrats really are on the cusp of a flood of legislation. They have the tiniest majority and rely on Manchin, who understandably wants to be as moderate as possible.

There is one way around the filibuster, though. Budget reconciliation lets any bills relating only to the budget pass the Senate with only 50 votes. If that sounds like a dumb loophole to bypass another dumb loophole, that's because it is! It's how we got the Trump tax cuts and Biden's COVID-19 relief bill among other things.

Now, we're in the odd spot of lots of polarization but no policy. This lack of new bills causes politics to be more entertainment than governing. The Romans watched gladiators kill each other. We get to watch people implode on Twitter. We're all pinned down by a technicality causing nothing to actually get done.

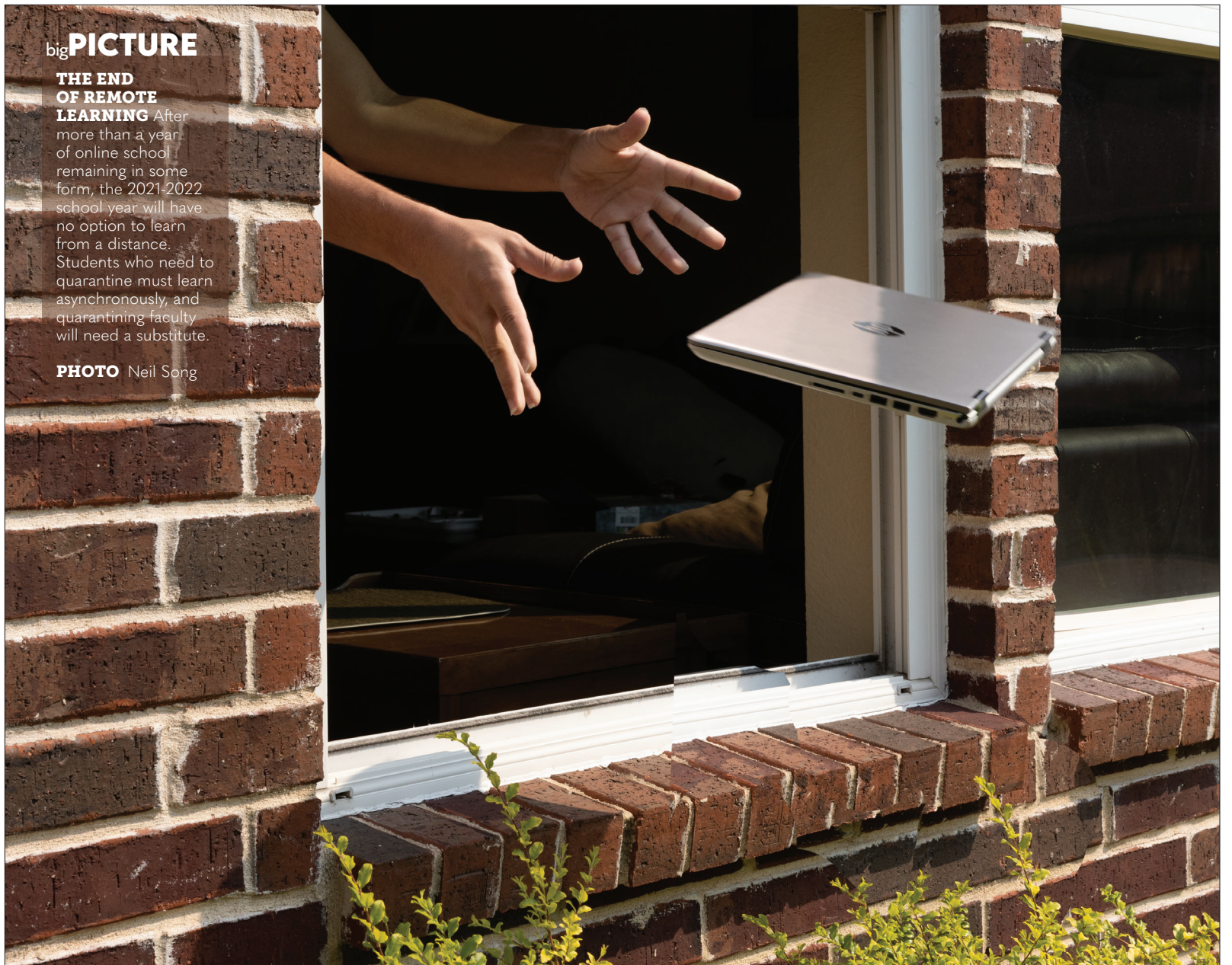


**MYLES LOWENBERG**  
Issues Editor

### big PICTURE

**THE END OF REMOTE LEARNING** After more than a year of online school remaining in some form, the 2021-2022 school year will have no option to learn from a distance. Students who need to quarantine must learn asynchronously, and quarantining faculty will need a substitute.

**PHOTO** Neil Song



## issues in brief

### PARENT VOLUNTEERS RETURN

After a year without parent volunteers because of pandemic health and safety concerns, over 800 have returned. The volunteers assist all around campus, including the Lower School Library, Great Hall, spirit parties, monotony breakers and Fun Day. To volunteer, parents can access the SignUp Genius on the school's website to register for an opportunity.

### ALUMNUS ON WALL STREET

David Cohen '97 rang the stock market bell for companies Joby Aviation and Hippo on Aug. 3 and Aug. 11, respectively. Joby is creating an electrical flight-sharing transportation system similar to Uber, and the flying vehicles will have a network that enables air travel across major destinations. Hippo is an online platform that markets home insurance through verifying the quality of homes with satellite technology. Cohen has also invested in SpaceX, Lyft and Aurora, which

provides autonomous driving for the trucking industry and passenger cars.

### NEW COLLEGE VISITS

Because of the ongoing pandemic, many colleges are conducting virtual visits in place of traditional on-campus visits. During virtual visits, admission officers read their school's application and interact with students, allowing Marksmen to learn more about their schools of choice and the admissions process without having to travel. Seniors who take on-campus visits will need to obtain signatures from the college counseling team, their parents, and each of their teachers three days ahead of their visit by way of the excused absence policy.

### FRESHMAN FIELD DAY

The Freshman Class went on a field day August 17 at Silcox field. The freshmen played a variety of different games including Jenga, Balloon Keep it up, and a relay race. The event, organized by the class

sponsors, replaced their eighth-grade campout that was supposed to occur February 2021.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

The community service program and requirements are returning to the pre-pandemic policies after more than a year of obstructions due to COVID-19. There will be the previous 15-hour total and ten-hour deadline after the new year.

### NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Seniors Arjun Agarwal, Zayn Bhimani, Matthew Fan, Alex Geng, Mikhail Ghosh, Axel Icazbalceta, Abhi Jain, Jedidiah Kim, Adam Lai, Tomek Marczewski, Bryce Nivet, Colin Peck, Sampath Rapuri, Alexander Ryan, Matthew Shen, Pranay Sinkre, Isaac Song, Ekansh Tambe, Adam Wang, Darren Xi, Jonathan Yin, and Jeremy Yu have been selected as National Merit Semifinalists based on their 2020 PSAT scores. They were part of only 16,000 students nationwide out of the 1.5 million who took the test.

## for your information

### LAST MONTH

#### August 11

► Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Texas Representatives Colin Allred and Eddie Bernice Johnson took a ride on a DART train to promote President Biden's infrastructure bill. Buttigieg said over \$3 billion of the new bill would support transit in Texas.

#### September 7

► A new, controversial Texas bill will effectively ban abortions after six weeks, even in cases of rape or incest.

#### September 7

► Governor Abbott signed new, GOP-backed voting restrictions into law. After months of resistance from Texas Democrats, S.B.1 will add new restrictions on drive-through, mail-in and early voting among other effects.

#### September 8

► Don Huffines, who lost his Dallas-area State Senate seat to Nathan Johnson in 2018, is running for Texas governor and challenging Greg Abbott—from his right flank. After Abbott passed his recent abortion bill, Huffines still pushed the governor further, calling Abbott a "coward who encourages abortion."

#### September 16

► Texas will be a new home for 4,481 Afghan refugees from Taliban rule, the Biden administration announced. That means the state will be hosting the second-largest amount of Afghan refugees in the country, only behind California, after the recent collapse of Afghanistan's government and the withdrawal of American forces.

## inside

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How St. Mark's examines the role of race in the past during a divided present.

### 06 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Meeting Scott Jolly, the new assistant headmaster for External Affairs.

### 07 LEE SMITH '65 AWARD

A new award for alumni is coming, named after the first Black Marksman

## five minutes with...

### Nurse Julie Doerge on new COVID-19 policy



- "We know seventh and eighth graders are around 77 percent vaccinated and the Upper School is at 85 percent total. Faculty and staff are at 98 percent, and the Lower School faculty is 100 percent vaccinated. So, our protection is very high."
- "Scientists don't feel Delta has more effects on young people. What we do know is it is four times more transmissible and carries 1000 times more virus in your nose than the original wild type."
- "There is a shortened quarantine of seven days if you are unvaccinated. If you are vaccinated, you get to come to school, but you have to have a PCR test on day five after exposure."

**DEDICATED** School Nurse Julie Doerge has been working with the Dallas County Health Department throughout the pandemic. She won the Ralph B. Rogers Award along with the 2021 Marksmen yearbook dedication for her efforts.

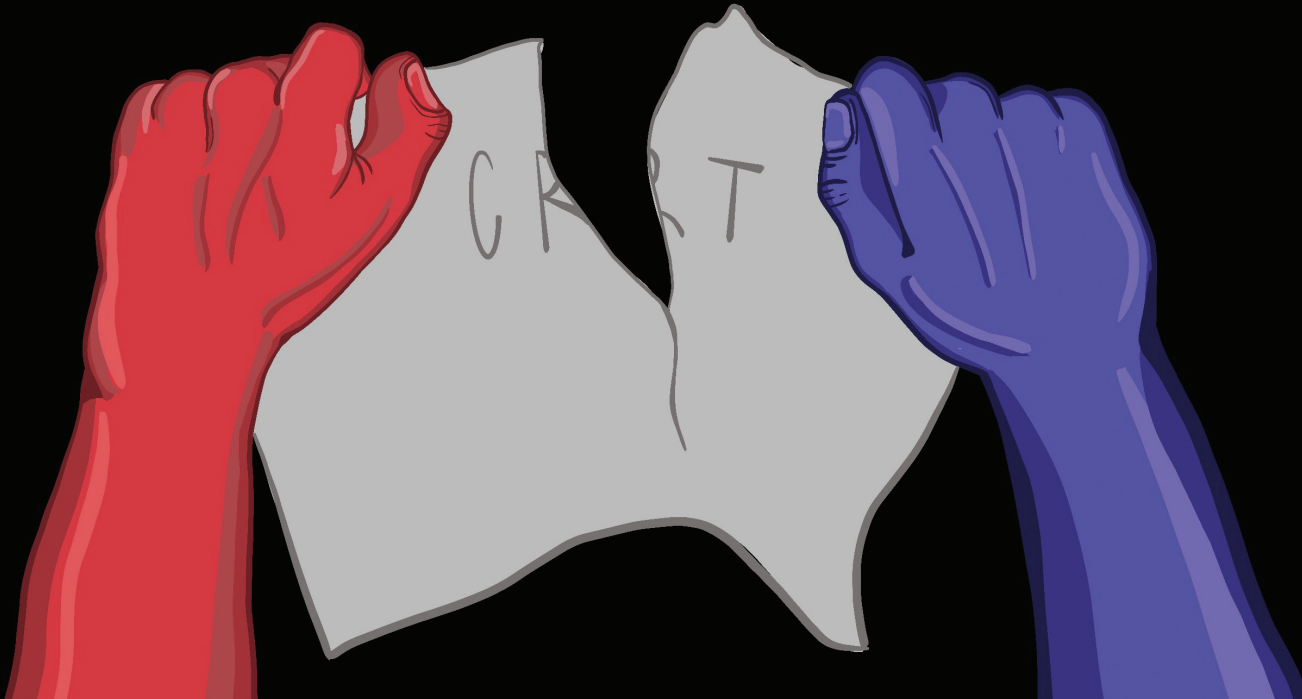
**INTERVIEW** Myles Lowenberg



CRITICAL RACE THEORY

# Stopping the spread

In the midst of a global pandemic, a slew of cultural issues have come to the forefront of public discourse, including critical race theory. The community reacts to the recent anti-critical race theory legislation and discusses how contentious issues are discussed in the classroom.



**TEARING APART**

The critical race theory has become a partisan issue, with debates sparking between the left and right about the value of the system.

**H**istory instructor Dr. Andrea Hamilton is a product of public schools. She sent her children to public schools. She follows local school politics. So when Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed a law to purportedly combat the spread of critical race theory, she took notice.

She's seen the suspicion. The sound bites. The fiery op-eds. It's always been nasty. The last time the AP United States history curriculum changed, there was widespread outrage across the nation.

But it's different this time.

An academic term, critical race theory refers to the study of how race and racism have influenced social structures throughout the nation's past.

"Potentially, it could make some teachers nervous about having open conversations with students," Hamilton said. "It's hard to teach when you feel like you're being monitored."



DR. ANDREA HAMILTON

**For Hamilton**, examining American history truthfully without sugar-coating or glossing over historical injustices is paramount.

"Racism and slavery happened, but they don't paint the happiest picture of America," Hamilton said. "Personally, I don't think looking at tough issues in United States history is necessarily unpatriotic. I think it's a sign of maturity if a society can look at the past, the bad and the good. It's a positive, and I don't think of it as anti-American."

However, she wants to be careful not to push an agenda or specific politics.

"I'm glad I'm teaching in a private school, where

what we discuss in history classes isn't politicized," Hamilton said. "I talk about race a lot in my classes. I was trained as a women's historian, so what I did in graduate school was look at different social groups and how they have operated together in complicated ways. I don't do that to make my students feel guilty or responsible for all of the weight of history, but I want to make them more sophisticated thinkers about the culture around them."

Teachers work to instill an enthusiasm for learning, to encourage independent and critical judgment, and to demonstrate the methods for making sound inquiries and for effective communication.



**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

St. Mark's School of Texas

History and Social Sciences Department Chair David Fisher agreed the point of talking about critical racism in school is to inform, not to convert.

"We will introduce concepts of critical racism when appropriate in the class discussion in the same way that we might introduce Marxism," Fisher said. "It's something that people should know about, whether or not you choose to become a Marxist. We certainly aren't in the business of turning you into one, and the same would be true about critical race theory. You should be aware of it, but whether or not you choose to be an adherent of the ideology is for you to figure out."

Headmaster David Dini asserts preparing Marksmen for public discourse and debates on controversial issues is central to the school's mission.

"I think it's absolutely important that you're able to carefully and thoroughly engage in full conversations

about issues and topics in history," Dini said. "And I'm grateful that we're able to do that here. The whole idea of learning how to think, not what to think, is fundamental to education. There has certainly been a lot of debate and division about what's taught and how things are taught in school, perhaps because of societal issues but also because COVID-19 has brought school into the home in ways that had not existed before online learning."

While faculty are given the independence to freely discuss contentious topics in their discipline, the faculty handbook states they are not allowed to advocate for different religious or political positions.

"We've made it clear for many years that the school is not an environment for proselytizing," Dini said. "It's not in the chapel, it's not in the classroom. That school policy is part and parcel of what our mission statement says. You have your own convictions, and you should want to defend your convictions while being respectful of others. And if you do that right, engaging in difficult topics makes everybody better."

Fisher emphasized opinions about structural racism can be introduced to students, but the goal is to allow students to decide their stances for themselves.

"I really do want it made clear that critical race theory is not an integral part of our curriculum," Fisher said. "There are very few schools that say race has to permeate every single subject we teach and it has to be taught in this particular way. We don't do that, but at the same time, we don't shy away from discussions about race because that's politically taboo. We will talk about it because it's something that needs to be talked about."

**STORY** Keshav Krishna, Myles Lowenberg

**GRAPHIC** Cooper Cole

## in my OPINION

Q: How do you feel about critical race theory?



▶ "Abbott and the Republicans have essentially gaslighted Texans by limiting what can be taught in schools. Mass incarceration, Jim Crow, the War on Drugs: it is apparent that we have a serious problem with racism."

**Henry Morgan**  
Senior

◀ "It's not new for the government to try to shy away from some topics, but it's important to teach the youth certain things about history, good or bad. I don't agree with it, but they have their reasons."

**John Ma**  
Sophomore



▶ "There is a real fear that if we look at the more unsavory aspects of our past, it will somehow impede our patriotism. I think that's a mistaken narrative. I ask my students, do your parents think you're perfect? No? But do they still love you? What is that? They hope for you to be better."

**Dr. Jerusha Westbury**  
History instructor

◀ "I feel like critical race theory goes against Dr. King's vision of racial equality in this country. People should be judged by their character, not by their race. But what happens at schools should be up to boards of education, not politicians. Schools should not be politicized."

**Arjun Badi**  
Junior





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# 'THIS DOES NOT HAVE

As summer months approached and cases began to drop, parts of the world primed for COVID-19's permanent fade. But, low vaccination rates, the rolling back of restrictions and the rise of the delta variant have filled ICU beds and stressed healthcare workers.

**W**E MAY SEE LIFE AND DEATH A LOT," LAWRENCE SCARBROUGH SAID. "BUT THIS WAS A YOUNG PERSON. PROBABLY AT THE BEST PART OF THEIR LIFE. I SAT THERE THINKING, THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN."

HALF AN HOUR PASSES, AND THE EMERGENCY CODE BUTTON IS PRESSED AGAIN TWO ROOMS OVER.

THE SAME NURSES, THE SAME DOCTORS, THE SAME ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS SHOW UP.

AFTER 13 HOURS, SCARBROUGH DOESN'T HAVE THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL WHEREWITHAL TO EVEN CHANGE HIS CLOTHES WHEN HE GETS HOME.

"ALL I COULD DO WAS LAY ON THE SOFA AND STARE STRAIGHT UP AT THE CEILING," SCARBROUGH SAID. "I DIDN'T SLEEP. I DIDN'T NAP. I DIDN'T EAT. I'M NOT TRYING TO SOUND TOO OVERDRAMATIC, BUT THAT WAS WHERE MY LIFE WAS AT THAT MOMENT.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT."

**Every single one** of those 98 patients had COVID-19. Every single one was fighting for their lives.

Every single one was unvaccinated.

Retired Blue Cross Blue Shield infectious disease specialist Dr. Charlie Haley calls it betrayal.

"We all have to protect each other," Haley said. "That's part of what society is about. And there are a large number of people who, for whatever reason, have delayed getting vaccinated. Doctors feel betrayed, and they probably feel like they're involved in a futile effort trying to save people who didn't take the simplest precaution to protect themselves."

For school nurse Julie Doerge, the feeling is one of frustration.

"I think this is where the heat comes from for the medical people — frustration that there is an answer — and the answer is the vaccine," Doerge said. "To take all these supplies and time and personnel for people not willing to do the one thing that would keep them out of the hospital — it's frustrating."

And, for many, this frustration is too much to handle.

"More and more nurses are deciding to retire early or to look for another line of work, simply because the hours and the effort they're having to put forward right now are exceptional," Haley said.

"I read a report yesterday that estimated the state of California is 40,000 nurses short of where they want to be. You can't train 40,000 nurses in a short period of time. That's going to take a long, national effort to get enough nurses to rebuild that part of our healthcare system."

Doerge has heard of this exodus firsthand from her daughter, a nurse at Children's Medical Center Dallas.

"My daughter works in the neonatal ICU," Doerge said. "They

just got a big raise because they're losing nurses. There have been people leaving this profession all the time recently, which is sad. Many are jumping ship."

Hospitals, scrambling to cover shifts but spread thin on available nurses, now resort to cash incentives for overtime work.

"I was talking with my daughter today," Doerge said. "She said if somebody volunteered to work tonight, they'd receive \$1,500 on top of both their pay and their night differential."

Schools around the country, too, experience the consequences of nurses being put under intense pressure.

"School nurses have been exhausted, and they don't want to do it anymore," Doerge said. "I think that's super sad. And, we had a shortage before the pandemic even began."

Despite the hours of lost sleep, Scarbrough believes this part of COVID-19 has brought out the best in his colleagues.

"We have nurses with husbands and wives who don't work a lot of overtime," Scarbrough said. "They work their shifts and go home every day because they want to have a work-life balance. Well, I've seen a lot of amazing things happen. People who might not have stepped up on a regular old day two years ago are doing so when it's really critical."

Regardless, the pressure does not subside. According to Haley, however, increasing vaccination rates will alleviate it.

"The way this situation will end is with everyone either vaccinated or naturally immune," Haley said. "The virus will still be here. It'll probably stay forever. It will become what we call an endemic disease, but it won't be serious. Once you've been vaccinated, it will be another case of the common cold. Maybe more serious, but it'll probably just be another virus that we can cope with."

For Haley, this starts with encouraging unvaccinated people to get their shot.

"If you know any unvaccinated people, you need to try to address their concerns, and help them want to get vaccinated," Haley said. "You often need to address their specific reservations. For instance, some people believe that this vaccine has reproductive consequences. There's no evidence to support that, but just saying that there's no evidence to support it may not help — you may need to go find something and share it with them."

**The school's decision** to return to many normalities has been questioned in the community. With infection numbers that look similar to September 2020, why did administrators choose to push for normal?

"There were a lot of different factors. First and foremost, digesting all the information from lived experience," Headmaster David Dini said. "Last year, a lot of the conversation was around protecting the vulnerable, so we put a high degree of focus on getting people vaccinated. Today, we're grateful that a very high percentage of eligible students are vaccinated, as well as over 95 percent of our adults. There was a lot of speculation at this time last year that schools were going to be super-spreaders for COVID. That turned out not to



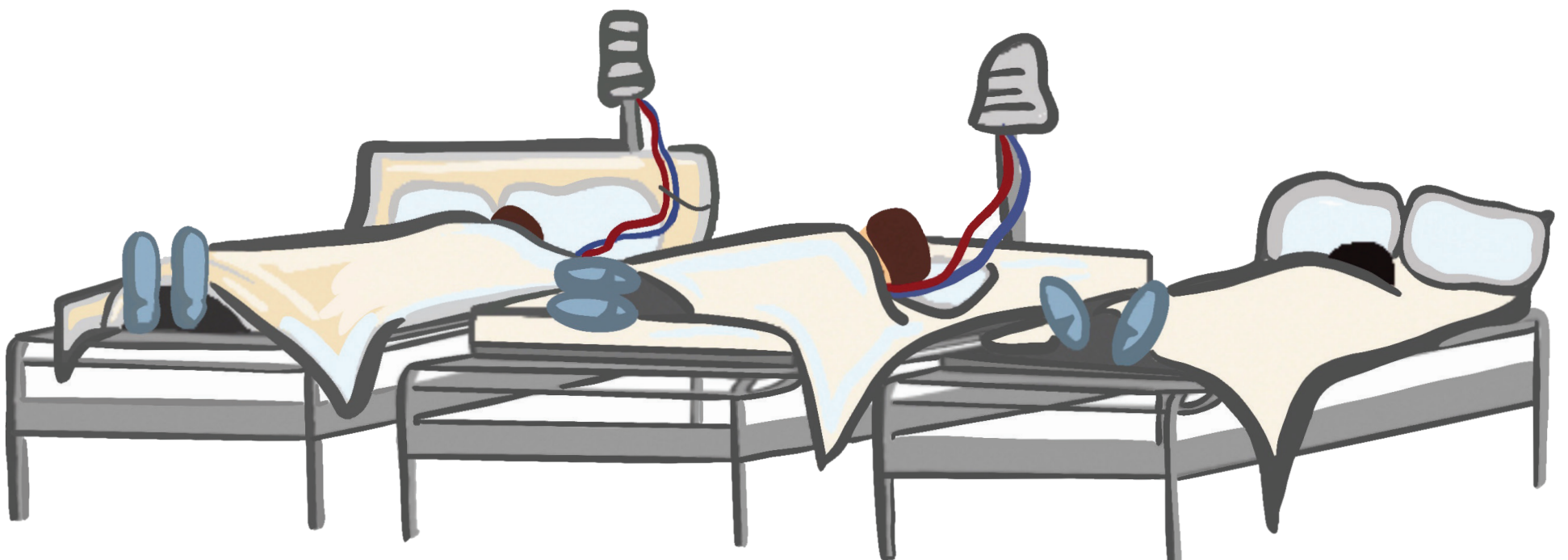
JULIE DOERGE



DAVID DINI



**HEAT CHECK** School nurse Julie Doerge takes the temperature of senior Grant Jackson in her office.





# TO HAPPEN'

really be the case."

Doerge reasserts Dini's appreciation for school vaccination rates.

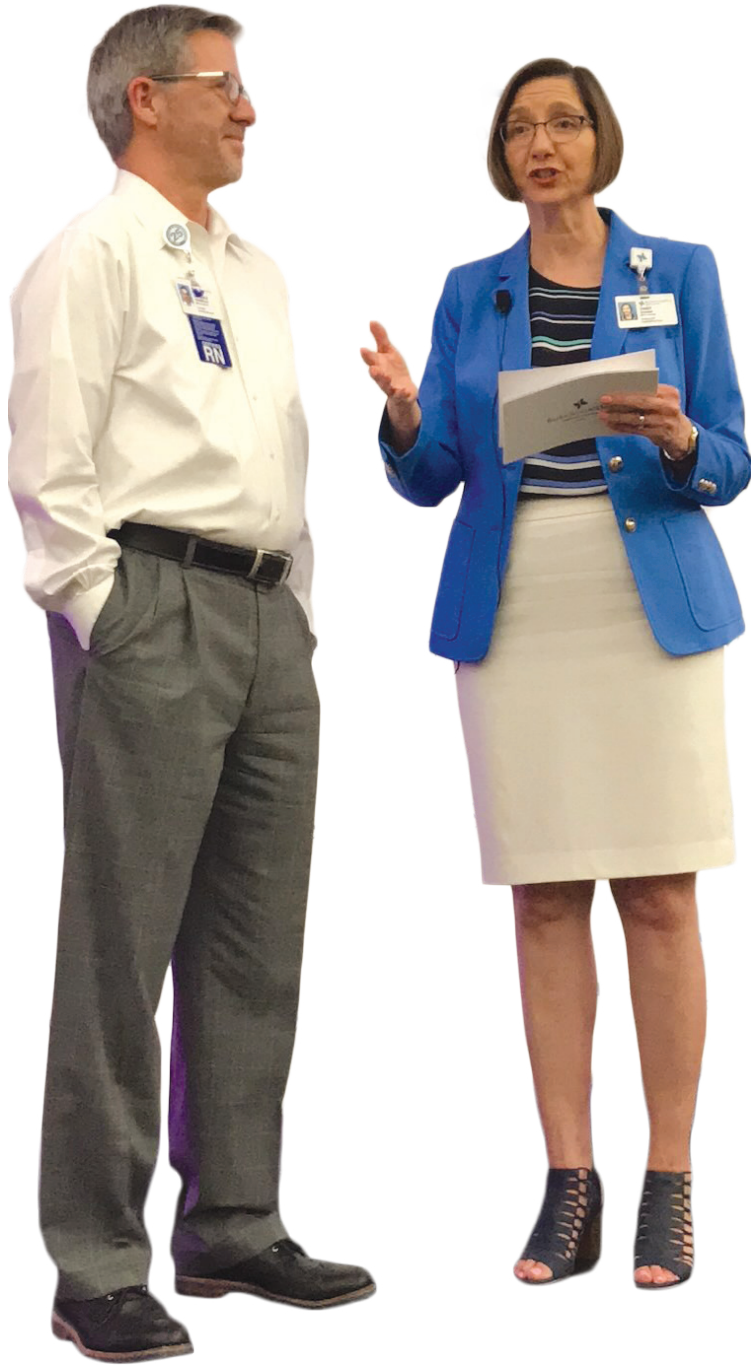
"One of the reasons why we're probably doing well in school with so few cases is because we have a high vaccine rate, we've worn our masks and we've done our testing," Doerge said. "Those are the three factors that keep you in between the 11th and the 25th percentile of case flow, as opposed to some of the other big schools that have none of those things. They're up to 90 percent of cases right now."

While the eligible group of students for vaccines makes up around two thirds of the enrolled student body, the remaining third faces more risks — risks that have not been ignored.

"Our administrative team and our medical advisory committee are constantly having conversations, especially surrounding questions like, 'What are hospitals like Children's Medical Center facing?'" Dini said. "Those conversations have created decisions: Lower School students can't be vaccinated yet, so we chose to have them spread out in the Great Hall during lunch, eating further apart."

The commitment to a common purpose Dini has seen around campus has given him great confidence for the school's success in the coming year.

"I'm most grateful that our community has remained unified," Dini said. "People have differing opinions about how we should go about certain things, but when we've said, 'Here's where we're going to be, here's what we'll focus on and here's how we'll go forward,' the overwhelming response has been, 'Okay. Here we go. Forward.'"



**STORY** Austin Williams, Toby Barrett  
**ARTWORK** Cooper Cole

**CELEBRATION** Scarbrough stands with Cindy Schamp, president of Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Irving on his 25th anniversary of working for the hospital.

## by the numbers

**97+**  
percent of faculty members vaccinated

percent of eligible students vaccinated (approx.)

**45** school districts shut down in-person classes due to COVID

**80+** **0.2**  
percent of Texas hospitalizations due to COVID were vaccinated people

**100%**  
of Lower School faculty vaccinated

**373** thousand COVID cases in Dallas county as of Sept. 13

**61573** deaths in the state of Texas

Sources: The New York Times, Texas Tribune, Julie George



## Amidst family loss, Gonzalez advocates for public health

by Peter Orsak

**M**ore than half a dozen family members. Now a statistic.

Part of the 660,000 lives lost — just in the United States. 4.5 million worldwide.

For Cecil H. and Ida Green Master Teaching Chair Scott Gonzalez, the past year and a half has provoked intense feelings of frustration and pain.

"I was angry," Gonzalez said. "I was really, really angry. We knew, and we had been informed not to engage in certain behaviors, and we continue to see people doing that."

But these weren't just people to Gonzalez — they were his uncles and aunts and cousins. The very people who Gonzalez says made him the man he is today.

These were lost traditions, lost stories, lost memories — gone in the wind.

But now, Gonzalez is hopeful. He's lived a full and happy life, packed with accomplishments, travel and family.

"This isn't the Civil War," Gonzales said. "My house isn't blowing up. There aren't people marching through the streets, threatening to take my livelihood and my family. Are a lot of people dying? Yes. Is much of it avoidable now? I believe it is. I think COVID is here to stay, but I think if I'm careful and respectful of others' lives, it'll all be okay."

**For Gonzalez, this frustration** comes from a place of love. Many of his relatives have foregone the vaccine and ignored mask mandates, leading to their untimely deaths.

The firsts of these deaths were the most difficult to cope with: his dearest aunt and uncle. One of his fondest memories is spending a long weekend out boating on Inks Lake with his uncle.

"I knew them since I was a child, and I know their children who are my age," Gonzalez said. "And it was tough because — because they're really good people."

In fact, his uncle was there to help take care of him when he needed it most.

"My father died when I was young, and my uncle was always loving and kind and supportive," Gonzalez said.

"I don't like to use this word with other people, but he was really cool. That was a really sad loss."

Not long after, Gonzalez lost a pair of cousins to COVID-19. Then, a few months later, two more older relatives. Finally, in the past month, another cousin.

Because of the loss he's experienced, Gonzalez has been extra careful to protect himself and his loved ones, missing countless funerals, births and holidays and never lowering his mask.

"I hope anybody else in my family who may still be unvaccinated will really, really think long and hard about the potential impact their lack of responsibility has on their family," Gonzalez said.

By not being able to mourn alongside his family, Gonzalez said he has, frankly, been in a state of denial. As an educator and a father figure for many, Gonzalez is concerned with the well-being of young students who can't be vaccinated, like his five-year-old grandson who just started kindergarten. But Gonzalez tries to remain positive.

"If I were to get really ill and die tomorrow, or in the next couple of months — okay," Gonzalez said. "I've had a great life. I really have. I've traveled a lot. Got a great family. I mean, I work here, but it's the young children I'm really, really worried about because they've got a whole life ahead. To lose a student or child would just be so painful."



**SCOTT GONZALEZ**



NEW POSITION

# Behind the scenes

Serving in his sixth different position at the school, Assistant Headmaster for External Affairs Scott Jolly now has the opportunity to make an even broader impact in his 22nd year working to advance the school.



#### PUBLICATION

In the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, the production of *The Pride* community magazine has been one of Jolly's main focuses over the years.

Assistant Headmaster for External Affairs Scott Jolly recently began his 22nd year at the school — but the first with this new promotion, moving from interim director of Development.

Jolly's career in development started at Jesuit Dallas, where he first served as the head basketball coach for six years, while also filling the role of vice president of Development in his final three years there.

This period of his career ended when a unique spot here opened up — director of Alumni Relations and head basketball coach. At the time, Jolly didn't recognize how deep his roots would become within the school over his career.

After serving in these two positions for six years, Jolly then became the director of individual giving. In this role, he focused on major gifts, such as the Centennial Challenge Campaign.

At the time, Headmaster David Dini was serving as the assistant headmaster. When Dini was named headmaster, the school did not fill the assistant headmaster role. Instead, former Director of Development Jim Bob Womack '98 entered and Jolly became the senior director of Leadership Gifts.

In this position, Jolly focused on continuing relationships and connecting alumni and others in the community, allowing the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to move the school forward

through the generosity of the school's supporters. Jolly's role changed once again for the 2020-21 school year, where he became the interim director of Development.

After serving in this position through June, his journey continued with the school as he moved into his current role of assistant headmaster for External Affairs. We talked with Jolly about his new position and his past:

#### What does this position entail, both from a long-term perspective and on a day-to-day basis?

On a day-to-day basis, I'm charged with oversight of our development and alumni relations operations. We've hired Tim Crouch as our director of Development, and he will do a lot of the nuts and bolts, which frees me up to think more strategically about the long term needs of the school and how we approach those — things like planning for the athletic center and Access and Affordability, and also to oversee and evaluate the fundraising programs, the alumni programs and communications.

#### What does this position allow you to do that your last position didn't?

It allows me to have more time to work on the strategic pieces, to work with some of the key people in our community in a way that I haven't before, with our Board in a way that I haven't before and work on the planning and implementation of an upcoming campaign.

#### What goals do you hope to accomplish in this new role?

We want to make major progress towards the completion of an athletic center as quickly as possible. Also, to be able to, over the next few years, see the goals that we have for Access and Affordability completed. And, to be able to make progress on all of the ambitious plans that we have for St. Mark's in the coming years as defined in Goals for St. Mark's IV.

#### What kind of connection have you developed with St. Mark's over the years?

The roots have grown deep here. One of the things that has been the most fun and fulfilling is the wonderful relationships that I've been able to form with so many of the people in our community. We are fortunate to have a community that loves SM and supports the school so generously. And I love the challenge — coming up the 24 steps — the two flights of stairs in Nearburg Hall — is exciting every single day because I know there's going to be a challenge ahead. This is such a vibrant place, and I love the way we approach our work with excellence and the thought that everyone here is giving their best, so my best is required too.

**STORY** Will Pechersky, Grayson Redmond  
**PHOTO** Zachary Bashour, Hudson Brown

## Financial management during pandemic

by **Grayson Redmond**

Despite many necessary purchases to prepare the campus for in-person learning, the school still managed to stay under budget during the 2019-2020 school year without dipping into any of its financial reserves. These savings were brought about mostly by COVID-19 restrictions preventing traditional events from happening.

"There were a lot of things that we couldn't do that we all missed doing," Chief Financial Officer Suzanne Townsend said. "There were all of the alumni events that we would typically do in a year, a West Coast event and one in Austin, and none of those could happen. Also, we were limited in terms of travel for athletics and for faculty and staff professional development. Those were significant savings which really did offset a lot of those expenses."

Major investments the school was forced to make included upgrading air filtration systems in every building on campus and retrofitting older plumbing systems to include touchless features, yet the school was planning on pursuing these improvements even before the pandemic struck.

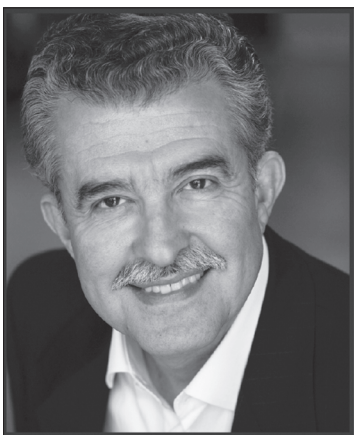
"These were things that were on our radar to be done anyway," Townsend said. "And it presented the opportunity to go ahead and do them quickly, which I think was a good thing. These things will have a very positive lasting effect."

Other frequently overlooked, yet still costly, investments that the school made were purchasing masks and hiring teams to perform COVID tests, as well as hiring an additional nurse.

"COVID testing all throughout the year was also not inexpensive, but I would do it all over again," Townsend said. "It really kept everybody on our toes as to how many cases there were. We also hired a new nurse, which, again, I think is a great thing. I'm not sure we would ever go back to having one nurse in the clinic again, so these both worked out well."

Above all, though, the school is thankful to be in a secure place financially on the other side of an unprecedented year, an achievement that many strapped organizations couldn't reach.

"We couldn't anticipate a pandemic," Townsend said. "But in hindsight, we were in a much better position than a lot of entities found themselves in. We always have reserves in place in case they're needed for some unanticipated purchase or expenditure that we need to make. I don't think there was ever a time during the year when we were panicked. From a financial standpoint, we were prepared."



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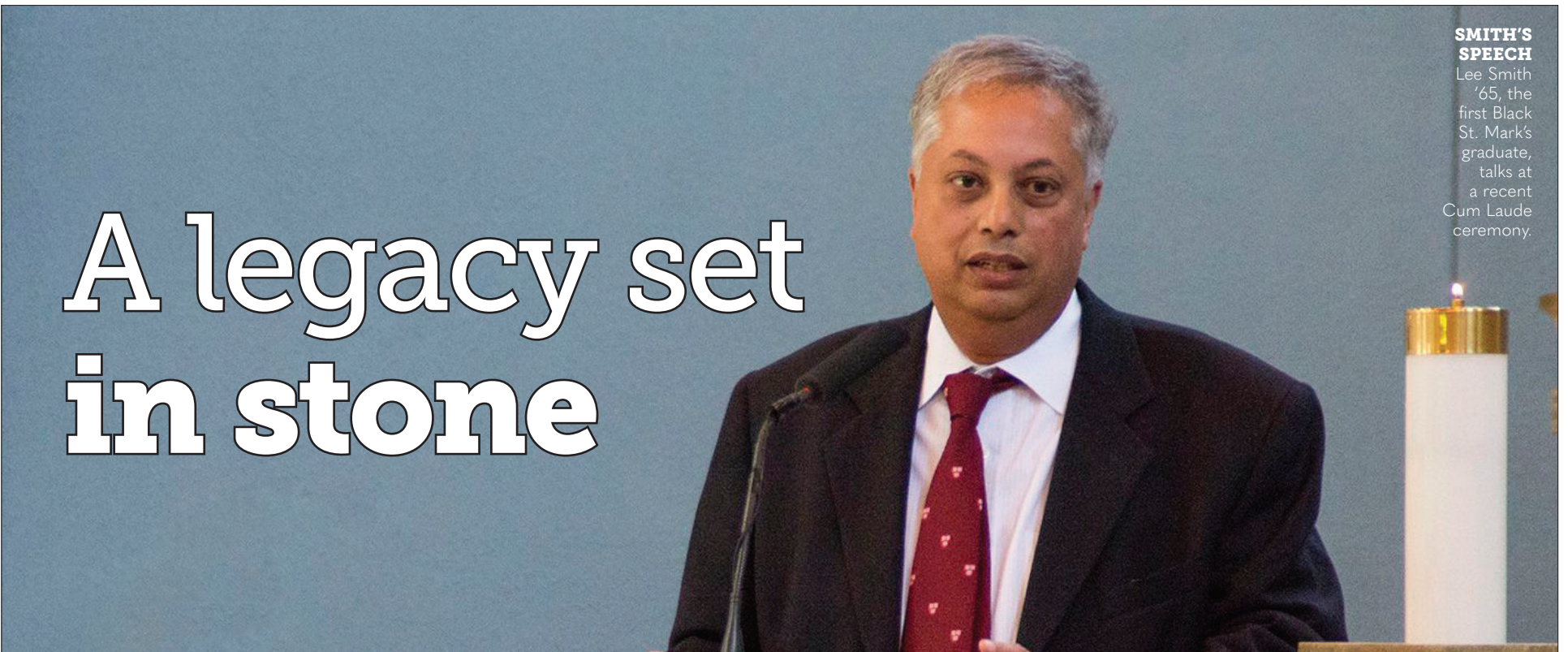
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ALUMNUS AWARD



SMITH'S  
SPEECH

Lee Smith '65, the first Black St. Mark's graduate, talks at a recent Cum Laude ceremony.

# A legacy set in stone

The year 1965 proved a landmark in St. Mark's history: Lee Smith became the first Black graduate — ever. In his persistence through this time of hostility, Smith embodied the school's valued traits of courage and honor. Now, he's being honored as the ultimate model for those virtues.

Lee Smith '65 thought it was his fault. The threats. The name-calling. The looks of resentment. The way parents threatened to withdraw donations because a Black student had been integrated into the school. He thought he was to blame.

He was sent home from school on multiple occasions for his own safety. And when a group of students planned to teach Smith a lesson after he danced with a white girl at a party, he understood that there were always going to be people who wouldn't like him.

"Life is full of challenges," Smith said. "They come at you, and you never know where they are going to come from. What I think has made me most successful and comfortable in my own skin is that I am very well grounded. Some people have called me the N-word because I'm darker than they were. I don't let these things affect me, and as a result, I am able to survive and succeed in this world."

Smith's courage and resilience — as the school's first Black graduate during an era of segregated schools — forever changed what it means to be a Marksman. That's why the Lee S. Smith '65 Courage and Honor award was created.

**The Lee S. Smith '65** Courage and Honor Award — announced by the Development Office — recognizes members of the community who embody the missions of the school. The award was established by the Alumni Board after thoughtful conversations stemming from the Awards Committee.



LEE SMITH '65

"We wanted to create an award that would not only recognize service to the school but also service in the community,"

Committee Chair Michael Flanagan '90 said. "We want the award to be something everyone in the community can aspire to. We didn't want it to be dependent on how much money you've made or how successful you were in your career."

Director of Alumni Relations Alex Eshelbrenner '04 believes that the award will motivate everyone in the community to uphold values similar to those exemplified by Smith.

"At its core, the award hopes to recognize efforts made by people in a community to overcome obstacles and elevate society," Eshelbrenner said. "The purpose of the award is to remind and inspire members of the community to uphold the ideals of courage and honor exhibited by role models like Lee Smith."

Headmaster David Dini agrees Smith furthered the school's mission through his actions and bravery.

"He was an exemplar of courage and honor," Dini said. "He led in a way that paved the way for others, which is incredibly important. It also took courage and conviction for other people to support that movement for the school."

The award is unique in that it is attainable by individuals motivated to put the needs of others before their own.

"The award is meant to recognize community members who exemplify servant leadership," Eshelbrenner said. "The school's Character and Leadership education program is at the forefront of everything we do on campus. We're excited to shine a light on people who personify the lessons taught at St. Mark's of humility, courage, and leadership."

For Dini, dedicating the award to Smith is meaningful because it honors the alumnus's legacy.

"Having the award named after him is a continual reminder of the importance

of striving to make a difference in the lives of others," Dini said. "It recognizes his life and that he helped us as a community to grow and improve. Hopefully, the award



He was an exemplar of courage and honor. He led in a way that paved the way for others, which is incredibly important.

**DAVID DINI**  
Headmaster

inspires that kind of courage in others."

Dini believes Smith's presence at the school helped reinforce the principles of diversity and inclusion that are so prominent in the school today.

"Lee Smith's enrollment at St. Mark's was an important inflection point," Dini said. "I have such admiration and respect for him because he broke a significant boundary and forged new ground for the school. It was a point in time when he allowed the school to reinforce the value of inclusion that still resonates to this day."

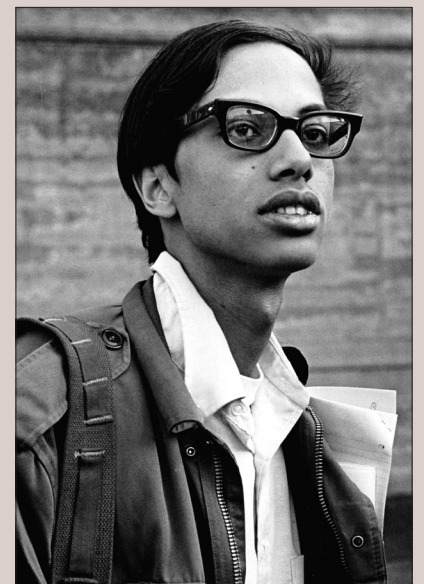
Smith feels honored to receive the dedication of the award. He understands the value of the Lee Smith Courage & Honor Award for the future, hoping it represents virtues Marksmen can exhibit for years to come.

"I am deeply humbled and proud to be chosen to represent the noble aspirations of integrity and courage embodied in the award," Smith said. "This award is not about me. This award is about the virtue of honor. A virtue for which I am eternally indebted to those on whose shoulders I stand. What matters in this life is that we stand for something and make a difference."

**STORY** Shreyan Daulat, Aaron Liu  
**PHOTOS** Courtesy Lee Smith '65, Dave Carden, Development Office

## the AWARD

*"The Lee S. Smith '65 Courage & Honor Award recognizes a member (or members) of the St. Mark's community who demonstrate courage, honor, perseverance, and/or justice, in the communities to which they belong by using their voice(s) and actions to affect measurable change to elevate humanity."*



**THROWBACK** The namesake of the award, Lee Smith '65, the first Black graduate in the school's history, looking around campus during his years studying.

## Record number of national, international applicants for 2021-2022 school year

by **Zack Goforth**

No on-campus events of any kind. Virtual testing, observation, and admissions.

In a year plagued by COVID-19 restrictions, interest in finding a new alma mater would never rise. Right?

This couldn't be further from the truth.

"The school has set applicant records in each of the last three years," Director of Admission and Financial Aid David Baker said. "Which, when you consider how old the school is, becomes very impressive."

For the 2016-2017 school year the school received 572 applications. In

2017-2018 there were 603. 2018-2019 yielded 681, 2019-2020 with 690. And this past year, a year afflicted by a global pandemic: 753.

"This past year in the office was a little crazy," Baker said. "In terms of just how challenging it was. We [the admissions office] were virtual the entire year. None of the candidates were able to test on-campus and none of the candidates were able to interview here."

In the process of virtual admissions, Baker and his team discovered the school has a substantial out-of-state audience.

"We noticed last year," Baker said.

"That approximately 15 to 20 percent of the people who were attending our virtual events were not from Texas."

Baker believes the school will continue a number of virtual programs.

"Our emphasis has always been getting people on campus," he said.

"We couldn't do that last year, so we had to do everything virtually, and in the process, we may have underestimated the reach of the institution nationally and frankly, globally."

Receiving a record number of applications in such a hectic and restricted year was humbling, according to Baker.

"That's the kind of gravitas this place has," Baker said. "It's a reputation we don't take lightly. It's a reputation we don't abuse. It's a reputation we work hard to enhance daily."

It's a reputation Baker believes the students play a vital role in upholding.

"Admissions is a school-wide job," Baker said. "Whenever someone asks where one of our students goes to school and he says St. Mark's, they make assumptions based on what they know about that student. The marketing we do is nothing compared to the impressions that are made in the community by our students, alumni and parents."



## POLITICS



## CAPTIVATED

Students watch Robert George (left) and Cornel West (right) after hearing the pair speak in a panel in 2010. The pair returns to 10600 Preston Road Oct. 8.

## Lower School resumes activities after long year

by Aaron Liu

Lower School is bringing back many activities which were suspended because of the pandemic last year, including new sports, clubs and schedules.

Lower School Head Sherri Darver is looking forward to the new changes this year, especially the new school schedule, which the division wasn't able to implement last year.

"I think we're still getting used to the new schedule," Darver said. "Last year, we didn't really get to live it because we stayed in cohorts. We're glad that we're able to move around together and the boys in each grade level can be together instead of being by themselves in homeroom all day."

Many Lower School boys never met other members of their grade outside of their homeroom classroom last year because of the cohort system, which replaced the original school schedule plans. In the cohort system, Lower School boys were arranged into homeroom classrooms where they stayed during the whole school day for the full school year, including for classes like PE.

The division is also anticipating many club-related events which didn't take place last year. Darver hopes that bringing back these activities will strengthen the sense of community within the boys.

"Right now I'm planning the student council meeting dates and we haven't had a Student Council since March of 2020," Darver said. "Father Arbogast is also organizing his Chapel Council for Lower School, and we have Fun Day to look forward to as well. Being able to have our whole community together is just so important."

Sports teams and activities are also being brought back for lower schoolers, led by two athletic liaisons chosen through the Parents Association.

"We have sports teams again this year, which we didn't have last year, and a lot of people signed up," Darver said. "We've got flag football, soccer, lacrosse and water polo teams this year, and they're just learning to play."

Darver is also expecting more activities for lower schoolers and their senior buddies.

"Last year, keeping six feet apart was really challenging, and we weren't able to do many events," Darver said. "But this year we're looking to have something planned around Halloween, McDonald's Week and Grandparents Day as well. Some of those things are still up in the air a little bit at this point, but it's exciting."

Regardless of the obstacles the school is facing, Darver is thankful that more community members can come on campus again.

"I'm just looking forward to being together again," Darver said. "It's so nice to have our parents back on campus. We've already had our mini-school and got to see people again in a more natural way for the first time in a year and a half."

# Friends from across the aisle

Professors Cornel West and Robert George have a unique relationship, to say the least. Each a renowned philosopher, writer and professor, liberal-minded West and conservative-thinking George rank among the most famous intellectuals in America's current climate of political commentary — and they're best friends.

Two of America's most prominent political and philosophical intellectuals — Robert George and Cornel West — are visiting campus for a panel Oct. 8.

On paper, the two should not be friends. George is a soft-spoken conservative, while the expressive West leans liberal.

While each maintain political perspectives that contrast strongly with the other, and both have strong opinions about their beliefs — a seemingly potent recipe for potential hostility — the two maintain a connection that transcends their political division.

How do the two develop common ground, and what should students learn from the pair?

Here's a look at the thoughts of some community members:

**Toby Barrett: How would you describe Cornel West and Robert George's relationship?**

**English instructor GayMarie**

**Vaughan:** I think both of the two demonstrate intellectual humility. We

don't see a lot of that in the world. We're always trying to prove our point and cancel the other side, if you will, and they don't practice that. They don't embody that whole ideology, and I have a lot of respect for that.

**TB: What are Robert George and Cornel West like? Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Master Teaching Chair Bruce Westrate:**

Professor George is very quiet. He's very measured. He's extremely articulate and bright, and the way he presents his opinions, I would call him center-right. Cornel West is the opposite, his expression is almost performance art. He's animated and out there.

One thing I admire [West] for is that he's against this idea of cancelling the great books of the western canon, the great thinkers of classical times and the Age of Enlightenment. He's a man of ideas, and he appreciates the evolution of these ideas in historical time, just like I do.

**TB: If you had to cast two actors to play George and West, who would you cast?**

**GV:** In a movie, Morgan Freeman would probably play West. [Freeman]'s like a god, you know? He's no longer with us, but I'm thinking like a Robin Williams [to play George]. Robert George is not as funny as Robin Williams, but Robin Williams had a very philosophical side, and he was busy and did a lot of good things throughout his career.

**TB: Intellectually, how do we respond to people we disagree with politically?**

**BW:** Everybody's afraid of getting cancelled, and it's the opposite of a vibrant marketplace of ideas. Our democracy

can't really exist without a marketplace of ideas, which means you have to tolerate at least listening to views with which you do not agree.

**TB: Do our sources of information affect the way we think?**

**GV:** We're in a Twitter world, right? We live in the "Twitterverse." In the Twitter world, it's just one-line retorts, firebacks, who has the biggest mic-drop response to any kind of issue. Instead of trying to understand where somebody is coming from, people assume the worst on Twitter.

I think one of the things that Dr. George and Dr. West do is try to assume the best of the person who's speaking, not necessarily the worst. I think that's a good place to come from. **BW:** If you're just aping on Twitter or Facebook in terms of what the official views are or what the truth is, you're not thinking at all. You're abdicating.

**TB: What should students take from the panel?**

**GV:** The most important thing I think they could learn is just watching two men who are separated so far ideologically model friendship and respect for each other. Respect is probably the best thing.

In terms of who they are in the world, you're going to be listening to men who are major movers and shakers of our time. We have lots of opportunities around here, we have great scientists come and great literary figures come, but to have these two intellectuals in the political sphere come is an amazing opportunity.

**BW:** [George and West model] the way it's supposed to work. It's made worse by the fact that the press is so profoundly on one side. We already have that going against us, and if we're twisted into being turned into tribes, we're done for.

**STORY** Toby Barrett  
**PHOTO** Courtesy Dave Carden, Development Office

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LOCAL NATURE

# Roots in Dallas

Plants in the Dallas area face many threats: The weather, lack of pollination and invasive species all challenge potential planters. But junior Akash Munshi and the school's Cultivation Nation still manage to keep a thriving garden.

**A**kash Munshi surveyed the soccer field—with dismay. “It’s Bermuda grass, and it’s about a foot deep,” Munshi said. “It’s an invasive species and extremely difficult to kill. The only way to kill it is over six months by taking away all of it’s sun.”

Science instructor Dan Northcut pointed out how a single species can interrupt an entire ecosystem, such as what the invasive grass is now doing to Dallas.

“You never know which species is going to be the one that could cause everything else to unravel,” Northcut said. “So that’s a big problem with the public’s perception. Most of the time they just think of that one bird or that one fish or whatever, and they’re like, ‘I don’t care,’ but that’s the thing: it’s like rivets in an airplane. If a rivet falls out of a wing, the wing’s got thousands of rivets in it, but if another rivet falls out month later, you know that sooner or later, it’s going to be one too many rivets that come out of that wing, and then things are going to go south.”

The invasive species tearing through the ground of Dallas is only one of the problems facing North Texas’ ecosystem. Munshi, who leads the Cultivation Nation club and focuses on gardening in the greenhouse at school and around the area, says plants in the area were already facing challenges.

“The hardest part is that Dallas is the worst place to garden in the entire United States,” Munshi said. “First of all, you have extreme back and forth temperatures. You go tropical until you get temperatures in the negative degrees like last winter.”

Junior Hayward Metcalf, the club’s vice president, agreed.

“There’s no guarantee anything you can grow is going to last in the summer,” Metcalf said. “The soil is poor, and on top of that, the bee pollination is awful. Even if you grow stuff really well, there’s no guarantee.”

The club is focusing on growing milkweed among other things due to its survival and the survival of species that depend on it being in danger.

“A heavy part of our pollinator gardens is milkweed because it is suffering habitat loss,” Munshi said.

“Because of that, the monarch butterfly population is directly affected. The percentage of monarchs who migrated here compared to 100 years ago is almost nothing.”

Northcut also sees the importance of protecting threatened plants like milkweed.

“When a species goes extinct, that one may or may not have a big impact on the whole ecosystem,” Northcut said. “You never know if it’s a keystone species that will have a big impact because that’s a specific kind of species that a lot of other species in the system depend on for one reason or another.”

The club is expanding by working with multiple nonprofit organizations and a startup that tags plants digitally. They also plan to talk to lower schoolers about local plant life.

“We’re going to teach them about the



HAYWARD METCALF



**GROWING UP** Above: Different types of plants bask in the sun at the greenhouse, with the Winn Science Center in the background. Below: Akash Munshi stands in front of a large banana tree.

basics of native plants like milkweed and then have them come to the greenhouse,” Munshi said. “I love to make it interactive. We’re going to show them how to plant a native seed, and my hope is that they eventually get to see those in the garden in the future.”

Northcut sees efforts to restore the natural places for species to live, such as what Munshi and Metcalf are doing, as essential to creating a thriving environment.

“The largest driver of species extinction worldwide is habitat destruction,” Northcut said. “So, if you look around the city, you see it all the time. It’s a huge driver of extinction and loss of biodiversity, so preserves and so forth are designed to try and give species a habitat, a place to live, to eat, and to find food.”

I mean, it’s all about creating habitat that we have destroyed already.”

**STORY** Myles Lowenberg, Nikhil Dattatreya  
**PHOTOS** Hayward Metcalf



**GREENHOUSE LIFE** Left: An array of cacti and other plants stand in the greenhouse. Right: Thanks to the work of the gardening club, new plants stand tall in an outside room of the greenhouse.

## Robotics and engineering program expands to students in eighth grade and Lower School

by **Zack Goforth**

**M**akerspace Director Stewart Mayer will be teaching a new robotics and engineering elective for the eighth grade and sponsoring a Lego Robotics club for third and fourth graders.

“The goal is to really have a Makerspace opportunity for every grade,” Mayer said. “Last year, we introduced a new seventh grade class. Of course, many of those kids wanted to continue with the engineering that we had started, so we then introduced

the new engineering eighth grade elective class. We’ve been taking advantage of these great facilities in the Winn Science Center.”

The eighth grade elective and Lower School club are part of the school’s plans to provide engineering activities to every level, according to Science Department Chair Fletcher Carron.

“We felt like STEM and engineering activities were an important part of a student’s education,” Carron said. “As they get older, STEM becomes a strong interest for a certain subset of the kids,

and we want them to have that outlet.” The eighth grade elective meets three out of the new schedule’s eight days, according to Mayer.

“We will be building robots that are designed to score points on a field,” Mayer said. “They can also knock their opponents out by battering each other in hitting a timeout button. It’s a cross between a scoring game and BattleBots.”

Mayer believes students’ curiosity will serve as more than enough motivation, eliminating the need for

tests. “The class is driven,” Mayer said, “on everyone’s passions to build robots.”

Additionally, the school is currently trying to bring the Makerspace to more students around campus, including the youngest Marksmen.

“We’re trying to get the Lower School into the Makerspace more,” Mayer said. “One way we could do that is by offering a club. Right now, we have Lego Robotics clubs that are being offered to the third and fourth grades.”



## HANGIN' OUT WITH Shane Sweet

The master of hot takes, senior Shane Sweet has often welcomed debate and made his unique political and historical views known to those around him. *The ReMarker* sits down with Sweet to pull back the curtain on his thoughts.

### How did your interest in politics begin?

I started out back in 2016 as a big liberal. I was a gung-ho Bernie supporter, and I backed Hillary Clinton in the election.

### How did those opinions change over time?

Over time, I started to evolve a little bit. I've always been pro-life. I started changing my views on gun control from liberal to more conservative. I've always been an economic populist and for environmentalism, creating a weird combo: I'm socially conservative but fiscally left, and, because of that, I don't really have a party anymore.

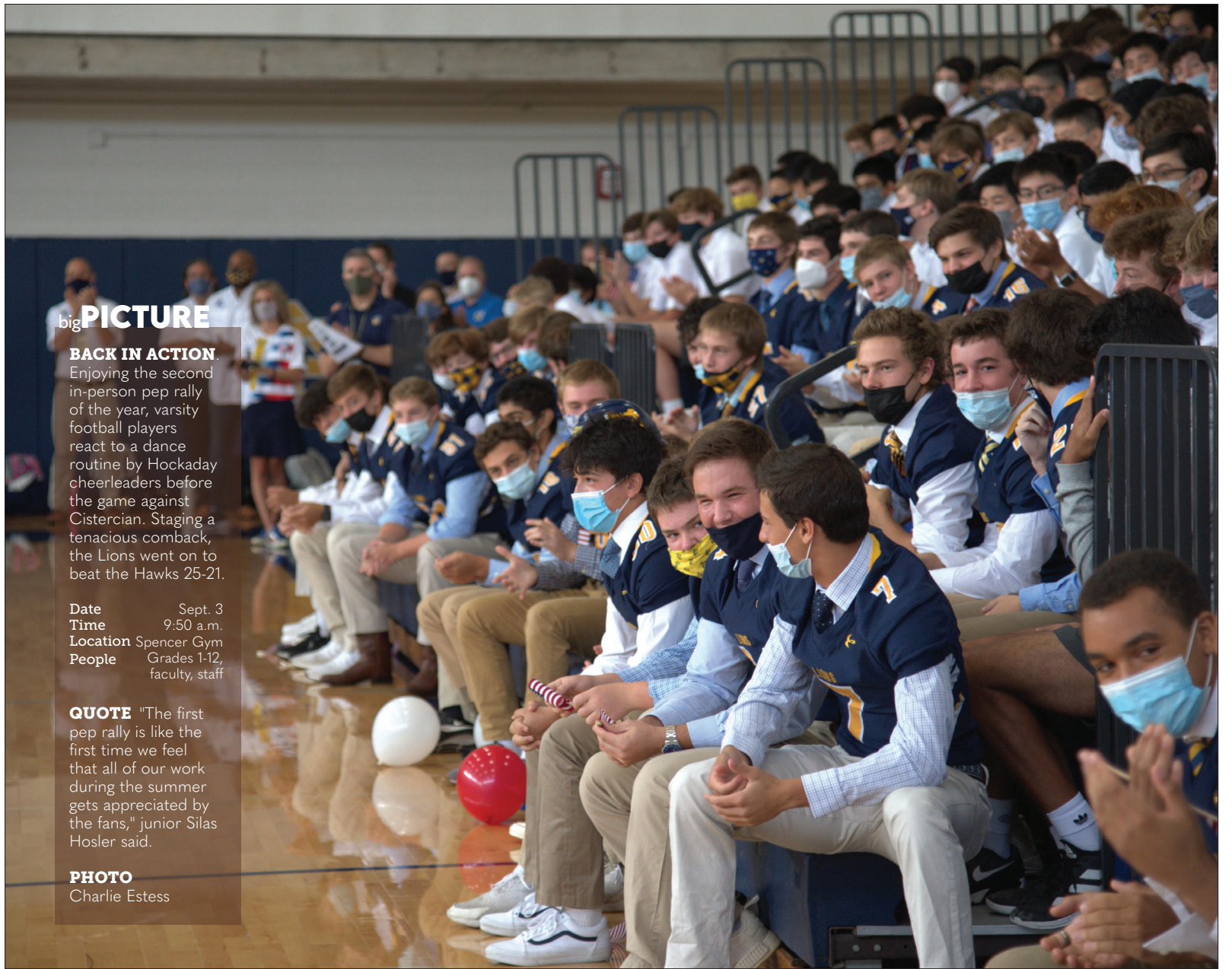
### What are some of your favorite political books?

One of my favorites is *Ship of Fools* by Tucker Carlson. It's a great exposition on our political system as it is, and he's critical of both parties in it. I think he brings a unique perspective, and I completely appreciate him talking about the selling out of the country by both sides. I also am a big fan of *Our Revolution* by Bernie Sanders. It's an outstanding book that talks about his plans. I agree with a lot of it, and I appreciate his consistency on a number of issues that most politicians don't have.



### What do you think about discourse today?

We really have moved to the point where it's becoming unacceptable for people to have certain ideas. If you're a liberal, a conservative might look at you as a baby killer and a tree hugger. If you're conservative, liberals often look at you and they're like, 'That guy is nuts, he's racist, he's sexist and he's a homophobe. He's trying to destroy the country and destroy women's rights.' I think we should just look past that and that we shouldn't push people away.



## big PICTURE

### BACK IN ACTION

Enjoying the second in-person pep rally of the year, varsity football players react to a dance routine by Hockaday cheerleaders before the game against Cistercian. Staging a tenacious comeback, the Lions went on to beat the Hawks 25-21.

**Date** Sept. 3  
**Time** 9:50 a.m.  
**Location** Spencer Gym  
**People** Grades 1-12, faculty, staff

**QUOTE** "The first pep rally is like the first time we feel that all of our work during the summer gets appreciated by the fans," junior Silas Hosler said.

**PHOTO**  
Charlie Estess

## 10600 in brief

**SENIOR AUCTION** The senior auction led by the Class of 2022 will take place Sept. 26 in the Decherd Auditorium from 1-4 p.m. Seniors will be auctioning off both silent and live auction items at the event in order to raise funds for the 2021-2022 school year. The event will be led by seniors Zack Stone, Soham Verma and Adam Wang. Planning for the event started in the summer and was an important part of the senior retreat Aug. 10.

**IBSC CONFERENCE** The 29th annual International Boys' Schools Coalition Conference will take place on campus June 26-29, 2022. Assistant Head of Middle School Jason Lange is leading the preparations for the event and is anticipating approximately 500 teachers from boys' schools around the world to attend the conference. It will be the first time the event is hosted in-person since 2019. The last time the conference was hosted here was 2004.

**MCDONALD'S WEEK** The school's annual fundraiser for Austin Street Center, McDonald's Week, will take place Nov. 15-19. Juniors Trey Stager, Silas Hosler, and Murphy Paul are the co-chairs of the event and are spearheading the planning and execution of the fundraiser. The theme will be revealed in a video in an assembly coming soon.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS** The Parents' Association opened up its SignUpGenius to parent volunteers after not using it for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year. The association plans to rebuild the normal sense of community from years past, so volunteers will start the year off as they used to. Volunteers participated in Lion Pride Night Sept. 10 and will participate in Fun Day Sept. 24, and the Parents Association plans to have similar events in person throughout the year.

**ORCHID PROJECT** The fences on the north end of campus are being moved closer to Orchid Lane. In addition to more green space for replanted trees along the edge of campus, there will be an established entrance with a gate and proper signage, similar to the main entrance on the east side of campus. Other renovations are planned for the coming years, including a new field near Preston-Royal and additional parking space.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS** The Counseling Office made changes to the P.E. courses for Middle and Upper School. Health and wellness is now a class for seventh graders that meets once per week in place of computer class. In addition, Dr. Mary Bonus now teaches health and wellness classes for ninth and tenth grade P.E., and the class will be added to the eighth grade P.E. curriculum next year.

## For the Marksman

### THIS WEEK

- Today**
- ▶ Birthday Chapel at 9:45 a.m.
  - ▶ Fun Day at Hockaday for first-sixth graders
  - ▶ Community Service Clothing Drive ends
- Sunday**
- ▶ Senior Auction at 1 p.m. in Decherd Auditorium
- Tuesday**
- ▶ Freshmen Monotony Breaker at 9:45 a.m. in the Ampitheater
  - ▶ Sophomore Monotony Breaker at 9:45 a.m. in the Ellipse
  - ▶ Junior Monotony Breaker at 9:45 a.m. in the Grandparents' Courtyard
- Wednesday**
- ▶ Admission Coffee at 10 a.m.

### THIS MONTH

- October 4**
- ▶ Community Service Food Drive begins
- October 6**
- ▶ Parents' Association Executive Committee Meeting
- October 8**
- ▶ Cornel West and Robby George host Upper School Assembly
  - ▶ Upper School Spirit Party at 10 p.m.
- October 21**
- ▶ Alumni Weekend begins
  - ▶ Yearbook Photo Makeups at 7:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- October 22**
- ▶ End of first quarter
  - ▶ Upper School Spirit Party
- October 23**
- ▶ Homecoming Dance

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Giving back by helping things run smoothly behind the scenes.

### 16 STAFF VETERAN

The trials and tribulations of a staff member formerly deployed in the Middle East.

## say what?

### comments overheard around campus



"This beat so ridiculous, gotta call my boy Nicholas, holmes is real trickish, australopithecus."

**SILAS HOSLER**  
Junior



"I went to ask a teacher a question and he gave me an evil laugh."

**TOMMY ZHENG**  
Junior



"My writing conference is tomorrow. Oh, wait, I think it was yesterday. That's not good."

**CALEB VANZANT**  
Senior



"Chimps are different from humans because they have better toe dexterity."

**LUKE MARTIN**  
Senior



"This school makes me tingle inside."

**NOAH SOLIZ**  
Senior



"Wait, we have a test today?"

**ANTHONY WANG**  
Junior



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

# 12 fresh faces

Across campus, new faculty and staff have arrived to fill positions left vacant by departing teachers and new positions opened up by the expansion of the school. We sat down with them and learned about their pasts as well as their interests:



**WILLIAM ATKINSON**

Middle School humanities, seventh grade football coach

**Past jobs:** In New York, I was a director for major galleries, and then when I came back to Dallas, I went back to school to get my masters of education from SMU.

**Favorite artists:** My two favorites are Franz Kline and Corinne West. You can really see the energy in their work.

**Hobbies:** I do my own artwork. I have four shows this fall, and I have a charity auction in November.



**LAUREN BROZOVICH**

Upper School English

**Past jobs:** For the last six years, I was a professor at the University of Houston teaching all levels of undergrads.

**Favorite books:** I like a lot of 19th century Victorian novels. So, novels like *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *Wuthering Heights* by her sister Emily Brontë.

**Personal hero:** I really admire the contemporary poet Jorie Graham. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1996 for her selected poems, *The Dream of the Unified Field*.



**TIM CROUCH**

Director of Development

**Past jobs:** I started at Mercersburg Academy as sort of a mix between a camp director and a travel coordinator. Then I transitioned into more of a fundraising role.

**Favorite book:** The book called *Homeland Elegies* by Ed Akbar.

**Future Hobbies:** I'd love to learn how to fly fish, and I'd love to own a cabin near Glacier National Park in Montana.

**Movie Genres:** I can watch the lamest, cheesiest movie and enjoy it, and I can watch some artsy film and enjoy that, too.



**ZUMING FENG**

Upper School math, McGee Family Master Teaching Chair

**Past jobs:** I taught math at Philips Exeter Academy for 25 years.

**Most excited for:** Getting to know the school — the colleagues, the students, school facilities, and school culture.

**Hobbies:** I like sports. I prefer to watch sports, rather than [play] sports — even though I should do exactly the opposite.

**Favorite books:** I don't read much literature, mostly technical math books.



**HARRY FLAHERTY**

Varsity head football coach, history and social sciences

**Past jobs:** After college, I played a little bit of football, and then I went to law school at the University of Tennessee. Next, I worked at the Lawrenceville School, a boarding school near Princeton, NJ, for six years.

**Favorite songs:** I really like songs by Bruce Springsteen and Bon Jovi.

**Biggest pet peeve:** I don't like mixing foods together that don't go together.



**KATELYN HALL**

Director of the St. Mark's Fund

**Past jobs:** I was at Teach for America, and I created their annual giving program there. Before that, I was an instructional coach, and then a bilingual kindergarten teacher.

**Hobbies:** I'm a painter. I run my own small business painting. I love to travel, and most of my family is here in Dallas, so I love spending time with them.

**Favorite place:** My favorite city to keep going back to is Mexico City. I love how vibrant it is and all the different ages of the city.



**RYAN HERSHNER**

Lower School PE instructor and coach

**Past jobs:** I worked at the Cooper Clinic in exercise physiology, where I would hook patients up to EKGs and monitor them to look for cardiovascular disease.

**Hobbies:** During COVID, there wasn't much else to do, and I found out that I really enjoy reading. I'm a big fan of Jack Carr's fiction series. Anything nonfiction I read is usually a war novel.

**Future plans:** One of my friends is moving to Argentina, so going there is on my list.



**WESLEY IRONS**

Upper School physics

**Past jobs:** I was the trumpet player in the Marine Corps for four years.

**Hobbies:** I'm really into a lot of old movies and foreign films. I collect DVDs, so I probably have around 800 movies in my house now. I've made lists of 900 films to watch before you die that I shared with the students at Oakridge.

**Biggest pet peeve:** I hate, hate, hate leaf blowers. I have hypersensitivity to industrial noise, and leaf blowers are so extremely loud.



**HARRISON LIN**

Interim Middle and Upper School 3D design & woodworking instructor

**Past jobs:** After graduating from Rice, I went to work at a 3D printing startup in Silicon Valley called Carbon 3D. I was a mechanical engineer there for two years.

**Favorite food:** I love all sorts of ramen, and I really love spicy Thai food.

**Favorite movies:** I really like *Fight Club*, *The Matrix*, and *Her*. *Her* is about this guy who falls in love with Siri, essentially.

**Personal hero:** Isamu Noguchi, a sculptor that was born in the early 1900s.



**LAUREN LOGAN**

Interim Middle School math instructor

**Past jobs:** I was over at Good Shepherd for three years. I taught seventh grade math and coached volleyball.

**Favorite songs:** I love country music. Just last week I went to a Chris Stapleton [concert], and Willie Nelson was the opener, so I got to finally check him off my list.

**Favorite book:** *Wonder*. I think even adults need to read *Wonder*. Yes, it's a children's book, but the lessons in it are good for all ages, and the book was a million times better than the movie.



**DR. JONATHAN MOODY**

Upper School chemistry

**Past jobs:** For the first 15 years of my teaching career, I was just a couple miles away at Ursuline Academy.

**Hobbies:** I love the outdoors. I was thankful to get the opportunity to go on the Pecos wilderness trip even before I started teaching here.

**Favorite movies:** I am a science fiction and fantasy enthusiast. *The Lord of the Rings* is a classic, but I also really enjoyed this story called *The Wheel of Time*, written by a guy named Robert Jordan.



**TRACEY PUGH**

Third grade instructor

**Past jobs:** I've been teaching 25 years as of this year, 19 of them at Greenhill.

**Hobbies:** I'm an author of children's books. They're stories about me, which is crazy because little Tracey was a hot mess.

**Favorite book:** *Amazing Grace*. It's an amazing children's book about a little girl who doesn't believe she can do anything but ends up believing that she can.

**Biggest pet peeve:** People not signalling when they're getting over into my lane.

## GREAT GATSBY THEME

### Plans firming up for Homecoming 2021

• FOR THE FIRST TIME since the pandemic, Marksmen will celebrate Homecoming as they have done for decades: a home football game on Friday night, followed by a night of music and dancing. Here all the details to help in your planning for this storied school tradition:

**Theme** A "Great Gatsby" theme has been chosen for Homecoming 2021. The decision was made by Student Council members.

**Getting there** As per tradition, members of the Freshman Class will leave campus as a group and bus to their dinner at the House of Blues. Sophomores will eat together as a class before heading to the venue.

**Football** The Lions host Episcopal High School Oct. 22 at Hunt Stadium. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Mums** The Parents' Association will distribute mums the week of the event, and seniors will receive special mums.

**Dance** The Homecoming dance will take place Oct. 23 at the House of Blues at 8 p.m. Doors will close at 9 p.m.

**Dates** Each Marksman is allowed to have one date for the evening.

**Royalty** Student Council members will announce five seniors to be Homecoming King nominees. Finalists will be determined by online voting among Upper School students. Queen nominees will come from the Hockaday school.

**COMPILATION** Grant Jackson



## SUMMER INTERNS

## From classroom to office

After graduating in May, seven recent graduates returned over the summer to intern in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations before heading off to college. These newest alumni gained a perspective that's undiscovered by most students.



## BACK ON CAMPUS

Alums Taylor Hopkin '20, Blake Hudspeth '21, Daniel Sanchez '21, Cristian Pereira '21, Robert Pou '21, Jack Genender '21 and Blake Broom '21 spent their summers at the school.

When asked about his summer plans, recent graduate Robert Pou '21 has an answer that sounds strange to most.

*I'm interning at my school.*

When the Senior Class walks the stage at Commencement in May, their years of driving to and from school every day typically end.

With a unique internship opportunity in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, however, Pou and five other recent graduates — plus one from the 2021 class — chose to spend their summers back on campus, pulling into the school parking lot a few more times before they leave — this time, without a backpack.

**To Director of Alumni Relations** Alex Eshelbrenner '04, the internship experience gives recent graduates the chance to be involved in the school's relationship with its alumni.

"The biggest piece is keeping the community closely connected," Eshelbrenner said. "Whether that's through storytelling or through financial support of the school."

The past experiences at the school from their careers make them more knowledgeable and prepared when interacting with alumni.

"If you look at some of the guys that have filled those roles, whether it's Student Alumni Association presidents, Student Council presidents, *ReMarker* editors, Lion and Sword presidents or other student leaders," Eshelbrenner said. "There are a number of experiences that certain guys earn that make them really able to articulate some of the nuances of the school."

New Director of Development Tim Crouch notices the relationships and bonding that develop between a wide range of alumni.

"By having conversations with someone who

graduated 50, 60 years ago who wants to learn about the intern's experience and directly support it financially," Crouch said, "that's also a really powerful piece of the program."

One of the main objectives Pou and the interns have is to assist the school in gaining financial support.

"You spend the entire month of June raising money for the St. Mark's Fund," Pou said, "so you're literally just calling alumni all day."

Taylor Hopkin '20 served as an intern in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations over the 2020-21 school year and the summer that followed. Over the summer, Hopkin worked closely with the new interns.

"In July, it's just helping out the Development Office with random jobs," Hopkin said. "Some of that could just be helping organize the database with all the new students, or with seniors leaving and making sure all their college information is updated."

With more experience in the area, Hopkin served as a leader for Pou and his fellow interns.

"That was really cool having him in a leadership position," Pou said, "because he knew the ropes already and was able to introduce us to everyone and guide us all summer."

**Using their own past experiences** at the school, Pou recognizes the variety of ways he and another intern, Cristian Pereira '21, were able to contribute to the school.

"Not only are Cristian and I very good writers just from the sheer volume of stories we've written in the journalism program over the years, but we also know InDesign really well," Pou said. "So we were able to use those two main skills to help with a lot of the projects, especially writing some articles for *The Pride* or for the school website or designing workbooks and different

things for the school in InDesign."

Over the course of the summer, Pou strengthened his relationships with the other five interns.

"We weren't necessarily the closest friends in high school, but we grew super close just by spending every day with each other over the summer," Pou said. "We still talk all the time and I anticipate that continuing."

Throughout the experience, Hopkin and Pou both acknowledged how they've developed personally and are more prepared for the future.

"Every job has a human interaction component to it," Hopkin said. "I'm not majoring in communications, but I think the skill of being able to talk to anyone, even if it's over the phone striking up a conversation about things that you have in common, is a pretty valuable skill in any profession."

Shifting from a student's view, Pou now has a completely different perspective on how the school operates.

"I really enjoyed it because I was able to see the school in a whole new way that I had never seen before," Pou said. "Being able to see it from the development side of things makes you really appreciate it in a completely different way, which is really cool."

As his journey on campus comes to a close for the second time, Pou has developed a newfound sense of respect and admiration for the school.

"It really makes you appreciate how much alumni love the school and how generous they're willing to be in order to see younger Marksmen follow in their footsteps," Pou said, "and I really appreciate St. Mark's so much more because of the experience."

**STORY** Will Pechersky, Aaron Augustine

**PHOTO** Courtesy Dave Carden, Development Office

## School fund reaches alumni contribution goal of 50 percent involvement for 13th straight year

by **Aaron Augustine**

The St. Mark's Fund raised over \$4 million last year with an alumni contribution rate of 52 percent. According to Assistant Headmaster Scott Jolly, this was the 13th straight year the St. Mark's Fund has reached an alumni contribution of over 50 percent.

"For independent schools, the average is in the low teens, so obviously we take great pride in that," Jolly said.

Over 3,000 alumni donated to reach the 52 percent mark. Jolly attributes the fund's success to the deep bond between the school and alumni.

"The alumni contributing speaks

volumes about the depth of love that people have for this place," Jolly said. "We're very thankful for that."

After a break of activity caused by the pandemic, the Development Office is looking forward to kickstarting future events.

"We had zero alumni events around the country. We usually have events in 15 to 20 different cities, but, this year, we had none," Jolly said.

As a way to deal with the stresses posed by COVID-19, the Development Office asked several recently graduated Marksmen to reach out to other alumni.

"Those guys' June is almost all made

up of calls to alumni to ask for their support," Jolly said. "They were great. They really drove us in those last few weeks."

Last year, the St. Mark's Fund helped pay for additional costs intensified by the pandemic, ranging from new signage to the new water filtration systems.

"I think that that's the beauty of having something like the St. Mark's Fund," said Katelyn Hall, director of the St. Mark's Fund. "You can respond to challenges."

The St. Mark's Fund is unrestricted, meaning that — outside of the annual 11

percent of the operating budget it fulfills — the rest can be spent on any surprise expenses.

"You also have support for things that arise and for critical challenges that come to the school that you aren't able to foresee," Hall said. "And that's why it's really great to have a mechanism for the community to offer support."

Hall believes that a return to normalcy will allow for stronger connections between the school and its alumni.

"Now that we're able to have people back on campus, we're also able to form much stronger connections," Hall said.



CENTRAL MARKET RE-OPENING | REVIEW

# Grocery is rising from the ashes

After the near total destruction of the Central Market on Preston and Royal, the restoration of the store seemed to be a far-off goal. Now, after its grand reopening in June, Central Market is bigger and better than ever. We've covered the most important new things to see.

For the last three years, Central Market has been in constant turmoil. The October 2019 tornado completely destroyed the entire grocery store, putting many employees out of work. Just as the store began rebuilding, COVID-19 inflicted its own set of difficulties, delaying reconstruction. Last summer, the store finally completed remodeling and its renovation and redesign have many new features and amenities.

The store's redesign includes a brand-new upstairs seating and patio. Upon entering the building, stairs will be visible to the right. The second floor has many new features including a tornado memorial on the wall.

On the left side of the wall, there are first person accounts from Central Market employees that were present in the store during the tornado. There are pictures of the tornado's destruction side-by-side with pictures of the remodeling and reconstruction after the tornado, displaying the progress made. Accompanying the tornado memorial is a timeline of the store's history, beginning in 1965 with the construction of the

original store and ending in 2021 with the remodeling that was unveiled last summer.

Tables and chairs for people to work or enjoy a snack round out the upstairs display. To enjoy some fresh air, visit the outdoor balcony, where wooden tables and a view of the entire shopping complex can be seen.

All in all, the upstairs lounge and the outdoor balcony are definitely worth visiting. It would be a good idea to stop by the coffee bar and grab a caffeinated drink or a pastry to eat while enjoying the view.

Central Market's redesign also features a larger bakery section, serving up freshly baked breads, cookies and other baked goods all throughout the day. In their words, "our ovens never sleep!"

Headed to the bakery with a craving for something a little sweet? A freshly baked blueberry or lemon poppy seed muffin would not disappoint. Looking to spice up a sandwich?

Over 50 different kinds of bread are available for purchase every day, and they're all good options. Be sure to ask the baker for his recommendations. Speaking of service, the Central Market employees



**MORNING KICK** The most imposing new addition to the store, a coffee bar, serves a wide variety of drinks, from sweet, refreshing frappuccinos to unadulterated, high-intensity cold brew.

go out of their way to assist customers.

Being the artisan grocery store that it is, basic items such as cookies are often overlooked at Central Market, but these freshly-baked masterpieces rival many reputable bakeries around Dallas.

With the holiday season approaching, a tasty pie or a luscious pumpkin bread will be a great addition to any friends and family gathering. From tortillas to granola to even croutons, this section has it all for the carbohydrate enthusiast.

A new coffee bar also came with the redesign. The shop can be found right at the entrance of the store. On the counter, there are coffee dispensers with an assortment of flavors including house black, sweet brew and Texas gold.

Not in the mood for caffeine? The shop's menu includes smoothies and other cold beverages. The shop's kitchen has an open design that lets you see the employee make the order in front of you.

To cater to sweet-tooths, the shop carries some unique options such as a cherry danish, pumpkin chocolate bread and French butter croissant.

Tables and bar-style seating are available in the coffee shop, however I would recommend taking your refreshments to the upstairs lounge and balcony.

Overall, the new Central Market store is worth seeing. With the new coffee shop, upstairs lounge, bakery and more — it is much more than just a grocery store.

**STORY** Shreyan Daulat, Grayson Redmond  
**PHOTOS** Shreyan Daulat



**WIDE VARIETY** The bakery at Central Market features a wide variety of breads. From bagels to rye bread and beyond, this stall has most baked goods that the average person would ever need.



**COZY PLACE** Among the most important of the store's new features is the upstairs seating area. These chairs are often populated by students looking for a comfortable place to study.

## 'The lights went out': one man's journey of destruction, loss and eventual renewal

by **Will Spencer**

Having joined the Central Market team at Preston and Royal in 2018, Elis Droubi was going about his daily business, oblivious of the impending disaster.

"I'm the food service director," Droubi said, "which means that I'm in charge of the products that we prepare in-house for our customers: the chef-prepared department, the bakery, the deli, the sandwiches as well as catering."

Working one perfectly normal October evening, Droubi was looking forward to clocking out. He was

discussing business with a few of his co-workers when the first signs of danger appeared. "It was a Sunday night, I was closing," Droubi said.



**ELIS DROUBI**

"We were downstairs. Myself and our operations manager Mark Gibbons and then another one of our partners,

Jessica Hernandez, were all downstairs. We were chatting when Mark said, 'Hey, somebody said that they heard tornado sirens.'"

"We still had guests in the store, probably about 20 to 30," Droubi said. "The lights went out. They were off for about a minute, and then they came back on and went off again. The doors started heaving, and I was like, 'All right guys, let's go back to the [walk-in] coolers, including the customers.'"

Droubi's decision to evacuate the customers came none too soon, as it wouldn't be long before the twister rampaged through the Preston and Royal shopping center.

"It was a matter of minutes from the time we had the conversation to when the tornado was here," Droubi said, "It sounded like a freight train was on top of us, and as fast as it was here, it was gone."

Droubi, however, in the frenzy of rushing employees and customers into the walk-in coolers, found himself out in the open when the ceiling came crashing down.

"I was kind of bouncing around,

just making sure that everybody got into safety," Droubi said. "It was pitch black, and I was standing probably 20 feet from where the roof collapsed. I heard it crashing and banging everywhere as rain was pouring down."

After a slow and arduous process of rebuilding, complicated by new plans for expansion and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the store finally

reopened and the staff were invited back into the building.

"The first time I walked into the store, I got chills," Droubi said. "It really struck a chord with me."

It felt a lot like I had come back home from college and my mom had changed my room into a sewing room or something. We were still in the same house, but it was just a little bit different."

### BACK AGAIN

Elis Droubi (second from left) and three of his coworkers pose in front of the nearly-rebuilt store. Managers like Droubi spent little time around the actual wreckage, instead investing their time into planning and charity events.





## Just fifteen minutes away

by Austin Williams

There's a bomb in the World Trade Center.

A man running by shouted as my dad exited the E-train.

The platform he stepped onto was about a thousand feet from where a plane had just taken the lives of 76 passengers, 11 crew members and hundreds of office workers inside of the North Tower.

Instantly.

Today, he can look back humbly on this experience as one of thousands of "sliding glass door" stories born on that day.

I look at it much differently.

At 8:10 a.m. on September 11, 2001, my dad leaves his apartment building at 73rd and Columbus 15 minutes later than normal. Instead of taking Train 1 or Train 9, he takes the E-train. Not for any particular reason — he just wants to try it out.

Three weeks before, he was up at Windows on the World, a complex on the 106th and 107th floors of the North Tower.

His subway ride to the World Trade Center station goes slower than normal. By the time he steps off, it's 8:48.

He takes a left and walks towards the turnstiles. Four people run by screaming the same message before he decides to turn around.



AUSTIN WILLIAMS  
Editor-in-Chief

A bomb in the World Trade Center?

As he exits at the other end of the station, he sees a group of people looking up. His eyes are immediately drawn to the massive, flaming, smoky hole in a building that dwarfs the rest of the city. All he can do is stand there. And gawk.

Seven minutes later, he sees a little flash and feels an overwhelming wave of heat. The plane disintegrates and explodes as the ground shakes from the impact.

United Airlines Flight 175. 51 passengers. 9 crew members. Even more office workers.

Any one of them could've been him.

My mom was working at a high school on the Upper West Side at the time, and she told me her side of the story through tears.

The desperate phone calls made by students who knew their parents were in the city.

The hours of agonizing wait until my dad could make the five-mile trek back to their apartment.

The inconceivable amount of missing person signs strewn across every single block.

I wouldn't be here today if my dad had gotten up 15 minutes earlier. I wouldn't be here if he was two blocks closer. If he had run towards the towers. Or ignored the people in the subway.

Those sliding glass doors saved his life. And mine.

# Rememberin

On September 11, 2001, the world stopped turning.

American Airlines Flight 11. United Airlines Flight 175.

American Airlines Flight 77. United Airlines Flight 93.

The facade of American indestructibility had been shattered — no one who has lived through that day can forget the searing images, the sense of shock, what it took to get through the coming days.

Now, 20 years later, we look back at our campus' reaction to the attacks, and the aftermath that followed.

## 7:30 am REALIZATION

**Verna Smith, administrative assistant to the headmaster, was the first on campus to learn of the attacks:**

When I was in the car coming to work that day, I heard something on the radio. One of the broadcasters said that apparently there has been an airplane that has crashed into one of the skyscrapers in New York City.

This was probably around 7:30 or so, and I remember thinking, *That's so odd.*

*How do you hit a skyscraper in New York City in an airplane?*

I thought no more about it, got into the office, pulled up my computer. And that's when I started seeing information coming out that it was one of the Twin Towers in New York City and that this thing was on fire. And it was an airline airplane.

I'll never forget this. As Mr. Holtberg and I were first watching this on television and the second tower had been hit, we saw a man and a woman who were in offices next to each other.

The windows were all blown out and there was smoke and fire everywhere. They reached out and joined hands and it just made me sick. I nearly cried right then and there. And I guess they just made the decision. To jump together.

**Then-Headmaster Arnie Holtberg:** I was in my office when Ms. Smith walked through the door looking very ill. I thought she was having a heart attack, honestly.

She explained what had happened in New York and I thought, *I've got to move.*

I walk out the door and just coincidentally, Scott Gonzalez is walking down the corridor in Davis Hall. I grabbed him and said, *We've got to get the administrative team in here immediately. We need to make some decisions.*

**Scott Gonzalez, then-assistant to the headmaster, was walking past Holtberg's office:** That Tuesday, I was

in the hallway of the old Davis Hall. I was walking down the hallway, and Mr. Holtberg stepped out of his office and said, *Mr. Gonzalez, I need to see you in my office for just a minute.*

He looks at me in the eyes and says, *This is a really serious situation. There are some reports that the United States might be under attack.* And when we were talking and looking at the screen we actually saw the second plane hit the towers.

**Cross country and track coach John Turek:**

I was walking in from the parking lot, and somebody said, *They just flew a plane into one of the Twin Towers.* I had a little portable black and white TV, and I remember running right outside of the training room and plugging it in. While I'm watching them talk about what had just happened, another plane hit the other tower.

I was speechless. It was so hard for me to fathom somebody attacking the United States. It wasn't in my realm. I wasn't born during WWII, so I don't remember Pearl Harbor, so it was really hard for me to process everything. A bunch of students began to gather around the TV, and we were just standing there shaking our heads in disbelief. It was surreal to say the least.

**Then-Athletic Director Mark Sullivan:**

I was standing outside of what was Davis Hall at the time talking to a colleague, and a middle schooler came up and told us. At first, we thought it was a middle schooler just kidding or not knowing what he was talking about, but then of course, it didn't take long for everybody to figure out what was going on.

It was confusing for a while because we didn't have quite the same immediate access as we do nowadays.

**Warren Foxworth, then-Middle School head, had two daughters living in Manhattan at the time:**

My wife called me because she had seen on the TV something about a plane that crashed into

one of the Twin Towers. And then she said, *I have to go, Allison is calling.*

They were evacuating her building, which was right across the street from the First World Trade Center. And we didn't hear anything from her for about two or three hours. All the phone lines were down — both the cell towers and the land lines. So we didn't know anything about what had happened to her.

A little later, she did call us. And to this day she won't talk about what she saw when she left the building.

My feeling of relief — I remember I teared up and cried at the time — I was just so relieved to know that she was okay. And then once I knew that she was okay, then I could start to figure out what to do about the boys and the faculty.

## midday RESPONSE

**Holtberg:** We jumped into gear, got the administrative team, called everybody to tell them no matter what they're doing, they had to be in my office, and we had to discuss how we were going to proceed.

There were about ten of us in that room. I remember seeing people stunned, emotional and somber — but we had to act. We needed to reassure people, to comfort people and to let them know that we were going to work to make things better even though we were feeling awful ourselves.

We decided that we had to communicate to the entire student body and to the faculty and staff as soon as possible because we did not want people running around campus in distress without support. So we brought the upper schoolers into the chapel as soon as we could and I spoke to them. Mr. Foxworth gathered the middle schoolers in Decherd auditorium.

**Current Headmaster David Dini was serving as director of Development:** My most vivid memory from that day was

## they remember.



VERNA SMITH  
Administrative assistant to the headmaster in 2001



DAVID DINI  
Headmaster; Director of Development in 2001



SCOTT GONZALEZ  
Assistant to the headmaster in 2001



JOHN TUREK  
Cross country and track head coach



MARK SULLIVAN  
Athletic director in 2001



WARREN FOXWORTH  
Middle School head in 2001



TIMOTHY MAHONEY  
Head debate coach



ARNIE HOLTBERG  
Headmaster in 2001

# INDEPTH



# ng 9/11/01

going to chapel. It was a Tuesday, so it was scheduled for 10:30, and Mr. Holtberg got up and shared the news of what we knew at that point. I remember how important it was to hear from him. It was a reminder of how important community is — we were all together in the same room, all frightened and alarmed and in shock.

It was solemn and quiet in the chapel. I think everyone was digesting the seriousness and the gravity of what had happened and just trying to understand. There was also a sense of great unease and uncertainty because there was still speculation about what else might happen that day. We knew it was a horrific tragedy. We knew, even at that point, that there had been a significant loss of life.

**Turek:** A lot of the classrooms stopped and put the TV on. Teachers and students, no matter what class they were in, were watching the events unfold that day. It was eerily quiet on campus. You could hear a pin drop.

We were all in shock as a community, from adults down to students.

**Smith:** Earlier in the afternoon, Mr. Holtberg told parents that if they wanted to come get their children, they would be allowed to do that — to take them home, and try to explain this to them, and be with them while all of this was going on.

But we had a surprising number of parents and families who said, *No, we feel that our child is safer right there on campus.*

**Head debate coach Timothy Mahoney:**

After the announcement, it was more just about the students. You just kind of say, *Okay, I've got my own stuff going on. But while I'm on campus is not the time to deal with that.* You can't walk around campus in a daze; you've got to get it together, and try to get back to the normal routine.

There's a sense of comfort in doing the usual, doing the same thing every day. So being able to go to school and feel safe in

and just do my job, that routine definitely helped me get through it.

When crazy things happen in the rest of the world, you just want to have a place where you feel safe and you know what your responsibilities are and you know that you can just go there and do those things.

**Foxworth:** Boys are boys — especially the Middle School boys and the Lower School boys — and after the initial shock had worn off, it was almost business as normal in their minds. They were ready for their next athletic event, and wondering, *Do we get a lack of homework because of this?* The kids recovered much more quickly than adults.

And the fact that they did helped the adults to cope with the situation better and faster themselves.

## LOOKING BACK 20 years later

**Smith:** From an adult standpoint, although we may not have realized it at that very moment, we began to have this feeling that things had changed forever.

**Holtberg:** I remember reading something later from Upper School boys, particularly seniors, saying that when they were addressed in the chapel out of chaos came at least some order.

They weren't expecting that we could make it all disappear, but there was some sense that the people who were responsible for them were in control of themselves and were going to do their very best.

That was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do as a leader. I've dealt with lots of hard situations, but that was almost insurmountable in feeling because I knew we had to do the very best for everybody.

**Sullivan:** 9/11 changed how we as Americans look at the world. That was the

first time many Americans felt like as a country maybe we're vulnerable.

Terrorism was now on our soil — not just events that we saw on the news. There certainly was a swelling of American pride that wasn't as evident prior. There was a lot of patriotism. We had been attacked and we didn't like it.

Events like that give you pause. Things that might've been petty to you in the moment, all of a sudden weren't such big deals. People had something to rally around. There's no doubt that in this community there was a coming together.

Just like with what we say with the tornado a few years ago, we all saw first hand how quickly this community comes together in support of each other. The support for each other is palpable at this place in moments like that.

**Just one year before, Mahoney had transferred from Pace University:**

I think one thing that people don't really think about, unless they were there or had some close connection to 9/11, is the amount of damage.

Pace is a little more than half a mile from the World Trade Center, and it was completely shut down for months because of all of the debris.

Even at St. Mark's, I'd stayed in connection with college debate and was helping run a tournament called the Las Vegas Round Robin.

Back when I worked at Pace, I was flying a lot, and every time I'd walk the ten minutes to the World Trade Center and then catch a bus from there to Newark. 9/11 was on a Tuesday, which is when you would normally be flying back after a debate tournament.

If I hadn't been working at St. Mark's, and taken an earlier flight so I could get back to teach class, I would have been taking a bus to the World Trade Center that morning.

I think surreal is the best word. You can't really process what happened — and the way that that fate has intervened

in your life — that has made such a significant change.

**Foxworth:** I think we were very fortunate as a school — we have lots of alumni, and Hockaday too, for that matter, who are in the financial field or in fields that were in those twin towers — and as far as I know, there were no direct casualties affecting the school.

I was just thankful — thankful that no one I personally knew died, thankful that there was a support system for my daughter in New York, thankful for the support of the faculty of St. Mark's when they found out about my daughter's situation, thankful for the support that they gave me to make it through the morning.

**Turek:** I still get upset thinking about it. I come from immigrant parents, and I know why they came here, so I'm extremely patriotic.

But then I saw things on campus that were really cool. People really came together. I think I remember the community joining in some efforts to send relief there. I remember the school rallying around it. Flags were out everywhere. It was on everybody's minds and thoughts and words for a long time after that. It really brought us together as a community and as a nation.

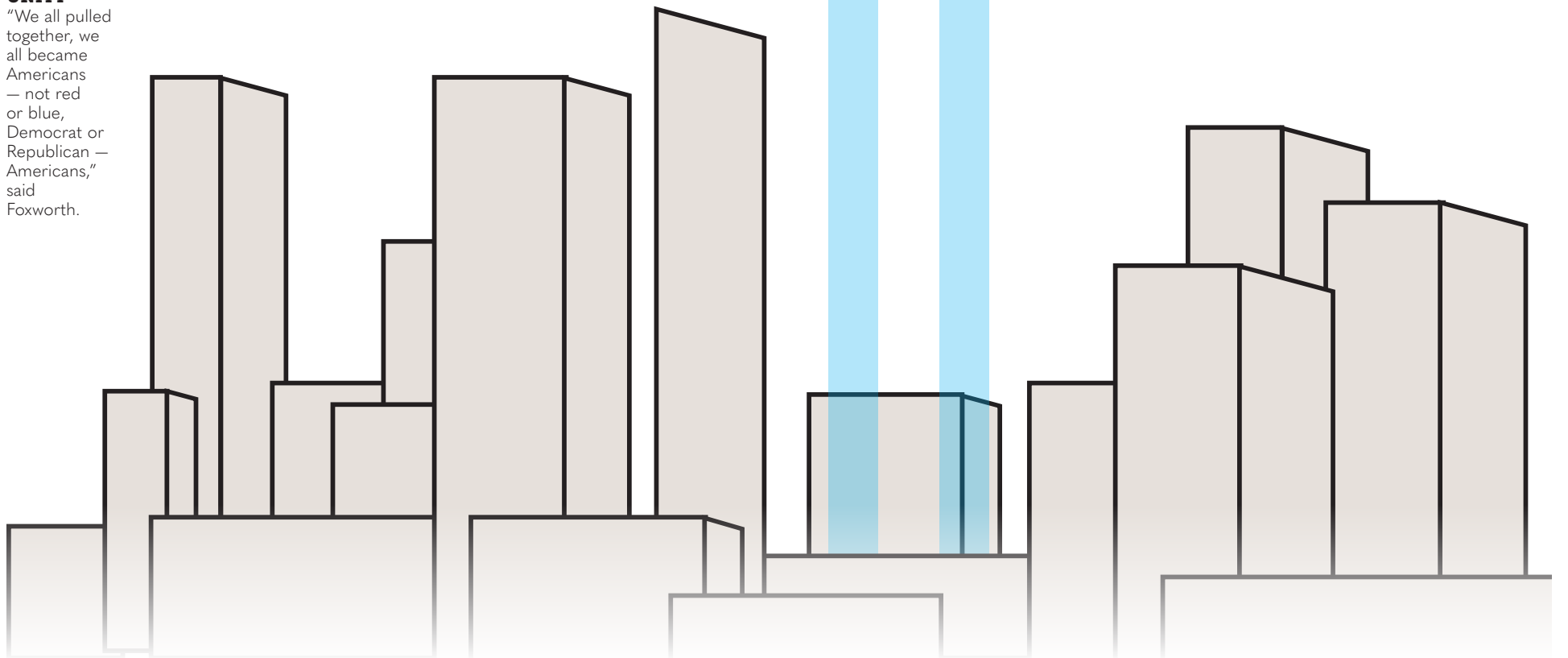
That unity carried on for the rest of the year. It carried over into our pep rallies and football games. It was just people getting along. It was great. It brought the country together. Out of travesty comes unity and appreciation for each other. You almost wish you could turn back the clock without that happening but have that kind of mindset.

**STORY** Peter Orsak, Austin Williams, Jonathan Yin

**ARTWORK** Jonathan Yin

### UNITY

"We all pulled together, we all became Americans — not red or blue, Democrat or Republican — Americans," said Foxworth.





VETERAN

# The long road home

After serving two tours, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, Associate Director of Communications Scott Moore recounts his experience in the armed forces.



**ON BASE** Moore (second from left) poses with other soldiers in Samara, Iraq. Moore was often embedded with larger Army divisions, serving as their point man on all things psychological operation-related. During his tour, Moore served with the 101st Airborne Division.

**Editor's note:** This is the first of a two-part series on Scott Moore's time in Afghanistan. Part two will appear in the October edition of The ReMarker.

Whenever his nation called, Scott Moore answered.

Even as a high school senior during the Gulf War, he was ready. Right after graduating, he'd enlist and fight in a desert half a world away.

But it wasn't meant to be. The war ended while he was still in school. So, he went to college.

Nearly a decade later, the Twin Towers were gone. Smoldering rubble. Bodies. 2,996 Americans dead. Moore didn't know what was next. No one did. A dirty bomb? A chemical weapon? He had some experience with hazmat, and he didn't want more Americans dead.

The next day he went to the Marine Corps recruiting office, but "they couldn't care less." It just wasn't meant to be. So, he went back to school. Got a degree in communications. Married the love of his life. Still, he longed to serve his country.

A third opportunity presented itself three years later. Moore heard that more reservists served overseas than active-duty soldiers. A chance for his dream to come true — maybe his last chance.

And so, he started the same old song and dance



**INFLUENCING** Moore designed leaflets designed to change opinions, in this instance encouraging Afghans to vote by reminding them of their patriotic duty.

routine. But he was too old for the Marines. Too old for Army Officer Corps — two months past the cut-off age. Finally, he called the enlisted branch of the Army.

At last, he had gotten his chance.

**Today, Moore is in his** second year as associate director of communications in the Development Office. His communications degree led him to many job opportunities, but it wasn't what he was looking for.

"If I'm going to spend my time doing something, it needs to be for a greater purpose than myself," Moore said. "I figured a school would be great. Helping the next generation achieve their goals and aspirations? That's a pretty good job."

Some veterans don't talk about what happened to them overseas. But when I got back home, I made a promise to myself that I would talk about my experience.



**SCOTT MOORE**  
Associate Director of Communications

Moore spent upwards of seven years as a freelance designer working for Parish Episcopal School, among other vocations, until he stumbled upon his current job.

"Right now, I help with a lot of the school's communications that go out both internally and externally," Moore said. "I help with the website, taking pictures, designing graphics for pamphlets and even with Homecoming."

Alongside his role at the school, Moore serves as a Psychological Operations (PSYOP) First Class Sergeant in the Army. As an instructor, he trains up to 40 soldiers at a time, teaching them how to successfully conduct operations.

"PSYOP has this big name and no one really knows what it means, so we use that to our advantage," Moore said. "When we go overseas, our mission is to persuade change and to influence the attitudes and behaviors of a target audience."

What this really means is, when deployed, he would go out into the street every day to speak with locals and



**FRATERNIZING** Moore interacts with Iraqi children outside of a shop (above). Most Army soldiers would be wary of wading into a large crowd, but Moore was trained to build relationship with civilians. Moore exchanges patches with another soldier (below).



meet leadership. His main goal would be to get them to do things that benefit US troops by building a good relationship.

"There's no big psychological 'I'm tricking them' at all," Moore said. "All it's about is, 'since we have this relationship, don't you think this might be a better avenue to go down?' Informing them we're shutting down a street for a week to check IEDs, for example."

In addition to interacting with locals, Moore's job also involved making product, something Moore says not a lot of people know.

"Technically, it's propaganda," Moore said. "But the bad guys make propaganda. We make product."

**Moore is a family man.** If he was to serve, Moore decided his wife, Laura, would be a priority. He refused to go active duty and disrupt her career, though the long absences would still be tough.

"Laura had as much of a buy-in as I did," Moore said.

His wife barely acquiesced. She didn't want him to go, but she understood why he needed to.

Ultimately, his service strengthened his commitment to those closest to him. It was tough for a while. During his tour of Iraq, he returned for the birth of his daughter. He left when she was 11 days old. The next time he held her, she was 11 months old. He also found out his wife was pregnant with their son while he was in Afghanistan.

"My children were the first thing I thought about when things got bad," Moore said. "The night before a mission, one of the things that would go through my head was that I had zero plans of my kids growing up without me. That totally messes with your head."

Moore couldn't afford to get distracted.

"My biggest purpose over there was to stay alive," Moore said. "To stay alive and keep my men alive. Then I needed to complete my mission. When I got back home, it was hard to transition back. How do you go from staying alive being your main purpose in life to selling widgets for a company in communications?"

**STORY** Keshav Krishna, Austin Williams  
**PHOTOS** Courtesy Scott Moore

## Senior Ekansh Tambe's work on Beyond Borders earns him photojournalism award

by **Grayson Redmond**

Senior Ekansh Tambe won the Power of Children's Award, an honor for his photojournalism project Beyond Borders, which chronicles the lives of people living near hostile borders.

"The Children's Museum of Indianapolis announced the award this summer, which is presented to five students annually who strive to make a difference in their communities," Tambe said.

Tambe first heard of this award when Community Service Director Jorge Correa introduced him to it last spring.

"Señor Correa thought I'd be a good fit for the award," Tambe said. "I followed up by filling out the

application and wrote a number of essays about my projects' impact, how many people I have affected and the goal of the project."

Later on, over summer vacation, Tambe was informed that he would be a recipient of the award.

"It was a really special moment for me," Tambe said. "But not only for me because it's about the people affected by this project. It's a physical thing that acknowledges those people because, at the end of the day, it's about them."

More than the award, though, Tambe is excited that he could make known the realities and assist those that he documents.

"I'm really glad that, through this,

I've been able to bring greater awareness to issues that present these humanitarian crises unfolding all over the world," Tambe said. "Through the venues provided by the award, I can help these people even more."

Included with the award is a \$2,500 grant to be used towards the recipient's project. Tambe plans to use this money to assist communities on the Syria-Iraq border and at the Texas-Mexico border.

"When I was in Iraq visiting refugee camps, I noticed they were unable to deal with a series of fires that broke out," Tambe said. "This displaced thousands of refugees. I'm planning to use part of the funds to purchase fire extinguishers and other fire safety measures for this

camp. I'm also tentatively planning to build either a basketball court or a soccer field in Boquillas, a small Mexican town right across the border at Big Bend."

With all that he has been blessed with, Tambe considers it necessary to give back to the world in some way.

"It's a really special feeling to know that I'm a force of some good in this world," Tambe said. "With everything that I've been blessed with, it's my duty to help in some way, and I'm lucky enough to have been able to connect my passions — photography, traveling and storytelling — with a purpose, helping these communities and bringing awareness."





**my instagram**  
A look at senior **Zubin Mehta's** photography from his Instagram account, @zubinmehta\_photography. In his own words:



"This is my interpretation of heaven. To me, Heaven isn't the classic 'looking at a light' or 'walking on a staircase'. To me, it's, 'what was your life like,' 'what are the most important memories?'"

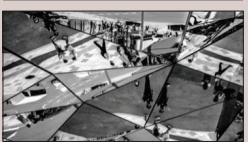
For this photo, I took memories from the 1970s and I backlit them, giving it that dark feel of as I die, these are the moments that I will remember.

When I think about death, I don't think of going to another place. I'm thinking 'What did I do with my life, what have I accomplished and what mark have I made?'"



"This picture was taken during summer 2020, when Black Lives Matter was starting to rise. This was at Town Hall when the mayor was about to give a speech, and this person is rallying the crowd. It was hot and crowded. There were 1000 people, and it was probably over 100 degrees.

People who were there definitely wanted to be there, and you can see the emotions on each and every single person's face."



"This was an aesthetic and abstract photo taken while on a National Geographic trip to Japan. The photo is divided into different mirrors, each a separate world. It was one of my favorite trips, and I ended up printing this picture on my six-foot wall house."



**big PICTURE**

**CONDUCTING THE CHOIR** Organist and choirmaster Glenn Stroh leads the choir through the first annual Choral Evensong. Accompanying junior cross bearer Charlie Estess, junior acolytes George Genender and John Charest lead the choir into the chapel as the ceremony begins (bottom right).



**Date** Sept. 12  
**Time** 7 p.m.  
**Location** Chapel  
**People** Choir, congregation

**QUOTE** "I've never been to Evensong, so it was definitely a fulfilling experience," Genender said. "I really enjoyed being a part of the community in that way."

**PHOTO** Tiger Yang



**culture in brief**

**FACULTY CAST** Fine Arts Department Chair Marion Glorioso and Director of Libraries and Information Services Tinsley Silcox acted in the short film *Last Day* in June.

The film will be released for public viewing Oct. 5. The film was shot in Shreveport, LA, and was submitted and accepted as a finalist to the Louisiana Film Prize. Silcox and Glorioso were cast in the movie by Silcox's friend and the director of the film, Rich Hansil.

**UPCOMING MUSICAL** Auditions for the upcoming production of the musical *Newsies* will be held Oct. 10 and 11 in the Eamonn Lacey Black Box Theater.

Roles in the musical will be open to students in the seventh through 12th grades. Applicants will not be required to attend both auditions. Students hoping to improve their proficiency in dance prior to the audition are invited to attend a dance workshop at the school Oct. 3.

**OCTOBER EVENSONG** Choir members will perform their second annual Evensong Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in the chapel.

The choir will sing a selection of classical pieces accompanied by organist Glenn Stroh and directed by Upper School Choir Director Tinsley Silcox. Choristers will follow health regulations, such as singing in the choir balcony and wearing masks while not performing.

**ELEVATED COOKING CLUB** In late September, the Elevated Cooking Club will be hosting a cupcake decorating contest. The winners will be awarded class points.

This contest is only open to members of the club, so to participate students go through a tryout process with the club leaders.

The club has also announced four to five baking sales in the future: one in October and one near Christmas.

**NFAA ART COMPETITION** The National Foundation for the Advancements of Artists is accepting submissions for works of art until Oct. 15.

Only juniors and seniors will be eligible to submit artwork, where they will have a chance to win nationally acclaimed awards. The entries will consist of works from various artists in the visual, literary and performing arts.

**ACHO WINS EMMY** Emanuel Acho '08 wins an Emmy Sep. 13 for his series, "Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man."

Throughout the episodes, Acho answers questions that may be considered taboo and the dialogue is about systemic racism in America.

He was given the award because of his outstanding sports personality emerging on-air. Acho co-hosts the Fox Sports 1 original program, *Speak For Yourself*.

**for the art enthusiast**

**THIS WEEK**

- Today**
- ▶ Lower School chapel for September birthdays
  - ▶ Fun Day for grades 1-6 at Hockaday
  - ▶ Clothing Drive ends
  - ▶ State Fair of Texas opening day
- Saturday**
- ▶ Associates Brunch
  - ▶ Annual Oktoberfest Celebration
- Sunday**
- ▶ Latino Festival 2021
  - ▶ Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden presents "Autumn"
- Monday**
- ▶ Uptown Dallas presents *Monday*
  - ▶ Movie Nights
  - ▶ Jurassic World virtual reality exhibition continues
- Tuesday**
- ▶ *Friends! The Musical Parody*: shows in Majestic Theatre
  - ▶ Quinn XCII and Chelsea Cutler

**THIS MONTH**

- October 8**
- ▶ Nick Guerra Comedy
  - ▶ Upper School spirit party following football game
- October 10**
- ▶ Choral Evensong Chapel 7 p.m.
  - ▶ *Newsies* Musical Audition
  - ▶ Dallas Theater Center presents *Tiny Beautiful Things*
  - ▶ Shakespeare Dallas presents *Romeo and Juliet*
- October 17**
- ▶ State Fair of Texas ends
  - ▶ Dallas Symphony Orchestra presents *Beethoven's Emperor*
- October 21**
- ▶ *Jersey Boys* Dallas
  - ▶ Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden hosts concert series
- October 24**
- ▶ Drake's birthday
  - ▶ National Bologna Day

**inside**

**18 VIDEO GAME MAKING**

How junior Morgan Chow and senior Sam Reitich developed a video game.

**19 VEGGIE RESTAURANTS**

An extensive look at vegetarian restaurants in the Dallas area.

**192 MIGHTY ORPHANS**

A review of the underdog-sports movie and an analysis of its plot.

**videogames**



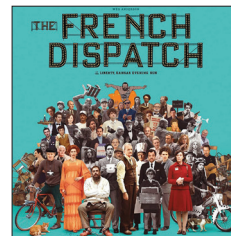
- Aeon Drive Sep. 30
- FIFA 22 Oct. 1
- NHL 22 Oct. 15

**concerts**



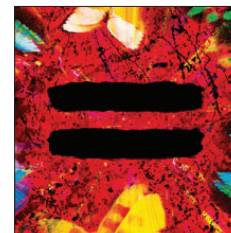
- Poppy Oct. 6
- J.Cole/21 Savage Oct. 11
- Don Toliver Oct. 23

**movies**



- The French Dispatch* Oct. 21
- The Harder They Fall* Oct. 22
- Water Under the Bridge* Oct. 31

**albums**



- Friends That Break Your Heart*, James Blake Oct. 8
- The Lockdown Sessions*, Elton John Oct. 22
- Equals*, Ed Sheeran Oct. 29



## AN ODD TALE

## On their own

After hundreds of hours of work and thousands of lines of code, senior Sam Reitich and junior Morgan Chow released their own video game.

Video games like *No Man's Sky*, *The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt* and *Fallout 76* take millions of dollars, a huge staff and years to make. Finally, a game sold at \$60 comes out as the result.

So what's the result of a videogame studio with a tiny budget, 18 months worth of production and a two-man staff? The result is *An Odd Tale*, developed by senior Sam Reitich and junior Morgan Chow.

**Reitich classifies** *An Odd Tale* as an RPG, or "role-playing game," where players play through the story as the characters, making decisions along the way that will have consequences on their successes and failures in the game.

"The best classification is definitely a semi-open world RPG," Reitich said. "But there are a lot of different tropes throughout the game, each quest bringing some kind of new twist to it. For one quest, you'll switch to a first-person perspective and play through a parkour segment, and in a different quest, you'll play through a cooking minigame from a top-down perspective. But definitely, it's just an RPG at its core."



SAM REITICH

But Reitich then found out he couldn't complete *An Odd Tale* on his own. He needed someone to make the soundtrack for the game. That's when Reitich asked his friend, junior Morgan Chow, to

come onto the project.

"We had been pretty good friends, and I think I asked him to join around May or June of 2020 because I knew that he was a very, very talented artist and musician," Reitich said. "Eventually, he became a much bigger part of the project, becoming a designer for the UI, and making concept art, and then later on he



**GAMER TIME** Standing in the town square, the player admires the open world. This is a scene from a video game created through hundreds of hours of intricate coding and designing.

began writing and level designing and all that stuff."

Although brought on to make the music for the soundtrack, Chow had little experience in GarageBand — the software he used to make the music. However, as he made progress on the soundtrack, he learned more until he got the final product, *An Odd Tale* (Original Game Soundtrack), found in the game as well as Steam, iTunes, Apple Music and Spotify.

Both Reitich and Chow wrote the script for *An Odd Tale*. The two always wrote separately — never writing together — but Reitich feels that there is still a distinct feel to each character's dialogue, even if two different people worked on that dialogue.

"We both are credited as writers for it," Reitich said. "All of the dialogue for every quest is written in a script, and we both wrote scripts for several different quests and then edited each other's. And so I think that all the dialogue in the game has been iterated at least three or four times. I do think that there are two very different distinct writing styles, but I think that we did a good job of blending them together to where every character still feels like they're the same character speaking, even if there are lines written by different people."

For the actual production of the game, Reitich used Unreal Engine as the engine for *An Odd Tale*. An apt analogy for what a video game engine does, according to Reitich, is that a video game

is like a play, and the engine serves as the stage in which actors and props perform in the play, and his role as the programmer is to arrange the actors and props, tell them where to move and how, and everything else happening in the play. That took 18 months, over 20,000 lines of code and over 800 hours of labor.

"All the characters, we didn't actually design," Reitich said. "We didn't know how to use Blender or anything like that, so we bought these characters from the Unreal Marketplace, which is the place in Unreal Engine where developers can buy premade things, so that's where all the basic assets for the levels and the characters came from. But we did actually put together all of the levels by hand."

Looking ahead, Change Studios — the game development studio Reitich and Chow started — is working on another game, which is about a year away from being released.

"We're using the codename Project Order because we haven't decided a definitive name yet," Reitich said. "We have dozens of game ideas and game prototypes, none of which have any definitive names, so we have them under different names. I will say that this new game has almost no similarities to *An Odd Tale*. It's a different genre, it is a different core mechanic, it's a different type of game. And that's all I can say."

**STORY** Axel Icazbalceta

**GRAPHIC** Courtesy Sam Reitich

## Eighth grader's film nationally recognized

by Dawson Yao

The All-American High School Film Festival has officially recognized the stop motion film of eighth grader Alex Dahlander, titled "Paper Airplane."

Dahlander made the film during quarantine, when film studies teacher Jennifer Gilbert assigned a stop-motion final project for middle school film.

"After Christmas, we had to go remote," Gilbert said. "So we quickly switched gears and I had them do a stop motion project."

Combined with time, effort and lots of patience, Dahlander made the film using an app called Stop Motion.

"Obviously, creating the film took a long time," Dahlander said. "I had my sister film and take pictures, but other than that, it was mostly just me."

The film tells the story of the first time a boy makes a paper airplane. After building the plane, the boy gets the plane stuck in a tree.

"He gets disparaged, then goes inside and has a nightmare about the paper airplane being run over," Dahlander said. "Then he wakes up from his dream and gets really motivated. He gets it out of the tree, and the story has a happy ending."

**After watching** the film in class, Gilbert recognized the potential in his film, asking his parent's permission to submit the film to the festival.

"He [Dahlander] got in, which is really cool," Gilbert said. "I emailed him the next day, and told him, 'Hey, congratulations, your film got in.'"

The largest film festival in the world, the competition seeks to find and award some of the best films made internationally by both high school and middle school students. Out of thousands of different submissions worldwide, only a handful from each category qualify as an official selection.

"I'm really proud of him," Gilbert said. "This is the first time I've ever submitted a middle school film, and I think it really helps set a standard for other middle schoolers."

The official winners will be announced Oct. 10th on the Teen Indie Awards, where one film from each category will be selected as the winner.

Dahlander's parents have also been supportive throughout his filmmaking career.

"I think they were really happy to know that he was having some success in finding his own niche," Gilbert said.

Regardless of if Dahlander wins or not, his film will remain as the only middle school film submitted by the program.

"In my classrooms, I have all of these laurels of awards on walls around the room," Gilbert said. "I gotta make one and print it out, so he can also be on the wall of honor."

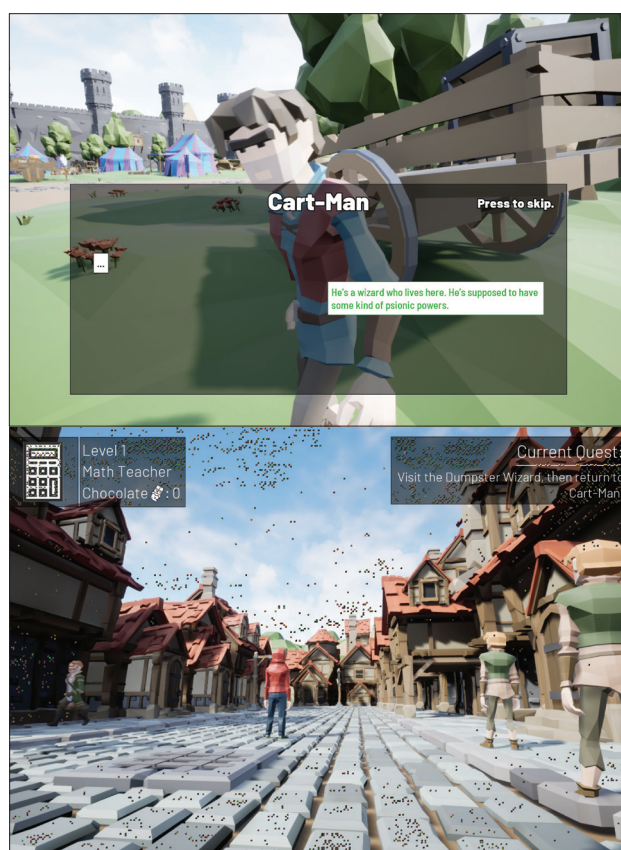
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**READY TO PLAY** The player embarks on a quest to visit the Dumpster Wizard (below). One of the animated characters named "Cart-Man" speaks to the player (above).



## Vegetarian restaurants: are they worth trying?

With more and more people starting to eat a plant-based, vegetarian diet, we went to popular vegetarian restaurants to decide if they lived up to the hype.

### Cosmic Cafe

by **Will Spencer**

Supporting a diverse menu, great service, and a unique atmosphere, Cosmic Cafe is well worth a visit from any enjoyer of Indian food, vegetarian or not.

The cafe's unique hummus is one of the best I've had. Served with naan, it has an unusually appealing taste with strong notes of olive and garlic.

Next to arrive at my table was the "Cosmic Stir," a dish consisting of spiced rice, cauliflower, peppers, squash and tofu — among other things — topped with a yogurt sauce.

Indian restaurants are all-too-often guilty of piling on far too much rice on their entrees, presumably due to its low cost and easy preparation, but Cosmic Cafe is guilty of no such crime.

I also tried a wrap entitled "Herban Renewal," consisting of avocado, cream cheese, spinach, mushrooms, mozzarella and herbs held together by a

covering of naan. This filling wrap, equipped with a rather earthy flavor, was admittedly not as flavorful as the Cosmic Stir, but it paired well with the assorted sauces served with it.

The service at the cafe was so fast that I never really felt like I was waiting for anything.

The food at Cosmic Cafe pairs well with the colorful decor and the inviting atmosphere. While I ate my food, I listened to a man play a sitar in the corner of the room while watching a group of strangers talk happily at the restaurant's unique "community table."

Overall, Cosmic Cafe is a must-try for both vegetarians and fans of Indian food.

**Cosmic Cafe**  
2912 Oak Lawn Ave.  
214.521.6157  
11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Grade:  
**A**



### Spiral Diner and Bakery

by **Shreyan Daulat**

With its aromatic dining room, quirky servers and assorted menu, Spiral Diner and Bakery boasts finger-licking vegan comfort food.

I visited the all-vegan restaurant around 11 a.m. for brunch, and almost everyone there had ordered the restaurant's famous appetizer, the Nacho Supremo. I hopped on the bandwagon, ordering the Nacho Jr., a smaller version of the Nacho Supremo.

The bowl was lined with crisp corn chips with a cashew-based "cheese" sauce drizzled on top. The cashew sauce was a completely foreign taste to me, but after a few bites — loaded with quinoa, black beans, corn, pickled jalapeños, generous globs of guacamole and sour cream



— it was a satisfying dish and the most unique nachos I've had.

Next, I ordered a double stack of the organic pancakes, which had a strong agave flavor. I'd recommend adding blueberries for the best taste.

The last dish I ordered was the Spiral Burger. There were three patty options: classic, cashew-quinoa and the Beyond patty. I went with the classic, made from soy and wheat protein. Served with a side of potato chips and topped with savory pickles, french-fried onions, lettuce, mayo, ketchup and mustard, the burger was delicious.

Every server wore either a hat or bandana. The restaurant was crowded, but the food was served promptly.

Because of the organic ingredients, the cost was a little pricey, with an average dish running between \$10-13.

All in all, Spiral Diner and Bakery is a must-try for everyone, meat-eater or not.

**Spiral Diner & Bakery**  
1101 N Beckley Ave.  
214.948.4747  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Closed Monday, Tuesday

Grade:  
**A+**

### Flower Child

by **Will Spencer**

More or less a stone's throw away from campus, Flower Child is a convenient place to eat at after school if the need arises.

While the other two restaurants we reviewed are wholly vegetarian or vegan, Flower Child's diverse menu comes with some carnivorous additions for anyone who won't be satisfied with a meal consisting entirely of plants.

Despite this, Flower Child's menu items are certainly geared towards vegetarians and don't rely on meaty additions for flavor.

The first thing I tried here was the surprisingly filling kale salad, topped with fruits, nuts, cheese and an apple cider vinaigrette. The kale itself certainly dominates the flavor of the salad throughout.

I also tried a bowl titled "Mother Earth," which consisted of ancient grains, sweet potatoes, mushrooms, greens and more.

The sweet potatoes were made slightly spicy with seasoning, and the dish had a diverse flavor palette that kept me interested throughout.

**Flower Child**  
5959 Royal Ln.  
469.501.2510  
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Grade:  
**B-**

To me, the weak link of the menu was the "entrees" section, which allows the customer to pick a protein and two sides. I picked tofu, sweet potatoes and asparagus.

The sweet potatoes were identical to the ones served with the Mother Earth, and they really didn't go all that well with the tofu.

The asparagus at the restaurant was served cold with potatoes and a dressing, which was a bold, but admittedly not very successful choice.

The atmosphere was nothing to write home about, but that might be a good thing for someone just looking for a quiet place to eat.

Overall, Flower Child is good, but not really a must-try for vegetarians; however, the additional presence of meat on the menu might make Flower Child a good place to eat for a mixed group of vegetarians and meat-eaters.



### MOVIE REVIEW

## '12 Mighty Orphans' — underdog classic or generic sports sob story?



Grade:  
**C+**

**12 Mighty Orphans**  
Directed by Ty Roberts  
Rating: PG-13  
Stars: Luke Wilson, Robert Duvall

by **Darren Xi**

When looking at the characteristics of classic underdog sports stories, *12 Mighty Orphans* checks nearly all the boxes, from the extreme circumstances and challenges the main characters have to overcome to the unbelievable success they ultimately find.

However, it checks too many of these boxes, leading to this film being rather generic, hardly distinguishable from the likes of *Rocky* or *Rudy*.

The movie is based on Jim Dent's true story novel of the same name and centers around the Masonic Home & School orphanage's football team, the Mighty Mites.

Played by Luke Wilson '90, Rusty Russell, an experienced football coach, war hero and orphan, coaches the dozen boys who sign up for the team.

Luke Wilson's performance as Coach Russell is full of emotion, immersing the audience in the culture of the

1940's.

This passion in his acting translates directly to the passion Russell emits as he teaches the orphans everything he knows and revolutionizes football with the concept of the "spread offense."

As the movie progresses, however, it lacks character development, with the personalities of the children and adults being rather vague and unspecified.

Specifically, Coach Russell is introduced as a gritty, courageous and driven individual, leaving little room for personal growth, and the opposing adults never display a change a heart regarding the Mites.

Furthermore, the story hardly zooms in on the lives of the players, only portraying their growth as football competitors.

As a result, this film lacks what other great underdog sport stories have: the development of perseverance and determination within the main

characters.

If the movie had opened with orphans who had all but given up on life and accepted their lowly place in society but grew to champions, I believe it would've gone down as one of the best underdog stories.

But ultimately, as someone who is uninterested in football and sports in general, I found it hard to connect to the perseverance, courage and grit of the players, as the movie's development of the players revolves around the sport itself rather than their characters.

So, if you are an avid fan of sports, especially football, *12 Mighty Orphans*'s story of the impoverished and lackluster team of Masonic Home & School will undoubtedly captivate you.

However, if you are like me and find little interest in watching sports, I would advise you to watch a movie along the lines of *Rocky* instead.



## EDITORIALS

# It's time to rewrite school's Acceptable Use Policy

After years of discussion between students and administrators, defining what is and isn't allowed under the Acceptable Use Policy, *The ReMarker* suggests some amendments. But our ultimate suggestion is to rewrite the policy altogether.

**T**he Acceptable Use Policy for Technology sets the rules for how Marksmen are allowed to use their devices while on campus. For years, it's been the bane of Marksmen trying to fit in a few seconds of screen time between classes.

Cell phones are only allowed in Centennial Lounge, Hoffman Lounge, the Senior Lounge, the Winn Foyer and the Upper School Office during free periods, community time and flex time for "texting, messaging and calendaring."

The purpose of the Acceptable Use Policy, according to administrators, is to further the school's goals of community and togetherness and to prevent students from checking out of the school environment by using their phones.

We agree with these principles. We also believe the sense of community and togetherness makes this school a place like no other. We understand the purpose of the policy is to limit needless phone use that only distracts us from the people around us and stops us from forming meaningful connections with teachers and other students. Nonetheless, we believe greater freedoms and privileges can be given to students without jeopardizing the

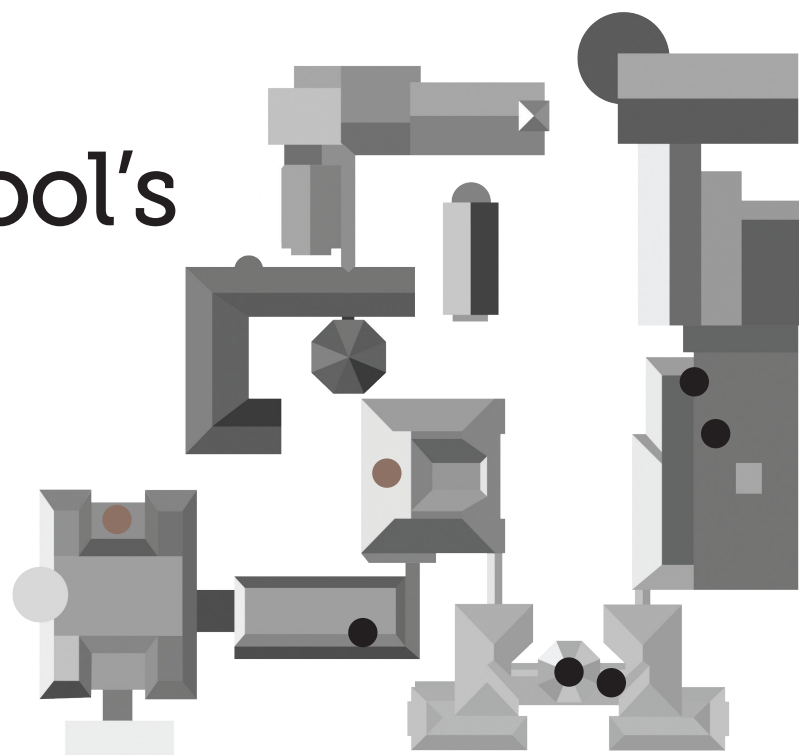
mission and intent of the policy.

The changes we propose tackle two aspects of the Acceptable Use Policy: expanding the number of locations where phones are allowed and expanding the use allowed. The places we suggest to be added to the list of phone zones are the Hill and Washburne Family Lounge and the second floor of the Green Library.

In terms of phone use, we ask that checking schedules, grades and other matters having to do with the school website be added to the existing list. Particularly in the second year of a new schedule with a confusing class rotation, students needing to check what class they have next — particularly at the beginning of the school year — is very common. We do not think this should be met with disciplinary action.

We believe these amendments to the policy will not hinder the original intent of preventing student isolation by phone use. These amendments will only increase the quality of life for students at the school.

**Furthermore**, we believe the time is ripe for dialogue between administrators and students to rethink the policy beyond the amendments we have suggested so



**MAPPING IT OUT** A campus map detailing all areas on campus where phone use is allowed (in black, from left: Winn Lobby, Centennial Lounge, the Upper School Office, the Senior Lounge, Hoffman Lounge) for upper schoolers and the areas we'd like to see added to that list (in brown, from left: Hill and Washburne Family Lounge, the second floor of Green Library).

far. The original policy was created over a decade ago through conversations between students and faculty over the role that the then-new technology of smartphones would have on campus. Since then, the policy has been amended to adapt to new circumstances, but we believe that a greater, more in-depth rethinking of the policy — with input from both students and faculty, as happened a decade ago — would be in order.

Just as smartphone technology has changed dramatically over the last decade or so, so has smartphone use and smartphone culture. The way people — particularly teenagers — use

their phones now is totally different from what it was 10 years ago. We have heard administrators ask for student input and greater student-administration dialogue on school policy. As such, we see the creation of a committee composed of both students and faculty to discuss amendments — or a rewriting of the policy altogether — as a good way to direct such input in a meaningful way that students don't feel will fall on deaf ears.

We've been talking about phones for years now. Students say they want their voices heard and administrators say they want to hear from us.

Let's have a constructive conversation and solve this problem together.

## Contact your representative and change how Texas draws its political map

**L**ast year marked another census. Among the many effects that come from the decennial census, redistricting holds some of the most political weight.

Redistricting is the process by which political districts for state and federal House and Senate elections are redrawn every 10 years following a national census. In Texas, this process started Sept. 20. While the process may seem like it shouldn't cause much controversy or raise important issues, the specific process by which the state of Texas carries out its redistricting raises many red flags.

First, the process is inherently partisan. In Texas, the state legislature controls redistricting. This method is inherently biased towards the party in power, allowing them to gerrymander — manipulate redistricting to favor one party or group of people — the districts as they please. In Texas, Republicans control both the House and Senate, meaning they can redraw districts to their political advantage and hinder Democratic opposition for the next ten years.

These measures are only compounded by a new voting rights bill that makes it harder to vote by-mail, harder to register to vote, and harder to vote in-person.

If the legislature cannot come to an agreement over the redrawn map, the

Legislative Redistricting Board (LRB) draws the map. The LRB is made up of the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, attorney general, comptroller and commissioner of the general land office. All these positions are held by Republicans.

We are not naive enough to think that Democrats wouldn't similarly use a legislative majority to gerrymander Texas' districts, it just happens to be that Republicans are in power in this state.

Good representatives listen to their constituents and turn their input into policy. As such, we encourage members of the community to contact their state representatives and senators (see infographic below) to change the redistricting system in Texas. We recommend an independent, non-politician commission to be established to draw the map, as has been done in Washington, California and Colorado with great success, as these states are considered at "minimal risk" of gerrymandering by RepresentUs, a non-profit dedicated to election reform.

Constituents choose their representatives, not the other way around. We urge community members to contact their representatives to make sure this is the case in our state.

## As the school year gets going, get the COVID-19 vaccine for the community

**A**s we enter the third academic year affected by COVID-19, questions of normalcy remain a mystery. But this cannot be achieved without herd immunity — a community that is effectively fully resistant to the spread of an infectious disease.

Students and faculty alike have already done a phenomenal job so far: over 80 percent of students and 90 percent of faculty have reported themselves fully vaccinated. So the numbers may as well be higher. But a community can only be truly considered "herd immune" at 95 percent. We implore any and all yet unvaccinated individuals to help with this final push for normalcy.

As of Aug. 23, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine has been fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration for individuals 16 years of age and older. In addition, all vaccines — Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech — are approved for individuals 12 years of age and older for emergency use.

And the vaccine remains incredibly safe. Out of over 375 million doses distributed through Sept. 7, 2021, only 7,439 deaths have been reported. And the FDA requires any deaths after

COVID vaccinations to be reported, even if the cause of death is unclear.

In addition, it is incredibly effective against the disease — the vaccine is 95 percent effective, and still 53 percent effective against the newly-discovered delta variant. On average, unvaccinated individuals are hospitalized 17 times more frequently than vaccinated individuals.

Furthermore, being young does not mean COVID does not pose a threat to one's own personal health — brain fog, loss of taste and smell, and heart and lung damage pose irreversible long-term risks. On the other side of the coin, many vulnerable members of our community — immunocompromised, too young, too old, chronically ill — cannot get the vaccine themselves. It is only through herd immunity that these individuals can be protected.

As COVID cases have been skyrocketing to new highs, it is now more important than ever to get the vaccine. While we understand that personal ideals and reservations may prevent individuals from getting vaccinated, we strongly encourage all to consider the benefits of the community as a whole.

As a community, we can do it.

## STATE OFFICIALS' AUSTIN OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

### STATE SENATORS:

Angela Johnson, SD 8 (southern Collin County): 512-463-0108,

Nathan Johnson, SD 16 (northern Dallas County): 512-463-0116

### Find email addresses and more information at:

<https://senate.texas.gov/members.php>

### STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

Jasmine Crockett, HD 100 (Central East Dallas): 512-463-0586,

Morgan Meyer, HD 108 (Central Dallas, Park Cities): 512-463-0367,

Ana Maria Ramos, HD 102 (Addison): 512-463-0454

Julie Johnson, HD 115 (Coppell, Farmers Branch, Carrollton): 512-463-0468,

Rafael Anchía, HD 103 (West Dallas): 512-463-0746,

John Turner, HD 114 (North Dallas): 512-463-0576,

Rhetta Andrews Bowers, HD 113 (Frisco): 512-463-

0464,

Jeff Leach, HD 67 (Plano, Allen): 512-463-0544

### Find email addresses and more information at:

<https://house.texas.gov/members/>



## For Madison: 'she's the person I wish I was... for myself'

Her name is Madison. I met her through my girlfriend. She's honestly the prettiest girl I've ever seen in my entire life. There's just no other way to describe her. Pretty. Just drop dead, girl-next-door type pretty.

Someone like that, you'd think she'd have dozens of guys lining up to be with her. The opposite is true. I met her just after she got through the messiest breakup I've ever heard of.

Her boyfriend cheats on her with five other girls and then threatens to kill himself when she breaks up with him for being a terrible person. She's scarred by his emotional manipulation and general douchebaggery, even though he's the one who goes to the psychiatric ward. Then he goes and spreads rumors that he did nothing wrong, a categorical, empirical and explicit lie.

(As you can tell, I am also quite pissed off at him, to put it lightly.)

Through her experience with this excuse of a man and other lesser members of my sex, she's come to think she won't find someone who can make her feel loved and special.

Being body shamed since elementary school and living through a messy divorce didn't help with her I'll-never-be-loved mentality either.

### Here's why Madison's wrong.

She has a beautiful personality. When she cares about someone, she cares deeply and protectively. The type of friend you'd want to have. Her sense of humor is just like mine: indescribable but far, far from what normal people would consider funny. But we make each other cackle, and that's all that matters to me. We can virulently insult each other all day but still know that neither of us meant a word. We still know that we love each other dearly.

She's wicked smart. In a class of over 700, she's ranked first. She's going into junior year with a full slate of IB classes, a level of coursework that has been called "AP on steroids." She dreams of going to Oxford and studying neuroscience to go into medicine. And I know she will make those dreams come true.

She's extraordinarily hardworking. Over the summer, she has two lifeguard jobs—one at a country club and one at an aquatic center. And she keeps the aquatic center job throughout the school year, balancing the work with the classwork. And she's still top of her class. Wow.

**She's the person I wish I was.** For my friends, for my parents, for my girlfriend. For myself.

I'm not going to date her — I do have a girlfriend, after all — but I deeply love Madison nonetheless. I wish I could date her, though. Not because I'm not happy with my relationship — I'm the happiest I've ever been.

No, it's because Madison is someone who believes that love exists but that it'll never come to her. And I hate that. And I wish I could show her that the exact opposite is true. She deserves love unlike anyone I've met. And it kills me that I can't be the person to show her that.

So to make up for that, I try to show her worth to her in my own stupid way: I make these long-winded intellectual arguments about the nature of teenage love, why she shouldn't care that she hasn't found anyone yet, why she deserves to be loved and feel special.

All the while I sprinkle in the compliments about her looks and personality — compliments she needs to get used to so some other douchebag can't woo her with the same tired old routine.

I know it's not working, and that kills me, too.

**Is that too narcissistic?** Is it bad I feel like it's my job to solve her problems?

She didn't ask me to do that, after all. I self-appointed myself to this position — riding in on my high horse — thinking I was doing the right thing without asking her if she even wanted me to do anything.

No. I am doing the right thing.

I can't let her get used to some selfish, manipulative guy again. I don't know how many bad interactions are left before she breaks again. Before she tries to kill herself again.

I don't care if I'll come across as arrogant or narcissistic or anything like that. I just want to do my best to help her. She deserves... so much more.

It's really difficult, seeing people you love not thinking they're worth it.

And I just can't stand by and do nothing.



AXEL ICAZBALCETA  
Editorials & Opinions Editor



ISAAC SONG  
Senior

## CRT in schools?

As debate continues nationwide about teaching critical race theory (CRT) in public schools as part of the American history curriculum, students give their opinions on the subject.



ARJUN BADI  
Junior

### yes point/counterpoint no

**Y**es. I do believe that Critical Race Theory is crucial for the interpretation of the history of our country and as a way for us to learn going forward... **CRT is incorporated into our history just like racism is,** and often alongside it.

Although the racists may have long since been dead, often what they started —including **rules, cultural expectations and regulations** — still stand and continue to carry out the racist intent of its creators.

Like with teaching racism and how it was heavily protested initially and even still in the 21st century, teaching CRT would expose children to the possibility of these devices of racism and allow them to fix it. Ideally in the future, we would be **teaching CRT alongside racism as a cautionary measure rather than a responsive measure.**

By teaching CRT, it opens people's eyes to the possibility of existing racism perpetuating through social institutions whether intentional or not.

Without realizing how this is a possibility to harm others, it will never be fixed, leaving one group to continue to be marginalized by society. If our goal is for America to be the land of equal opportunity — where anyone can make a name for themselves — we must teach children, the leaders of tomorrow, **to recognize and fix these issues to get closer to the America that our forefathers dreamed of.**

Like with learning history in general, the value of history lies not in memorizing which year a war happened or which explorer discovered which mountain, but rather **in what we can learn and interpret from the past** and how we apply it to the present and future.

We should teach the children about racial issues in the past that we have since corrected, or have yet to correct, because **it would open their eyes to existence of those issues in the present** and attempt to avoid going down that path and lead us to a more accepting America.

**I** don't think that CRT should be incorporated into school curricula in this country. It is divisive and goes against what great leaders like Dr. King were proponents of. King famously said, 'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but **by the content of their character.**' We should not be teaching about supposed differences between races, but rather, that a person is defined by their character.

As a Hindu, I believe in the concept of **'vasudhaiva kutumbakam,'** or the world being one family. Dividing people based on race goes against my faith and Dr. King's teachings.

We shouldn't divide and politicize education. Classrooms should be **focused on facts and knowledge rather than 'indoctrination.'** Students should be taught the history of the nation and be able to form their own opinions on the so-called racist aspects of history.

Students need to have a solid grasp of history to **truly understand the trajectory of the nation** as a whole.

The country would become more divided than it already is. Bringing the topic of racial tensions into classrooms goes against Dr. King's famous speech. We are humans and should **not let something like race divide us.**

Schools should not freely peddle **politically charged messages.** Students should be taught the facts of racism and be free to make up their own minds.

People need to understand that suffering exists in all communities and recognize that speaking about one particular community does not diminish the struggles of another. Some of the first abolitionists in this country were white Quakers, and the Civil Rights movement had many white supporters. **People are not defined by their race but rather their character.**

## report CARD

A+

### Fans back at sports games

Finally, fans are back at games. An indispensable part of sports, having students back in the Lion's Den has been great for team morale — not to mention school spirit.

D

### Senior parking

A perennial problem, the availability of senior parking in the mornings has been terrible. Parents and visitors parking in senior spots is at the heart of the issue. Needing to drive around for 15 minutes before finding a spot is just too much.

C

### Vegetarian options during lunch

The quality of vegetarian options for lunch has seen a significant decrease since last year. And the line is longer due to people who don't want to wait for the main lunch line going to the vegetarian line.

A-

### Pep rallies

Not seen on campus for a year, pep rallies have been a roaring success. We thank the Student Council and cheerleaders for the hard work to bring some school spirit on Fridays in anticipation of a Lions win.

F

### Lunch line

The return to the Great Hall has been a letdown, largely thanks to the huge lines at the beginning of lunch. Even those who arrive 5 minutes early find lines that go on and on and on and on.

B+

### Senior lounge

Following a year without, the return of the Senior Lounge — the sanctuary of the Senior Class — is much welcome. With air hockey and a foosball table, the revamped Lounge needs only the return of a TV and game console to be complete.



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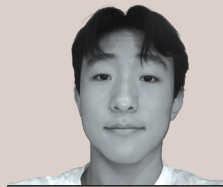
**around the quad**

STUDENTS AND FACULTY ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS

**Q: In light of climate catastrophes like Hurricanes Ida and Nicholas, is there still time to act on climate change?**

“To be honest, after hearing both sides of climate change, I have no clue about the climate change argument.”

**ADAM LAI**  
Senior



“I am a big believer that small habits, practiced over time (by one or by many), can produce large results. Obviously, we may have reached a certain stage where only so much is possible, but every bit helps. And I am optimistic on this front.”

**DR. JOHN PERRYMAN**  
History and English instructor



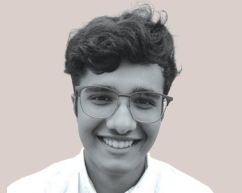
“I do think we need to combat climate change. I don't know whether it's in time or not, but we should try.”

**STEPHEN HOUP**  
Physics instructor



“We're definitely decades late to reversing climate change, but we can make a huge difference by reducing the gas emissions of processes like combustion-driven power.”

**SAMIR MAMTANI**  
Senior



“I think that if we rejoin the Paris Accords and stop emitting greenhouse gases, we will have enough time to stop climate change.”

**ZACH NIVICA**  
Junior



**Elton John, skiing the Sahara and the Chip Box Ghost**



**TOBY BARRETT**  
Managing Editor

...And I think it's gonna be a long, long time / 'Till touchdown brings me 'round again to find...

**You ever hear** a song so many times that when it comes on you have a physical reaction? A song etched into your brain so thoroughly that you hope to your creator that you never, ever have to listen to it again?

For me, it's Elton John's "Rocket Man." I heard it probably close to 150 times in the span of two months this past summer at my job at a sandwich shop. The radio at the shop had a rotating list of songs, and "Rocket Man" ended up making the rounds on the speakers over and over and over and over again.

...I'm not the man they think I am at home, / Oh no, no, no...

**The first time** I remember hearing it was on my second ever day of work. There had been a crash at the intersection near the shop that damaged the power lines, so our power went out, and we had to briefly close. Keep in mind — this was in June, so the AC going out in an oven-dependent restaurant like ours was like wearing ski gear while visiting the Sahara.

It was just my shift lead, August, my fellow associate, David, and I sweating it out that day.

With no customers, a clean shop and a bunch of time to kill

before we could close up, the three of us sat on the counter in the kitchen.

August, it turned out, used to work at the zoo with her daughters. She never told me her age, but she never got too mad when I referred to her as a grandma. Sure enough, I learned a month later that she had a grandchild on the way.

David told me that he really liked TV. One of the younger workers in the shop, he was always game to talk about the new episode of Loki that came out that week. He told me he was a great football player when he was younger. I believe him — I saw him run once, and he was quick.

...I'm a rocket maaaaaan / Rocket maaaaaan, burning out his fuse up here alone...

**I'm pretty sure** the first time I scared my manager, Morty, was after hearing "Rocket Man" when cleaning dishes.

I had spent the previous five minutes trying to clean the mustard out of the squeeze bottle we used to dress sandwiches. After finally getting the last speck out, I heard Morty walking to the kitchen from the back door and quickly hid behind the chip boxes.

Morty used to scare people from behind the chip box, too. He had shown me the spot the day before.

"AH!" I jumped at him.

"AHHH! GOD! TOBY!"

...And I think it's gonna be a long, long time...

**Prof had** a real name, but everyone always called him Prof — short for Professor.

Prof was the fun guy. He was always joking and making other people laugh, but he took his job seriously. Plus, he had a super cool custom car with giant speakers that made the shop vibrate when he was parking.

Mark and Kenny were the dynamic duo of the shop. They went to high school together.

For most of the summer, Mark and I worked together at our dress station. Mark was extremely personable. Jimmy Fallon should hope he never enters the late-night business.

And Kenny worked harder than anyone in the shop. I'd say that he's the Kobe Bryant of sandwich shops.

...And I think it's gonna be a long, long time.

**I'm not sure** yet how my summer making sandwiches will live in my memory. If I'm headed to work in 20 years, and I hear "Rocket Man" on my headphones or on the radio, what will I remember?

I think I'll recall it in moments — funny interactions, interesting conversations, unusual customers — each an incongruous echo of my memories, each a particular lesson.

I know I won't think about the bad parts, like scrubbing the toilets. Thankfully, nostalgia yields awesome power.

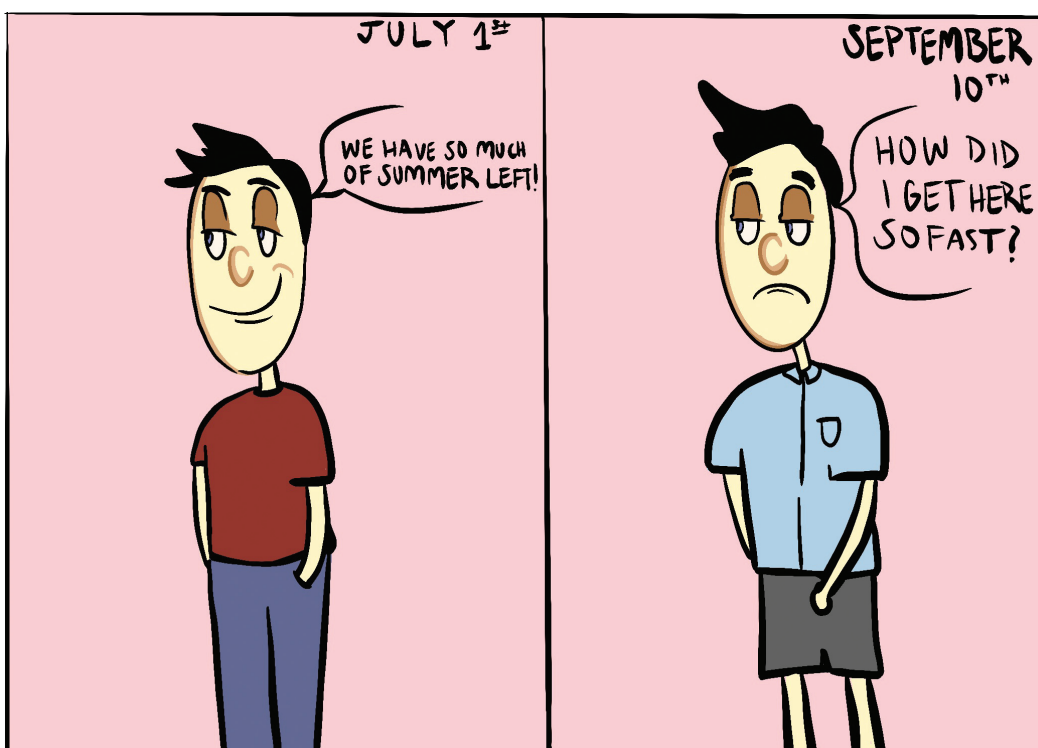
Instead, I'll remember the people, and how working with them made me feel. I'll remember the conversations, and how I walked away with a different perspective. I'll remember working, and what I learned about myself.

I'll remind myself why it's a privilege to work hard surrounded by amazing people.

I'll also turn "Rocket Man" off. I'll probably hear it all the time in nightmares, anyway.

**Editor's note:** All names are pseudonyms to protect the anonymity of those involved.

**CARTOON** Cooper Cole





## Should we allow fans to keep attending football games?

by **Dillon Wyatt**

The culmination of last year's football season presented one glaring headline.

No fans.

In order to prevent the spread COVID-19, health experts and government officials enforced many precautions, including stripping football fans from the ability to cheer on their favorite teams in person.

From the athlete's point of view, football and fans go hand in hand like burgers and fries. Without fans, the empty seats create a void in the sport. Players need fans to give them the energy to play their best.

Some government officials are allowing fans to return this season now that over 50% of the U.S. population has become fully vaccinated. But now that COVID-19 cases have reached the same numbers as in August 2020, many health experts caution hopeful fans from returning to the stands.

In Texas, vaccination rates are just under 50%, but these numbers were still sufficient enough to convince professional and college teams to allow fans

at full capacity. The Texas Longhorns are providing vaccination stations on campus and free masks for fans entering their stadium. The Dallas Cowboys, however, chose to allow fans to attend without masks or proof of vaccination but enforced strict sanitization policies.

These restrictions vary from state to state — each one has its own way of combating the virus. But whether each method is right or wrong is yet to be seen.

Nevertheless, having fans in stadiums is part of sports. Without crowds, football games are not the same.

On campus, the fear of COVID-19 surging through football games is less frightening. Unlike professional or college teams, our stadium only holds 1,500 fans. In addition, the 75% vaccination rate for students and 95% vaccination rate for faculty and staff at the beginning of the year helps suppress the virus. With the expectation that these numbers will rise, attending football games should not cause significant issues.

However, we still need to make smart decisions. By following protocol as a community, we were able to fully pack the stadium for our home opener against Cistercian and watch an incredible fourth-quarter comeback. If we continue to stay strong and follow school guidelines, I am confident that we will be able to enjoy many more nail-biter finishes from the Lions' Den.



**DILLON WYATT**  
Sports Editor

# Bearing our spirit

This year's flag-waving quintet of seniors is proud to be called the Spurs.



### big PICTURE

**GETTING HYPED**  
Watching from the sidelines, the five Spurs take a rest during the Lions' home opener against Cistercian. The Lions notched 25 points, giving the Spurs several opportunities to show off their stride as they ran across the field after each touchdown.

Date Sept. 3  
Time Halftime  
Location Norma and Lamar Hunt Stadium  
People the Spurs

PHOTO Charlie Estess

My favorite pre-game meal as a wrestler was always pasta and chicken. It's lightweight and doesn't have a lot of fat. That's my ideal meal for Friday night.

**XANDER BOWLES**

The farthest I've ever run is seven miles. There's no way I could do any more than that — it's just not my style. I'm definitely more of a 100 meter sprint type of guy.

**HENRY SCHECHTER**

I think I could do about 50 push-ups if I really put my heart into it, but if I'm being honest, push-ups aren't the go-to exercise. It's gotta be a lat pulldown.

**BLAKE MOLTHAN**

I'm all about endurance and that base cardio. So when the other guys start struggling after we score a ton of touchdowns, just know that I'll be cruising.

**DRAKE ELLIOTT**

We definitely take a lot of inspiration from our mascot. If she can wear a full-on costume in the heat, I think we can be happy in our shirts and jeans.

**THOMAS PHILIP**

## sports in brief

**YOUST MAKES ANW FINALS**  
Junior Christian Youst competed in the first stage of the American Ninja Warrior National Finals, broadcasted on NBC, Aug. 30. Youst made it all the way to the last obstacle, cargo net, but ran out of time, ending his participation in the season. Youst was one of 17 teenage finalists and 68 total, competing for the \$100,000 grand prize. This was the first season to allow teenagers, ages 15 and up, to compete with the adult ninjas.

**SUMMER ALSS PANEL** The Alumni Leadership Speaker Series (ALSS) hosted Mark Cuban, Sam Acho '07, Harrison Ingram '21, Kit Colson '21 and Leo Ohannessian '21 in two separate conversations in June. The first, featuring Acho and the three recent graduates, all of whom are collegiate athletes, and delved into the difficulties of recruitment during COVID-19. On June 23, Cuban, a St. Mark's parent, discussed the rise of

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies and touched on the strength of the St. Mark's community. Alumni Association President Paul Genender '87 moderated the discussion.

**NEW LACROSSE COACH**  
Assistant Head of Upper School Jason Leneau was named varsity lacrosse head coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Leneau, who has a strong background in both collegiate and professional lacrosse, will hold the position while the school continues the national search for a new coach. Athletic Director Sean Lissemore announced the school expects to appoint a new member of the faculty this fall who will serve as the head coach for the next school year.

**ACHO SIGNS WITH ESPN**  
Sam Acho '07 signed a multi-year deal with ESPN's comprehensive college football coverage in July. Acho will primarily serve as

a lead studio voice for college football on ESPN 2. In addition, Acho will call select games this fall. Acho will also appear on several talk shows—*Get up, College Football Live* and *Sports Center*.

**TRACK COMPETITION**  
Juniors Zane Wallace and Jack Jackson and senior Fisayo Omonije competed at major track championships this summer. Wallace and Jackson traveled to the USAITF National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships, and Omonije ran at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics.  
Wallace, a four-time All-American, won the long jump with a 23'1 jump, while Jackson, a five-time All-American, took sixth in the 100 meter race despite injuries to both hamstrings. Omonije was able to make it to the semi-finals in the 800 meter race in his first appearance at the Junior Olympics.

## for the sports enthusiast

### THIS WEEK

**Today**

► Varsity football vs. Founders Classical Academy of Lewisville at home at 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

► SMU football at TCU at 11 a.m.  
► JV volleyball vs. Casady at home at 11 a.m.  
► Varsity volleyball vs. Casady at home at 12:30 p.m.  
► Texas Rangers at Baltimore Orioles at 6 p.m.

**Monday**

► Dallas Cowboys vs. Philadelphia Eagles at home at 7:15 p.m.

**Thursday**

► JV volleyball vs. Greenhill at home at 4:30 p.m.  
► Varsity volleyball vs. Greenhill at home at 5:30 p.m.  
► JV football at ESD at 5:30 p.m.

### THIS MONTH

**October 2**

► Cross country Chile Pepper Invitational meet at University of Arkansas

**October 8**

► Varsity football vs. Houston Christian at home at 7 p.m.

**October 12**

► Varsity volleyball vs. FWCD at home at 6 p.m.

**October 15**

► Varsity volleyball at Greenhill at 5 p.m.  
► JV volleyball at Greenhill at 6 p.m.

**October 22**

► Cross country SPC North Zone meet at 1 p.m.  
► Varsity football vs. EHS at home at 7 p.m.  
► Varsity volleyball vs. Trinity Valley at home at 7 p.m.

## inside

### 24 DREW TAYLOR CREW

Drew Taylor's '16 journey to competing at The Boat Race, a historic competition set on the River Thames.

### 25 NEW FOOTBALL STAFF

An inside look at new varsity football head coach Harry Flaherty's goals and aspirations for the season.

### 26 SUPERFANMEN

Meet seniors Alex Nadalini, Cole Norman and Camden Reeves.



## what ever happened to...

### letterman jackets?

**Last seen...** 2012

Twenty years ago, many students could be seen proudly repping their letterman jackets. But today, students seem to favor outdoor jackets and sweatshirts that several varsity sports offer.

**Where'd they go?**

Former varsity wrestling coach Rick Ortega ran the letterman program during his 30 years at the school, but when he retired in 2012, the jackets were seemingly forgotten by students.

**What now?**

Despite the decline in appeal for these jackets, Ortega still runs the letterman program, and they are available for purchase.



They're genuine leather jackets. Top of the line. I don't know why the program has dropped off so much. You don't even have to be an athlete to get one — you can even purchase one for a fine art like choir.

**RICK ORTEGA**

former varsity wrestling coach



DREW TAYLOR CREW

# Rowing through history

After a successful rowing career at Stanford University, Drew Taylor '16 wasn't sure if his life-long journey with the sport would ever be the same. But with an opportunity to compete at one of the longest-standing collegiate sporting events of all time, he felt primed for a comeback.

**L**egs burning, lungs on fire, vision tunneled. This is the final sprint. Their bodies cannot push any harder.

But they do.

The Cambridge crew, with Drew Taylor '16 as the stroke, moves as one perfectly-synced unit. Propelling the boat over the finish, they defeat Oxford by one boat-length, handing Cambridge its 85th victory.

**The Boat Race**, a four-mile and nearly 200-year-old annual event between the prestigious Cambridge and Oxford universities, usually has 400,000 people lining up on the banks of the River Thames to view the competition. There have been a total of 166 Boat Races, the first one being held in 1829.

"There was a certain gravitas on the day of the race, just from all of the deep-rooted history surrounding the event," Taylor said. "It's such a cherished tradition with a ton of hype around it, so I was very excited to be a part of something like that. These schools have been around for so long, and the people in the area have an insane appreciation for it. That spirit is unmatched—I don't even think there's a sport in America that can compete with the passion these people have for crew."

Taylor remembers first hearing about the race from his teammates during his four-year tenure on the crew team at Stanford, which earned him two-time All-Pac-12 and senior captain honors. Everyone knew that Cambridge was looking for American rowers to join their prestigious squads, but the school made it clear that students would not be accepted just based on their rowing abilities.

"We were told to not even mention rowing when applying to one of the school's master's programs," Taylor said. "I also knew it would be pretty silly for me to go all the way out to Cambridge just to row. Luckily, I found this program called BioScience Enterprise. It seemed like a logical step in terms of furthering my career and learning to synthesize my knowledge, while also developing a skill set that would make me employable. So, in addition to wanting to walk onto the crew team, I had this awesome program as another reason to apply."

**When he first started rowing** at Cambridge, Taylor was surprised by the diversity of his teammates, as well as the bonds they developed together. After his experience on the Stanford crew team, he saw the Cambridge experience as a refreshing, yet ultra-competitive way for him to continue enjoying the sport he has always loved.

"It's pretty hard to wrap my mind around the guys that I was with," Taylor said. "I was the only American guy in the top boat. The other guys were either British, South African or Canadian. Most of them literally grew up on the banks of the River Thames, where the race takes place and have been watching the race



**SWEET VICTORY** Taylor (seated fourth from the left) poses with his crew, along with the women's crew, which also won its race. Despite the absence of the 2020 Boat Race due to COVID-19, this year's men's team still managed to earn a time of 14:12, the fastest ever recorded in the history of the event.

every single year since they were kids. I only started watching it a few years ago. Our whole boat also shared a house together, and with all of the COVID-19 lockdowns, we became super close friends."

Leaning on these tight-knit bonds, Taylor and his teammates persevered, even through the challenges presented by COVID.

"Starting in October, we were no longer training in boats," Taylor said. "There were so many precautions. When the lockdowns started, we couldn't get on the water, so every single day, we either worked out on the rowing machine, ran or biked. We would finish the workout, sleep for a little bit, watch lectures, do the second workout of the day, eat as much as we could between periods, go back to sleep, then do it all over again."

**As the pandemic situation** worsened, some of his teammates had to resort to extreme measures.

"There was this one freshman who would have to do all the workouts in his hallway," Taylor said. "Because he wasn't even allowed to leave his complex due to the lockdowns,"

Even with these seemingly insurmountable challenges leading up to the race, Taylor believes it was all worth it to cross that finish line first.

"It was the most fun of my life," Taylor said. "People would stop me after the race and congratulate me and take pictures. It was almost like an NBA championship game in the United States. This race is the biggest deal in the U.K. I was so relieved when the race finished, and afterwards I started to realize what I had just accomplished and the benefits that came with that."

With his collegiate rowing days behind him, Taylor plans to continue the sport long into the future,

adjusting the way he approaches rowing.

"I have to realize that I'm not going to be pulling these insane numbers, and now I'll have to use [rowing] as a means of personal fitness," he said. "Going out in a boat with someone else is tons of fun, but given the level I've trained at and how long I've been invested in crew, I've had to see the sport as more of a job rather than a pastime. I plan to have rowing in my life forever, but I just need to reframe my relationship with the sport."

**STORY** Arjun Khatti, Zack Goforth  
**PHOTOS** Benedict Tufnell



**IN SYNC** Taylor performed as the stroke of the eight-oar crew, meaning he was responsible for setting the rhythm of each stroke for the rest of his teammates. The coxswain, the only member without an oar and seated directly in front of the stroke, is in charge of balancing and directing the boat.

## Harrison Ingram '21 wins gold medal with U.S. U-19 basketball team in FIBA World Cup

by **Ben Adams**

**H**arrison Ingram '21 and the rest of the U.S. U-19 basketball team won the FIBA U-19 World Cup early July in Latvia, defeating France in a tightly contested final game, 83-81.

While the final and celebration were certainly Ingram's favorite moments, he also enjoyed their semifinal win against Canada.

"When we played Canada, I played pretty well and that's probably the game I played the most in," Ingram said. "To beat them, the second or third best team there with an all-Division-one lineup with a lot of players who will probably make the NBA, was pretty cool."

Although Ingram was a high school superstar and will play for a top college basketball program this fall at Stanford, the rest of Ingram's teammates had all the accomplishments he did.

Ingram was also the youngest on the roster at just 18 years old. Therefore, he had to learn a new role and didn't even start every game.

"It was something I can learn from for later in life," Ingram said. "Because if I go to the NBA, there will already be players that are older than me and better than me — already established superstars — so you kind of do what you got to do and buy into your role."

The team had 12 Division-one players, and the coaching staff, led by

TCU head coach Jamie Dixon, rotated players evenly every three or four minutes.

"We all had fun playing," Ingram said. "But nobody scored as many points as they wanted to, nobody was the main player and it was about playing as a team and buying into a role."

The squad was filled with teenage basketball phenoms such as Chet Holmgren, a seven-foot Gonzaga commit and a sure-fire NBA prospect. Ingram, looking to go to the NBA as well, found this as a unique experience to meet some potential future teammates and opponents.

"To be able to meet guys who are

great players and are from different schools and to build relationships with them is basically what life is all about," Ingram said.

Although Ingram did not get much of a chance to socialize with other nation's players due to COVID restrictions, he was able to explore a different culture in Latvia. The American team, filled with players who may be making millions of dollars in the NBA someday, even got stuck in a German airport due to a missed flight.

"The culture out there is just way, way different than America," he said, "almost nothing the same to what I have experienced back home."



FOOTBALL COACHES

# There's a new guy in town

New history instructor Harry Flaherty was named varsity football head coach this summer. Flaherty brought with him three outside hires to serve as assistant coaches: Judd Garrett, Chase Campbell and Logan Rudolph.

**Y**our uncle. Your college roommate. And a college football national champion. This seems like an odd mix, but for newly appointed football head coach Harry Flaherty, it is exactly what he wanted.

With a chance to hire his own coaches for the upcoming season, Flaherty chose ones who impacted him and who know what it feels like to bring home a championship.

Flaherty's uncle, Judd Garrett, brother of former Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett, helped teach him the game using his experience as an NFL running back and scout; Chase Campbell, Flaherty's roommate, pushed him to be the best student and athlete he could be while playing together at Princeton; and Logan Rudolph won the 2019 College Football National Championship when he played defensive end at Clemson University.

This revamped coaching staff has everything Flaherty loves: family, friends and football.

By getting coaches he has become close with, Flaherty believes he can install his version of football, allowing the Lions to play their best all the time.

**Flaherty's life has revolved around** football. Ever since he was a kid, his entire family would go out during the summer and throw around the pigskin.

"Football has been part of my life since I can remember," Flaherty said. "It formed some of my earliest memories. It was never really forced on me, but it was just part of the air I breathed, so it was hard not to be drawn to it."

Flaherty believes his college experience at Princeton University helped shape the man he is today and helped him get the job he has now.

"It was an outstanding experience to go to Princeton," Flaherty said. "I realized pretty quickly that I was going to be surrounded by people who were valedictorians and team captains in high school. Going from the top of my high school to being just another guy and having to learn to give my best was a really good experience for me."

Although Flaherty knows a coaching staff change may be tough for some players to handle at first, he believes his experience with this type of situation will let him help his players through it.

"I was part of a coaching change my junior year in college, and I saw a new coaching staff come in and start from scratch to rebuild a program," Flaherty said. "As somebody who would end up going into coaching, that was really good to watch the process of a coaching staff starting day one on the job, trying to implement its culture using leaders of the team."

After college, Flaherty was signed to the Dallas Cowboys during pre-season. There, he would have to fight

for an NFL spot while three of his uncles coached him.

"It was surreal playing on a team coached by family members, but it's not as weird as you think," Flaherty said. "My uncles, dad and grandfather were coaching me from a young age. A lot of days in the summer were spent doing drills and running routes, so I was used to them coaching me."

After retiring from football for a while and enrolling in law school at University of Tennessee, Flaherty felt like he needed football back in his life, so he decided to make change.

"I was only a semester into law school, and I was having some football withdrawals," Flaherty said. "I felt this gravitational pullback towards the game. There happened to be a coaching change at Tennessee, so I started coaching as a graduate assistant."

Coaching at other schools, Flaherty had to build relationships with his coaches. Now, Flaherty has the privilege of having friends and family as his new assistant coaches to help him along the way.

"[Coaching with family and friends] is a really unique experience," Flaherty said. "Few coaches ever get the chance to coach with one of their best friends. Even fewer coaches get the chance to coach with a close family member. We all have similar outlooks on coaching, with the value of academics and the value of athletics as part of education."

Flaherty believes having coaches on his coaching staff that are close to him builds a special chemistry that will help move the team in a positive direction.

"You have coaches that know what's important to you," Flaherty said. "They know what you believe in as a coach and as an educator, and odds are, they believe in a lot of the same things. There's a common language and a common set of goals that makes it a lot easier to support one another."

Here on Norma and Lamar Hunt Field, Flaherty believes that he will lead the football program to success — not just by winning, but also by setting a good example for his team and representing the school well.

"St. Mark's is excellent in many ways," Flaherty said. "I think its football program



**THE NEW GUY** Varsity football head coach Harry Flaherty talks to his team at the Lion's first football game of the year. The Lions football team defeated the Fort Worth Country Day Falcons 39-20 Aug. 27 in Fort Worth.

should reflect that. That may not mean winning an SPC championship every year, but I think that we should represent the community well on and off the field. When people watch us play, I hope they walk away feeling that there's no team that's going to play harder than we do."

**STORY** Dillon Wyatt, Ben Adams

**VISUAL** Charlie Estess, Sal Hussain, Nolan Marcus

**FRESH STAFF** All four new coaching hires: Harry Flaherty, Judd Garrett, Chase Campbell and Logan Rudolph.



**BLUE MESA**  
SOUTHWEST GRILL

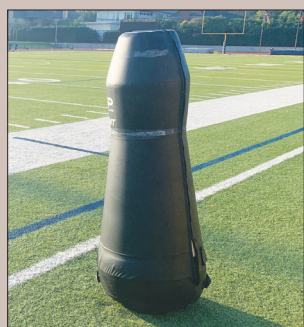
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## LOOK inside

Images taken by sophomore Nolan Marcus of sophomore football players Benjamin Erwin and Daniel Weinstein



The football program has acquired the newest and safest way to practice tackling: the mobile virtual player (MVP). This new technology is controlled by a joystick and moves on wheels to improve a player's pursuit angle, closing speed and tackling form.



MVP's were first developed at Dartmouth College by head coach Buddy Teevens and the engineering school. The tackling dummies are used by over half the NFL and 33 colleges teams. The MVP teaches players how to tackle safely, limiting injuries during practice.



The football team has used the dummies to help Lion athletes learn better pursuit angles and tackling form, along with tying the MVPs into conditioning drills. Each mobile virtual player costs around \$8,000. The Lions currently have one of these tackling dummies.



## SUPERFANMEN

## Back in business

With fall sports underway, the Superfanmen have the campus' eyes and ears, planning pep rallies, revamping the class cup and keeping the Lions' Den roaring.

**A perfect year of Lions sports would look like...**

**Camden Reeves:** Us winning some SPC titles. The biggest crowd atmosphere is almost always in the playoffs because everyone likes to come out and support. This year, we're looking to get everyone back and engaged with sports.

**Alex Nadalini:** I second that. Some of the most memorable moments we've had were at the SPC championships at Greenhill two years ago: soccer, basketball. Same with volleyball. That atmosphere was wild.

**Our biggest goal as Super Fan Men is...**

**Cole Norman:** To create the most energetic atmosphere that anyone's ever seen. And, to get the younger guys — lower schoolers and middle schoolers — involved with the upper schoolers.

**AN:** To try to keep the energy flowing from the first day of school all the way to graduation, and never let it die out. In the stressful moments of school, we want to make sure there's still some fun parts of your day.

**CR:** To give everyone on-field access. That's why we've been going so in-depth on all of our social media posts with interviews and quotes and stats.

**The most hype Super Fan Man is...**

**CN:** Me. I think I may have taken the cake so far.

**AN:** Yeah, I mean, I think it's myself, but—

**CN:** I got the face paint, and I ran out with the flag in front of everyone.

**AN:** Terry [Cole], I was playing in the game.

**CN:** Well, that's true. You were playing in the game.

**CR:** Alex and I were both in the game.

**AN:** But, I think the three of us compliment each other pretty well. That's the reason we went into this role together.

**I'm most looking forward to...**

**CN:** The entire year.

**AN:** Winning an SPC championship—winning multiple SPC championships.

**CR:** Actually being in the student section at basketball games, since I don't play a winter sport. Those are some of the most hype atmospheres, especially in rivalry games against schools like ESD.

**The biggest change from last year is...**

**AN:** Being able to have fans and pep rallies and assemblies.

**AN:** Maybe baseball. I really enjoy the dugout atmosphere. Y'all should come out and watch Cole and Camden play and see me on the aux and hear me announce.

**CN:** Every sport's different. Football is always super hype, but basketball and soccer can also get really hype because you're right there next to the players. You can get really immersed in it.

**CR:** I gotta show some love to lacrosse. All the lax guys are super invested in their team and in winning — especially since they're one of the most competitive teams year in and year out.

**The funniest Super Fan Man is...**

**CR:** Terry.

**AN:** Yeah, its gotta be Terry.

**CR:** Terry's just a funny guy even if he's not trying to be funny. He can just make people smile, and he just smiles, too. I mean, look at him — he's smiling right now.

**CN:** Well, I appreciate that.

**If I could go pro in one sport, it'd be...**

**CN:** Under-water basket weaving. If I was bigger, I'd probably say football because it'd be really fun, but deep down, definitely baseball.

**AN:** Obviously football, but something I've always had a great respect and admiration for is the professional cornhole league. Those guys are just snipers with the bag.

**CR:** I'm really good at playing cornhole.

**AN:** I thought I was too till I watched the championships. You got 30-year-old dads dropping 'em in like crazy.

**CR:** I'd say soccer because my overall athletic weakness is my footwork, so if I was good enough to go pro in soccer then that would mean that I'm just an all around athletic specimen. And they get the bag, too.

**Fans should be on the lookout for...**

**AN:** A podcast. Down the road after we settle into the year, we hope to do some live interviews, guest appearances, and just talk St.

Mark's sports.

**CR:** Also, we have something in the works, but it's top secret. We plan on unveiling it in a week or so. You won't be disappointed.

**STORY** Peter Orsak  
**PHOTO** Sal Hussain



**ALL BUSINESS** Seniors Camden Reeves, Cole "Terry" Norman and Alex Nadilini return to campus in style. As school's biggest sports fans, the Superfanmen hope to enject energy into Lions sports throughout the year.

**CN:** Our posts. We're posting a lot and going really in-depth with stats and trying to get insider content.

**CR:** Yeah, we've been able to rely on [junior] Logan [Johnson] to keep the accounts running during the games, so that's worked out really well.

**My favorite Lions team to cheer on is...**

## New cross country coach brings style to running with passion and swag

by **Arjun Khatti, Nolan Marcus**

Dr. Jonathan Moody, an avid marathoner and former Ursuline cross country coach, took over as the new middle school cross country coach this fall.

Having grown up in Lucas, just 40 minutes from here, Moody has been heavily invested in the running community of Dallas. He initially developed this passion as a middle schooler by participating in weekly 5k races at Bachman Lake over the summer.

"Back then, in the mid-90s, they didn't even have cross country for kids in middle school," Moody said. "I knew that I especially enjoyed the longer distances, so these races were a fun introduction to that sort of running that I liked."

Over the years, Moody has progressed significantly, participating in his first marathon at the Dallas

White Rock Marathon in 2001.

"That's when I got hooked, and I've run countless marathons since then," Moody said. "Racing wise, I also realized that trail runs are my favorite. I was blessed to have the opportunity to go on the Pecos Wilderness trip, and that love for trail running fell perfectly into place. After we got to our campsite, I would change into my running clothes and run for a couple of miles and investigate the trails. For about three and a half years, coming up on the four-year anniversary, I've run almost every single day."

After discovering his love for running in general, Moody got into coaching. For the last 15 years, he coached high school cross country at Ursuline, and he has seen many of his former athletes develop into avid runners like himself.

"I love teaching and coaching adolescents," he said, "because at that

age, you can start strong running habits early on, and that can really give you something to lean on later in life. I've had girls at Ursuline who have run in college, so it's been exciting to see them compete at the next level."

Moody also values the mental relief that running can provide.

"A lot of my former athletes continue to run on a regular basis," Moody said, "and we keep in touch. One of the things they've learned in college is that, whenever you need a study break, exercise is a great way to release some stress. Personally, I find some of my best thoughts when I'm out on a run. I think about what we're going to talk about in chemistry class, and what I have going on in the day. It's not always school-related thinking but oftentimes it is."

As the fall season continues on, Moody looks to prepare the middle school boys for the next level of

competition through various workouts and long runs around campus.

One of the easiest ways to find Moody after school is by spotting his colorful running attire, which he wears each day to provide a little bit of extra fun to practice sessions.

"I have acquired some wild tank tops and crazy running shorts over the years, Moody said. "I find that, if we're going to be running in the afternoon when the heat index can get up to 105 degrees, making the kids smile with whatever goofy outfit I'm wearing is a big positive. I try to be that bit of inspiration when we have those brutally difficult training days."



**JONATHAN MOODY**



FALL SPORTS UPDATE

# Football stomps SPC rivals in 3-0 start to the season



**HUNGRY LIONS** During the first home game with fans in two years, the football team sprints out of the school's inflatable logo onto the field bleeding blue and gold ready to pounce on their rivals, the Cistercian Hawks in their second SPC test.

**2020 RECORD** 1-1

**2021 RECORD** 3-0

**NOTABLE** The Lions trailed 13-21 in the fourth quarter against Cistercian before senior wide receiver Conor Duffy caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Alex Nadalini, and junior wide receiver Blake Malouf took a screen pass 71 yards to the house. The Lions defense then stiffened in the redzone when junior conerback Silas Hosler got a gamechanging tackle for loss on the 10-yard line, and junior kicker and free safety Jacob Weinstein sealed the game with a fourth down interception in his own endzone winning the game for the Lions 25-21.

**NOTABLE** In just three games, junior wide receiver Blake Malouf has hauled in 12 receptions for 330 yards and two touchdowns for the Lions.

**THEY SAID IT** "I think this team has a lot of potential. The new coaching staff is bringing a lot of positivity to our program. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can become at the end of the season and see where we can take ourselves."  
— senior captain Alex Nadalini

**Advanced stats:**

After senior captain and quarterback Alex Nadalini went down with a bruised femoral condyle and a minor sprain in his MCR during practice, Asher Wilburn stepped in to play against Ft. Worth Country Day. Wilburn was named player of the week by *Dallas Morning News* for his 374 passing yards, 3 passing TDs, 65 rushing yards and 2 rushing TDs. Conor Duffy also tallied 10 catches for 2 TDs and 257 receiving yards.

**Last three results:**

40-8 Win vs. Greenhill on Sept. 10

25-21 Win vs. Cistercian on Sept. 3

39-20 Win @ Ft. Worth Country Day on Aug. 27



**FINAL PUSH** Reaching the final stretch, junior Sky Park gives it his all at the Lovejoy XC Fall Festival on Sept. 4. The Lions placed third overall.

## Cross country team glides past 5-6A competition

**2020 SPC NORTH FINISH** 1st

**2021 BEST FINISH** 2nd place at Greenhill Relays

**NOTABLE** In their first race of the season, the Lions competed in the Greenhill Relays on Aug. 28. The Lions' A-team took second, while the Lions' B team finished fifth. The race was a six-mile relay (four 1.5 mile legs), and the Lions competed in the 5-6A division featuring teams such as Flower Mound and Jesuit. They lost to first place and SPC rival St. John's.

**NOTABLE** On Sept. 2, The Lions' top eight runners will travel to The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and compete in the Chile Pepper Cross Country Festival.

**THEY SAID IT** "It's fun to do something new after being confined to racing against the same schools on the same course last year. To come back out to the bigger meets like Lovejoy and Denton, where we can face much better competition, is super exciting."  
— senior captain Sahil Dodda



**UP IN THE AIR** The volleyball team returns a Ft. Worth Country Day serve with senior Rahul Gunukula's spike in a 3-1 victory over the eagles on Sept. 10.

## Volleyball team dominates in first four games

**2020 RECORD** 5-1

**2021 RECORD** 4-0

**NOTABLE** The Lions face SPC teams in 13 of their 16 matchups. Their three non-SPC games are against Excel Volleyball Club, a select squad previously known as the Texas Boys Volleyball Association. This opponent has been the Lions' main non-SPC competitor over the past ten years. In the first of their three-game series against Excel Volleyball Club on Sept. 14, the Lions won in four sets.

**THEY SAID IT** "The opponent I'm most looking forward to on our schedule is Trinity Valley—they've already shut out Greenhill 3-0. We also play them four times, so they'll definitely be a good team for us to beat."  
— senior captain Miller Trubey

**Last three results:**

3-1 Win vs. Trinity Valley School on Sept. 17

3-1 Win vs. Excel Volleyball Club on Sept. 14

3-1 Win vs. Ft. Worth Country Day on Sept. 10



**EN GARDE** In order to prepare for their tournament, the fencing team has already begun training in uniform on the basketball court east of Centennial Hall.

## Fencing prepares for end of season tournament

**NOTABLE** The fencing team will not play teams until their tournament at the end of the season. They do, however, have players playing in individual tournaments around the country. For now, the team has begun practicing on the outside basketball courts near Centennial.

**THEY SAID IT** "We are trying to get better as a club entirely. It's a really fun sport. I don't think enough people try it because it has a bad reputation. I hope we can get a lot more people interested in fencing as the year progresses."  
— senior captain Tomek Marczewski





**SCHOOL GATHERS** Students from all grade levels gather on the Perot Quadrangle, awaiting Headmaster David Dini's address to the school at the annual Convocation ceremony Aug. 23.

**the REMARKER**

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS  
10600 PRESTON RD. DALLAS, TX 75230

COMING TOGETHER

# Marksmen gather as year 116 begins

After a year of all things unknown, Marksman repopulate the school for a new year of classes, primed for a year of recuperation, rejuvenation, and — most importantly — 'normalcy.' The entire student body returns to in-person classes as they reconnect with the community and strengthen bonds.



**BACK ON CAMPUS** William Atkinson '95 returns to the school to teach sixth-grade Humanities and coach both Middle School wrestling and seventh-grade football. Students introduce themselves to him on his first day.



**ESSAYS** Freshman English students have their *This Boy's Life* summer reading papers collected by english instructor Michael Morris.



**CONVOCATION** Middle School students raise their hands as Student Council President Alex Geng recognizes new Marksman on campus.



**SCIENCE** The seventh-grade earth & space science class receives a presentation from science instructor Zach Smith.



**GOODBYES** Latin instructor Claire Strange talks to a student at the end of the first day of classes.