



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 63- Issue 9  
www.elrodeonews.com

## ERHS honored as Gold Ribbon School



By JAZMIN HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School, along with one hundred and seventy-nine high schools and one hundred and ninety-three middle schools, was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School.

The focus of the California Gold Ribbon Schools Award is to recognize California schools that have made astounding improvement in enforcing the academic content and performance measures endorsed by the State Board of Education.

These honorable schools are distinguished for their “academically successful, vibrant, and innovative centers of learning and teaching,” says State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. El Rancho High School, like many awarded high schools, provides a leadership role in “embracing rigorous academic standards, providing excellence and creativity in teaching, and creating a positive school climate.”

Assistant Principal of Curriculum Jazmin Chavez-Diaz says, “We were recognized for our Professional Development program. Our teachers and staff have done an incredible job of creating and participating in our Professional Development program.”

Furthermore, in order to be awarded with the California Gold Ribbon, the school must improve in different areas. Hence, Chavez-Diaz says, “Our academic gains are numerous and range from the increase in our A-G completion rate to our increase in our CAHSEE Proficiency rate. We can also include the growth in the number of students taking Advanced Placement classes and Advanced Placement exams. But, all of this success stems from the work of our teachers. Our PD program has given them an opportunity to share good practices and learn from one another.”

Mary Chapman, Assistant Principal of Activities, says “ERHS receiving the Gold Ribbon is a recognition of the success we have had, and it is an honor to have received it! I am elated and grateful to work with such a great team of teachers, staff, and students!”

Additionally, Chavez-Diaz said, “It is a wonderful thing to be recognized for your hard work. Our school has worked very hard, and we are very happy to have El Rancho recognized.”

## Wlasick and Hernandez awarded Teachers of the Year



Mr. Stan Wlasick, Ms. Jessica Kwek (El Rancho’s Principal), and Ms. Elizabeth Hernandez show off their newly won five-hundred dollars.

By MARISOL ALMAZAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AP English and Drama teacher Stan Wlasick and Spanish teacher Elizabeth Hernandez-Schaefer received this year’s Natalie Zucker “Teacher of the Year” Honors Award. Wlasick and Hernandez were each awarded \$500 for their outstanding teaching accomplishments. The Zucker Award is given to teachers who are nominated by other staff members rather than by students.

Hernandez had the honor of receiving this award after eighteen years of teaching at El

Rancho. “The true validation of this award was having both my colleagues and my students congratulate me and express their sincere sentiments,” says Hernandez. “Receiving this award is one of many ways that validates my work as a teacher. I am honored to have received this award alongside Mr. Wlasick, an icon of ERHS,” Hernandez added.

Wlasick’s outstanding academic teaching has earned him the Zucker Award previously. “I have taught at El Rancho since 1980. I won the award in the 1980’s when it was presented by the PTA, and I received the Zuck-

er Award once before in 1991. I believe that makes me the first multiple winner,” says Wlasick.

“I feel honored and appreciative that members of the staff believe that ‘an old dog’ like me can still learn new tricks and keep it fresh in the classroom. I love what I do, so this recognition is the icing on the cake. Any award or recognition that comes from peers has great meaning, as they understand what a teacher goes through day in and day out,” Wlasick added.

Wlasick is proud to recognize fellow teachers who were once his students. “I think the

greatest tribute to my career is that so many of my former English and Drama students have chosen careers in education. On this campus, excellent teachers, such as Ms. Christina Padilla, Ms. Lilia Carreon, Ms. April Leal, Ms. Kenia Kemp, Mr. Justin Diaz, Ms. Sylvia Elliot, Mr. Eddie Romero, Mr. Eddie Galindo, Ms. Alejandra Rosales, Ms. Xenia Castillo, Ms. Collene Valle, Mr. Gabriel Lopez, and Ms. Elizabeth Gregg were all students of mine.”

Wlasick adds, “Teaching is a noble and important profession, and I applaud any individual who makes the choice to be a teacher!”

## Eight seniors sign their letters of intent



The eight seniors during the signing ceremony show off their future college attire.

By ELIZABETH JACOME  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Records were broken, MVPs were chosen, and final choices were made. On May 28th, Adrian Palacios, Andrew Perea, Richard Cuellar, Melissa Gutierrez, Francisco Miranda, Jacquelyn De Loza, Destiny Cervantes, and Crystal Rodriguez were the eight student-athletes that signed their Letters of In-

tent to further advance their careers at a collegiate level.

Out of the eight students, four of them will be staying close to home, while the other four will be branching out across the United States. Palacios will be attending Whittier College and will be playing football. Gutierrez will be attending Caltech and will be running track and field and cross-country. De Loza will be attending CSU San Bernardino

and will be playing softball. Rodriguez will be attending Biola University and will be competing in track and field. Perea will be attending Concordia University in Nebraska to play football. Cuellar will be attending New Mexico Highlands University to play football. Miranda will be attending York College in Nebraska to play soccer, and lastly, Cervantes will be attending Odessa College in Texas to play softball.

The eight scholar athletes all have different reasons for attending the colleges they chose. Cuellar says, “I decided to commit to New Mexico because I was interested in playing there from the start, and they gave me an opportunity I couldn’t pass up.” Perea adds, “It’s a great opportunity to grow up by myself and to live somewhere where people don’t usually go off to college.” Miranda also adds, “Making the decision was easy because [York College] was offering me the most money and their league is very competitive which benefits me in the long run.” De Loza says, “I couldn’t pass up an opportunity to stay close to home and still be able to compete in the most competitive state for college softball.”

Cuellar says he was thankful for the ceremony because, “I was [able] to see all my family and friends watching and supporting me.” Gutierrez adds, “[I’m glad] I was able to thank my coach, Miguel.” Perea says, “I’m able to say I know where I’m going for the next four years and that college is paid for.” Gutierrez adds, “I’m just glad I’ll still be able to run competitively.”



## CITY VIEW

## Teen Court Annual Report

BY KAREN LOPEZ

This year, the El Rancho Teen Court made many groundbreaking accomplishments. One of them is that the club has held thirty-nine cases throughout the school year, and has heard seventy-four cases in the span of four years. Seventy-two out of the seventy-four cases were found guilty. One of the cases was dismissed and the other was proven innocent. The reason why the one case was dismissed was because it didn't meet Teen Court criteria. The Teen Courts have rules and requirements for those who participate in the institution. The case that was proven innocent was because the citation was wrong. When the students interrogated the defendant, they determined that the charges were incorrect; therefore the defendant was innocent. The El Rancho Teen Court has the lowest recidivism rate in the state of California at two percent. The club has listened to cases about petty theft, vandalism, trespassing, invasion of privacy, battery, marijuana possession, shoplifting, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The club has produced video tutorials to assist other teen courts on improving their operations. The club's website has over 9,645 hits, and 239 blog com-



ments, and managed to obtain two of the most important positions in the California Associations of Youth Court Boards. Mr. Elias obtained a position on the adult board, while Alexis Hernandez obtained the chairman position on the student board. The ER Teen Court experienced two evaluations by the Los Angeles Superior Court staff. Ms. Esther Yang says, "El Rancho Teen Court is the most sophisticated Teen Court I have ever attended." Also, Ms. Leslye Kasoff says, "The El Rancho Teen Court is the premiere and model Teen Court for California." The Teen Court has had 4,575 students in attendance. The club has an average of 124 students per session. The ER Teen Court has had 3,360 student jurors to date and 24 student jurors per session.

In addition to having two criminal Judges in California pre-

side over its court, El Rancho has the only teen court psychologist on staff in the country. The latest addition to the ER Teen Court staff is Ms. Rasha Gerges Shields, an El Rancho High School Alumni. Ms. Shields is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer who focuses on complex civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and internal corporate investigations. Ms. Shields is currently a partner at Jones Day Firm, one of the world's most influential law firms. In addition, the club has partnered with University of California, Irvine School of Law and currently has four law students assigned to the court; they are Adrian Arias, Marichuy Gomez, Coral Lopez, and Amelia Alvarez.

The ER Teen Court has various future objectives for the institution, such as improving the image and reputation of the district, city, and students. The

club will also create the only Law Academy in the Valley that will collaborate with Rio Hondo's Community College Law Program as well as include the district's middle schools. Moreover, legal resources and professionals will be linked with District and City disciplinary management through a Student Restorative Justice Council. This would allow the club to establish and maintain community network of student services. The greatest opportunity is the Cal-Quip Grant Student Restorative Justice Council. The goal is to successfully perform on our Cal-Quip grant opportunity. The Student Restorative Justice Council is targeted to create a gang intervention program through a school suspension diversion program. This would increase District ADA revenues through the mitigation of suspensions and trancies. It would also improve the image and reputation of the district through improved academic and disciplinary statistics. The program would be functioning within City locations, and students would be trained through SHADES, a 40 hour training session.

Although Teen Court had one of its most successful years yet, the club is always looking to innovate within the school, and at a statewide level.

## Building on success



BY JENNIFER DELGADO

Since 2010, the El Rancho Entrepreneur Club has distinguished itself from traditional high school campus organizations by focusing on socio-economic issues that impact the quality of life in the entire community. Although the club was organized to teach students about business, its mission statement also includes "service to the community." The club's accomplishments include a study that measured the impact of increased sales tax on local businesses; the creation of the "Trap the Dollar" campaign to keep the consumer dollar in Pico Rivera; the problem of public transportation for students within the city; the need to continue to support the "El Rodeo" newspaper; the problem of declining student enrollment on the local economy; the financial impact of student suspensions on the local economy and image of the school.

In response to the magnitude of distinct addresses and efforts, Club Adviser Mr. Elias says, "A great deal of attention was given to the work performed

on behalf of the students because the school district is not only the largest business in the community, but the largest employer. Generally, the studies dealt with the job losses resulting from public policy. What you do not hear are the number of local businesses that received technical assistance such as business plans, marketing and promotion plans, and social networking assistance from our students. Many of the greatest business supporters of the club are satisfied business clients."

Club President Anthony Raymundo says, "Our major accomplishment was the securing of the video production equipment that will allow the club to produce a monthly half hour cable program of student news, culture, and entertainment. Our biggest challenge will be recruiting students to replace our graduating seniors." Mr. Elias adds, "Mr. Raymundo and his officers are being a little shy on their accomplishments. This year's Business Intern Classes and Student Town Hall can also be added to the Entrepreneur Club's record of accomplishments."

## Teen Court Report

BY DARWIN REYES

The case of defendant Luna deals with penal code 594, which is the defacement of property with damage cost being less than \$400. The minor admitted to his charges and also led on to explain he had tagged on a park bench, as well as three other locations in the park. The minor tagged "LOONZ" in three men's restrooms at a park where there is known gang activity.

The consequences could be that the minor be beaten or killed by a gang, since he considers himself a "oner." A oner is someone who acts in criminal gang activity alone without assistance. Tagging on territory that is already "claimed" is considered to be a sign of disrespect; therefore the gang will act against the tagger in order to defend their respect.

The minor was shocked to learn of these consequences when explained by the Honorable Judge Horan. The minor's aunt took action in punishing the minor by attending school with the minor

every day. The aunt proved to be a positive influence and the punishment was decreased since his family seemed involved in his life.

J. Giron violated penal code 11550, which is being under the influence of a controlled substance. The defendant was suspected of possibly selling drugs and being in possession of prescription drugs. When summoned to the office for questioning, the minor exhibited the following symptoms: droopy eyelids, trembling, slow speech, and dilated pupils. The minor was tested for drug use and was positive for marijuana as well as Benzodiazepine, a sign of Xanax. The minor admitted to selling Xanax to another student and also admitted to taking the drugs in school, while going to his third period class. The defendant stated that he "got bored" in his third period class and wanted to know how it felt. The parents of the minor were surprised when the minor revealed he had done marijuana in the past, and were determined to have a firm grip on the son's habits.

## El Rodeo

**Advisor**  
Paul Zeko

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Odalys Chavez

**Copy Editors**  
James Chow  
Samantha Munoz  
Emily James

**Section Editors**  
News

Elizabeth Jacome  
City View

Breanna Perez  
Sports Champs  
Nataly Mauricio

**Features**

Laura Castro-Spencer  
Jazmin Hernandez

**Campus**

Randy Lazaro  
Elizabeth Jacome

**Class Favorites**  
Odalys Chavez

**Picture This**

Elizabeth Jacome

**Picture That**

Elizabeth Jacome

**Senior Profiles**

Odalys Chavez

**Arts & Entertainment**

Jasmine Hernandez

**Senior Wills**

Marisol Almazan

**Staff Farewells**

Marisol Almazan

**Reporters**

Saloni Patel

Francisco Ramirez

Jessie Hernandez

Valeria Hurtado

Matthew Aguilar

**Photo Editor**

Alexis Serrano

*El Rodeo* is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*.

*El Rodeo*, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers.

The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

Student journalists on the *El Rodeo* staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school regulations or disrupt school operations. At the beginning of each semester, journalism students will be reminded of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write.

Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.



# SPORTS CHAMPS

## Girls' Basketball



Being on the basketball team impacted my life in such a positive way. All of the girls brought so much joy to my life. At the end of the season it's always sad to see the seniors go, and now it's our turn... being 3-peat league champs is HUGE plus above all the great experiences. – Stephanie Munides, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## Boys' Water Polo



I'm proud to say I've accomplished a lot these past two seasons. I earned the title of MVP and first team Del Rio League for water polo. I made it to CIF with my relay for another consecutive year. Each day I grew even closer with my team, so as I move on to college I know they will continue to make me proud. –Nicholas Murillo, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## Football



Football season this past year was really great. It was the most memorable thing of my senior year. Winning league with my brothers was incredible. –Andrew Perea, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## Cross Country



I couldn't have ended my last season of track any better than winning the title as girls' varsity Del Rio League Champs. I am very proud of all my girls! –Sabrina Moreno, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## Girls' Water Polo



Making first team all league in water polo meant a lot to me because it made all of the hard practices worth it. It was a huge individual accomplishment. I am very proud of all my teammates. It was an honor playing with them. I know the underclassmen will continue to make us proud. –Sierra Edwards, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## Track and Field



My last cross country season was great! Girls' varsity won co-champions in Del Rio League with Whittier and it was fun to have spent my last year of cross country with our track coach Miguel. I will treasure all the friendships and memories I made. –Rebecca Guzman, 12<sup>th</sup> grade



## FEATURES

## Kimberly Cruz has a passion for fashion



Emily James loves poetry more than life itself.

## James sets fire to poetry

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"I never thought poetry was going to be taken so seriously in my life." Senior Emily James doesn't necessarily enjoy writing poetry, however, she loves performing. This passion was discovered for the first time in the bookstore with creaky floors.

James has been writing and performing poetry for as long as she can remember. Late May, James applied to become the Youth Poet Laureate, which is the representative of the Los Angeles county poetry scene for teenagers.

"I was asked to submit five of my best works along with a resume which describes some of the community service I've participated in." The winner travels around Los Angeles performing poetry and receives a book deal.

Mr. Sorenson was the person who inspired her to pursue the position. He sent her the link for the source and she found it interesting because of her experience with Get Lit.

James did not receive the title of Laureate, but she received honorable mention. She will be receiving a certificate to celebrate her success.

"I'm stoked. I've never received anything official for my poetry," says James.

James performed with El Rancho's Slam Poetry team two years in a row. Her junior year, she won a shorty competition with her poem "Decency" which focuses on environmental neglect.

A lot of her poetry focuses on her parents. "I like to write about my parents because it's a way for me to express how I really feel about certain situations. I especially like writing about my mom because she's usually a positive outlook within my poems and I'm trying to push myself to keep my poetry a little more positive."

UC Santa Barbara will be James' new home in the fall. There she hopes to join the Slam Poetry team. "I'm really excited about working with college students on poetry because I really think they'll push me to be a better writer. I'm really focused on performance right now but I think college will allow me to write at a more mature level."

James will be majoring in Film and Media studies, however, poetry will always be a major aspect of her life.



Kimberly Cruz and models pose in front of her logo sporting the dresses Cruz custom made for her Advanced Art class friends.

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

While most girls spend their Saturdays at the mall looking for the perfect outfit, Senior Kimberly Cruz ditches the crowded stores, long lines, and just makes her own clothes! On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the El Rancho library hosted its first ever fashion show, starring Kimberly Cruz's fashion line modeled by Mr. De la Loza's Advanced Art students.

Kimberly Cruz is a student in Mr. De la Loza's Advanced Art class, and when Mr. De la Loza noticed Kimberly's fashion sketches, he knew this was a passion Cruz should continue to pursue. "In my art class I help students find their way in art. In this case Kimberly is a designer

and when I saw her gravitating towards designing the dresses I suggested that maybe she should make some dresses and have a fashion show," said De la Loza, "And on her own she pursued it and this is the result."

Cruz is greatly inspired by her mother who's a seamstress. "I would always see her sewing and one time she was putting a beautiful dress together so I was like, 'Oh I should try' and I completely fell in love with it," says Cruz, "My mom thinks it can be difficult [pursuing fashion] at times, but if I keep my goal and set my ground I can do it. I couldn't have done this without the help of my peers and classmates, they helped me put it all together and my friend Reuben created my logo."

Cruz's fashion line includes

vibrant colors and long flowing fabrics. The clothes are made specifically for her models because Cruz took into consideration their body type, their personal fashion style, and colors that best compliment their skin tone. "I see everyday how they dress, sometimes gothic or super bright colors, and I designed based off that," said Cruz, "If they have red hair I'll put in something that matches their hair so it won't be so off."

The models for Cruz's fashion line were Cindy Espinoza, Amanda Delgado, Natalie Muñoz, Brianna Barrios, and Elyssa Torres. All of these girls are very different with equally as different taste in clothing, however Cruz was able to capture their personalities and styles in the wardrobe. Cindy Espinoza did the model's

makeup for the fashion show, and also modeled for the clothing line.

"It was a little frustrating at first, but in the end it was super exciting," says Espinoza, "Kimberly definitely captured my style because I'm a bit girly with some rocker and pin up in there. I'm also really petite so I'm very insecure about big clothes fitting me too long so she greatly understood my body type. I'm proud of her, no one else could have pulled all this off."

Cruz hopes to continue her passion for fashion after high school, and greatly encourages others to pursue their dreams. Even though it may seem difficult, it's obtainable with some hard work, determination, and a great looking outfit.

## Alexandria Parra is Simply Irresistible

BY JAMES CHOW  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Disneyland is my craze... I used to consider myself a giraffe...I want to feel Chris Evans' abs, and I want to softly touch his face." These are the little obsessions that the animal, Disney, and Chris Evans loving, Alexandria Parra has revealed to the world. What else can this shy city-girl from Pico Rivera be hiding?

"I'm scared of spiders. I can't even breathe next to a spider," Parra says. Oddly enough, Parra will probably have to examine spiders and other creepier creatures for a living. She plans on working with wild animals for a living.

Parra plans to establish herself immediately and on a high point by majoring in Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology at UC Davis in the Fall.

"I just always wanted to work with animals because I really love dogs. [However,] I thought it'd be cooler to work with exotic animals. As a seasoned animal documentary watcher and a qualified zoo-goer, I feel working with the wildlife would be something I was put on this earth to do. It's going to be a tough four years because I'm going to have to keep my GPA close to a 4.0 so I can get into vet school."

Good grades and love



Parra expresses her love for the environment and Chris Evans' abs.

for animals are always a plus for a *simply irresistible* candidate, however what distinguishes Parra from the others is her secret life as an author.

"I used to write fanfiction," Parra says. Fanfiction is an original fan-made jumbled creation of a TV series, cartoon, etc. Utilizing Wattpad, Parra writes fanfictions about character love scenes in Disneyland and has received a formidable amount of recognition for them.

"I have a lot of reads. There are 20,000 views at most in one of my books called *The Perfect Match*. It's a cheesy love story."

Though writing passionate love stories, those of which involve her and the ever-dashing Chris Evans, she also expresses much of her artsy nature through

watercolor paintings. "Watercolor painting puts me at ease. I love seeing the colors calmly [lathered] on the page. It's refreshing. It's a blue sky that makes me happy. Out of all the colors, I think my favorite would be light blue. This is because my dad has a light blue car named Stitch, and I've always loved that car."

What can be the most fitting scenario for an artsy, Disney-crazed creative mind? Parra's ideal trip is going on a Disney-filled adventure with Chris Evans.

"I would want to visit Disneyland Paris because it has an amazing Haunted Mansion. I would happily go on it with Chris Evans, and he can save me from the creepy fixtures, and pick me up into his arms when I get scared. I want to feel Chris Ev-

ans' abs and softly touch his face to make sure I'm not dreaming."

Nevertheless, this gal does make time for her beloved, and this special someone is not the perfectly chiseled Chris Evans. "David Juarez is my MCM (Man Crush Monday). He has the most beautiful eyes and the most perfect jawline. Did I also mention he's a smarty? That's a double whammy! Despite my ever-growing lustful interest toward the beautiful Chris Evans, my heart eyes remain only, my David." Ouch, sorry boys! This Pico Rivera inamorata is taken.

Moreover, this hopeless romantic likes to compare her physical attributes to wild animals. "I used to consider myself a giraffe. I used to be really tall, but now I'm short and everyone got really tall. Therefore, I want to be a killer whale because killer whales might seem nice and cuddly, but underneath they can be really dark. Did you know they eat great white sharks only for their liver? They're crazy!"

A lover of life, with 'life' not limited to her own, Alexandria Parra is naturally *simply irresistible*. Her extravagant success thus far coupled with a mild sassy flavor creates the perfect combination of smart and stunning. Be aware of this nature gal's existence in animal documentaries and zoos in the future.



## FEATURES

## Roldan reflects upon the past few months of his career

BY ELIZABETH JACOME  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"It was a humbling feeling hearing my name being called by 40,000 plus people in the stadium. I honestly got the chills hearing the crowd chanting and the people yelling my name," says mid fielder for the Seattle Sounders FC, Cristian Roldan.

Before he was known in the Twitter world as "CristianRoldan," the community of Pico Rivera knew him as "getactivee." From meager beginnings of having roughly 600 followers on Twitter, Cristian Roldan has attained a bigger following, gaining 4.3k followers and a famous blue check mark next to his name. He has also begun to establish himself as a professional soccer player.

Roldan's first professional soccer game, which took place on March 8th, versus the New England Revolution, was "a moment that [he] always dreamt of." He says being on that field was "a feeling I'll never get taken away from me. I will always remember every single little detail of that day." Since then, Roldan has also made his first career start during the FC Dallas game on March 28th. Roldan adds, "I remember signing autographs for kids for about ten minutes after the game. It's a moment in my career that I will always remember."

"Everything leading up to



Roldan giving the crowd a thumbs up during one of his professional games with the Sounders FC.

this moment has been a learning experience," says Roldan. "I think the older guys and the coaching staff should receive all the credit. Without them, I wouldn't be adjusting to the game as easily as I am right now."

"One of the guys once told me, 'you're young enough to be my daughter's boyfriend. I got to watch out for you.'"

Most recently, Roldan was called into the U-20 U.S. Men's National Team, which was held

in Linz, Austria, from April 18th to the 26th. There, he played in two games, one versus Qatar and the other versus Croatia. Roldan says, "It was definitely a weird experience. I was playing against guys who didn't speak English. I couldn't understand what they were saying, but they were able to understand me!"

"I get to travel a lot and that just comes with being a professional player. However, at times, I do miss my home in Seattle. I've

been gone for four days out of the week, every week, for the past month and a half," says Roldan.

The transition to the professional game has come with its challenges. After waking up early, performing his rookie duties, and practicing for most of the day, Roldan says, "I go home and automatically lay in bed because of how tired I am." He adds, "Your body wears down on you because of all the physical demands of the game." The hardest part of the

transition for him has been "the mental side. You have to be mentally and physically tuned into the game for 90 minutes." Roldan's nine professional games, four of them in which he was a starting player, all add up to about 250 minutes on the field. "Growing up is part of the process. It's technically my first job. I have to pay for gas, rent, and taxes; but it's all part of being a professional."

After a long day, Roldan goes home to hang out with his college friends and play video games. Roldan says he has played as himself on FIFA, but he has only played against friends that can take a joke. "In theory I'm not one of the better players on FIFA because this is my first year and my ratings aren't the highest. I put myself in because the guy I'm playing against sucks, so he has to be able to take that joke."

Roldan gets recognized every once in a while. He says, "I was driving with my brothers and this guy at the bus stopped recognized me and started taking a selfie from across the street. I, of course, gave him a thumbs up for the picture!"

Nevertheless, Roldan says, "I think all the people behind me only want me to succeed, and I hope I can give them something to support." With what he has achieved, at just the ripe age of 20, Roldan still has many more years of success to come.

## Bauer prepares to begin a new chapter in her life

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"I felt like the world was my oyster, and I could pick my jewel." A combination of "push and pull factors" prompted Marine Biology and Biology teacher Sandra Bauer to make the decision of moving to Germany at the end of this school year.

After teaching at El Rancho for eight years, a major factor that contributed to her decision was the frustration with immigration. "The immigration system is broken as a lot of people know, and they make it very difficult for anyone to stay legally. I am no longer willing to put any more money into the system if they do not want to acknowledge a person who wants to stay here legally," says Bauer.

Bauer had the choice to stay in the United States illegally or to leave and explore the world. She decided to apply to an international job agency which had her resume sent to many schools worldwide. She sat down with her husband with the atlas of the world and debated what her next move would be. "It was a fantastic experience to ponder where do I want to go in the world," says Bauer. The final decision was Germany.

Both Bauer and her husband are South African but they both possess German ancestry. "We came here to the states about

ten years ago, and we landed with a cat in one hand, and a bag of clothing in the other. So that is pretty much how it is going to be again." She will also be taking a few selected pieces of art that her students have made during the past few years.

Bauer believes that the best part about El Rancho is the kids. "They have made my teaching experience at El Rancho the best teaching experience I have ever had." She thinks that students at El Rancho are all very sweet and have a lot of drive and ambition but she is "very sad, because [she does] believe there is so much potential [for the El Rancho Students] and that is the single thing that I am going to miss the most."

While at Germany, Bauer will pioneer her new school's Marine Biology course which does not yet exist. She will be doing this at the AP (Advanced Placement) level and is ready to face the challenges that will come with it. "There will be much more in-depth research, much more practical application, more stats, and more math." Along with marine biology, she will also be teaching physics.

Bauer is quite nervous about learning German; although she will be teaching in English, she will have to adapt to the German way of life. Her husband has bought her the Rosetta Stone, so she can learn the new language, but the grammar frus-

trates her. She is currently reading *Lord Of the Rings* in German. Bauer even switched her computer to the German interface to try to wade her way through it.

Bauer will be teaching at a private international school in Hanover, Germany. "It is a beautiful little town. It is a fusion between old world traditional Germany and the new more modern type of architecture which is all surrounded by the Black Forest," she says. There is a lot of nature to be admired. "I will be cycling to work, trying not to hit a fox on the way," Bauer jokes.

Her husband lived in Germany when he was younger and always wished he could look at the castles, buildings, and beautiful architecture with someone special. And now Bauer is making his dream come true. "We definitely plan on spending a lot of quality time together," she says.

Bauer came from a single parent home and was adopted after she was taken away from an abusive family. Her mother "saved her" from a dysfunctional home. Bauer's mother worked two jobs to put Bauer through school.

Bauer now thanks her for offering her an education, so she is now taking advantage of the chances that her mother gave her. "It is about taking a hold of the advantages and opportunities that are given to you, making the most of them, and not throwing away your education.



Bauer is ready to create new memories and friendships in Germany.

That is the one thing that empowers you so much, and that is what no one can ever take away from you. If you have those dreams and goals, don't give up on them. Even though sometimes life feels really rough and hard and it may also look like all the doors are closing, it is at that time that you should look for light. For me, God has opened a door and shown me which direction to go in. Just make sure you are

setting yourself up for success."

Bauer would like to give a shout out to every student she has ever had and every person she has had in her room officially and unofficially. "Thank you for sharing your life and your experiences with me because every person that you inspire may inspire you too. We can make these profound relationships with people. Thank you for the things you have let me learn."



# CAMPUS

## Renteria introduces “Be a Leader” program to Seniors

BY VALERIA HURTADO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Monday, May 18th, Alma-Delia Renteria finished her first year running the “Be A Leader” program at El Rancho with high hopes for next year’s seniors. “Be A Leader” is proud to be working under Generation 1st Degree and the Cisneros Foundation, who are very supportive.

Over thirty-five students showed up with their parents and made the night a success. Many students had wonderful things to say about how Renteria’s hard work paid off in the end. Renteria wanted her students’ parents to get involved in this special moment of their child’s life.

Senior Lorena Rodriguez says, “The vibe in the room was very beautiful as were the parent’s emotions because this banquet was the first step into accepting that their child is growing up and is about to venture out into the real world.”

At the banquet, Renteria had many speakers who come from different backgrounds as do many students from El Rancho and proved to them that anything is possible if you set your mind to it.

Senior Arturo Gomez says, “The guest speakers that [Renteria] invited truly inspired me because hearing about someone from a similar background as me that has a good career and went to a well known university gives me faith that I can go anywhere I want.”

The banquet took weeks of planning, and the event could not have run as smoothly without the help of many students and some



Alma-Delia Renteria proudly awards the “Be a Leader” seniors.

faculty members. Students helped out by making the invitations, passing them out to students, and decorating the faculty center. “It definitely felt like a team celebration and I had the support of our principal, Ms. Kwek, who even attended as well as our College and Career Counselor, Mrs. Nasouf,” says Renteria.

Although the event was an overall success, there were still a handful of students who did not partake in the ceremony. “I know it was a Monday, so perhaps if it had been a different date, with more time, more of them would have attended,” says Renteria. “Still, it felt very intimate since it was a smaller group.”

During the banquet, students were given a pin and a cord to wear at graduation. Senior Esmeralda Quiroz says, “It was nice seeing students, who tried their best in school, get recognized for their hard work and accomplish-

ments.” Renteria helped many students who are either attending a four year university or going to community college. “Be A Leader helped me in many ways because [Renteria] answered my questions on certain colleges and made it easy to narrow down my career goals,” says Gomez.

Her students can all agree that they have a better understanding of what college life really is and how Renteria helped them to make their final decision. “She was very helpful when I was applying for scholarships, giving me tips when she was revising my essays, and informing me of college do’s and don’ts,” says Quiroz.

Many students took advantage of this program, but a few students stood out to Renteria. “Allysza Cervantez, Jazmin Hernandez and Ivan Chavez were always in the Career Center, and were always willing to listen to my advice,” says Renteria.

The students easily warmed up to Renteria. “I really liked how [Renteria] always had a positive attitude and was willing to help me with anything at anytime,” says Gomez. “[Renteria] is a great individual who has such a big heart and a lot of devotion to get kids to college, and I know she’s going to do a fantastic job with the class of 2016,” Rodriguez added.

With the school year coming to an end, Renteria is already preparing for her next batch of seniors. “Alma [Renteria] will assist with one to one attention because eventually everyone is going to need help applying to college and to scholarships,” says Gomez.

There are many people who are involved with “Be A Leader” across the country and students will not only leave with scholarship awards and acceptance letters, but they will also leave with a network of people they can count on.

“The program not only prepares students for the challenges of the real world, but also it helps them realize their value and importance to the world,” says Rodriguez.

Renteria’s goals for the following year include branching out to parents by creating a Be A Leader Parent Club, hosting more workshops each month, and more career exploration opportunities each session.

Many students are involved in many extracurricular activities, so she would like to make the program more accessible to all students who have busy schedules. “I need to get ALL these kids to college,” says Renteria, “Whatever it takes!”

## What’s Cooking?



The judges said Bon Appétit to A Night in Paris’ dish.

BY RANDY LAZARO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The closest thing most high school students get to cooking is putting a Hot Pocket into the microwave. However, El Rancho’s Culinary Arts classes needed to cook a three course meal. Many would look at this and say that this is a difficult task. With hours of preparation, with blood, sweat, and tears, not literally, being poured into their assignment, it is hard to say it was not a rigorous assignment.

Chef Luna, along with guest judges, scored the young chefs on categories such as safety, sanitation, teamwork, communication, performance, and the dishes themselves. To make things worse, they had to do it in under 80 minutes. The teams had to create a restaurant concept or a theme which they based their menus off of. Luna says, “The themes ranged from forests and jungles to fancy, mob-styled restaurants, each one being more unique than the last.”

Even the judges were impressed with the amount of effort the students put into their works. Special guest judge Carolyn Hennesy, who has been invited every year for the past five years, says that the students are “extraordinary.”

Hennesy is an Emmy nominated actress appearing on many shows and movies including *True Blood*, *General Hospital*, and *Click*. She says, “It’s so exciting and thrilling for me to come down here and be able to support these kids. I see great potential in them.”

Senior Sam Muñoz was part of the Great Gatsby kitchen. Muñoz says she started the UTC “very nervous” but was satisfied with the end result. “The judges stressed me out, but the fact that they really liked our kitchen made everything better. It was an overall fun experience.”

Muñoz’s kitchen was one of the teams that won. There was one winner each period except for first period where there was a tie.

Hennesy admits to have taken some recipes from the ER chefs. “There was this rose-water doughnut for a desert. I still have dreams about it. That doughnut was one of the best things I’ve had all my life.”

Chef Luna says, “I’m very proud of these guys. Almost every kitchen scored fives in all the dishes they made. They did really good.” Hennesy adds, “El Rancho High School kids give me hope for the future.”

# WORD ON THE STREET

What has been your most memorable moment this year?



“Learning how to prepare myself to go to college and looking forward to a new chapter in my life.”

-Ivan Chavez 12th



“Being on the soccer team, which made high school more fun, and hanging out with my wonderful friends I have here at school.”

-Adrian Thomas Lopez 10th



“Letting Breanna borrow my skateboard. And Laura. That made it a pretty good year.”

-Randy Lazaro 12th



“Riding Randy’s unreliable skateboard.”

-Breanna Perez 12th

“Watching Breanna fall off a skateboard in the parking lot.”

-Laura Castro-Spencer 12th



# CAMPUS

## Trauma Drama brings real life experience to students



Senior Andrea Montoya comes out of Mrs. Tejada's classroom after an earthquake that "injured" many students.

BY NATALLY MAURICIO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This month, Mrs. Tejada's Emergency Medical Responder class put on their annual Trauma Drama stimulation, where students went through a natural disaster simulation, and performed the skills they learned in class.

"The whole purpose of this was a way for students to be able to prove the skills that they

learned the whole year. So I decided to incorporate this Trauma Drama as part of their final. That way, they are showing me what it is that they do instead of just taking a written test. This is a great way for me to verify that they learned and understood the skill portion of the class," says Tejada. Each student that was involved played a different role.

Some students played victims of the natural disaster,

while others had to use the skills they learned to take care of the patients. "Each of us got assigned a specific skill and Mrs. Tejada went around making sure we were doing it right," explains Claudia Plascencia, the Medical Careers club co-president and current Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs).

The skills the students learned include checking blood pressure, opening an airway

for a patient who is struggling with breathing, stabilizing blood saturation, taking an IV, putting on neck braces, and putting on wrist wraps.

Every EMR student that goes through the class also becomes CPR certified. "We put on the Trauma Drama to show other people and students what it is that we do and what skills we have learned. Our other objective was to open people's eyes on

being prepared for earthquakes, since they are common in California," explains Andrea Montoya, the other Medical Careers co-president and current EMR.

Next year, Tejada is considering teaming up with the Forensics ROP class and putting on a new Trauma Drama simulation. "Maybe next year, we will put on something like a mass shooting. So now we will have a crime scene. That way, Forensics will be incorporated with Med. The EMR's will take care of the injured victims, and Forensics will take care of the ones that are dead," Tejada explains. For anyone interested in becoming an EMR, students are required to pass all the requirements necessary.

These include taking Mrs. Tejada's Med. Core class first which covers basic anatomy, physiology, and systems of the body, and passing both semesters with a B or better. In addition, students will go through an interview process with current Emergency Medical Responders and bring two letters of recommendation.

"There is a process to become an EMR, but once they are in there, students take it very seriously and have fun participating in hands-on activities such as Trauma Drama," Tejada says.

Any student interested in pursuing a medical career should consider taking Tejada's Med. Core or EMR classes should talk to his/her counselor.

## Student actors bid *So Long, 174th Street*



Sophomore Scottie Estrada and Junior David Lopez on stage during the drama musical production.

BY MATTHEW AGUILAR, JAMES CHOW, AND ELIZABETH JACOME  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

On May 7th, the Drama Department presented "*So Long, 174th Street*," a musical comedy about the misadventures of a young Jewish boy, named David Kolowitz, and his aspirations toward becoming an actor. At the same time, young David Kolowitz is dealing with parents that have always dreamed of having a druggist for a son. Thespian Troupe #2164, under direction of drama teacher Stanley Wlasick, performed the musical.

The performing actors spent many hours in rigorous rehearsal, all in an effort to per-

fect the musical. Despite all this work, the seniors are still appreciative of the musical's turnout. Senior Mia Castillo says, "The musical was so much fun! Rehearsals were tiring, but I didn't mind it because hearing everyone speak so greatly of '*So Long, 174th Street*' made me happy."

Devoted actress Brenda Brito says, "[The actors] were there trying to make [the musical] perfect." Senior Joseph Rodriguez says, "I doubted myself. This is probably the craziest thing I've done in high school. I spent so much time in the little theater for the musical. I was amazed by all the work that gets put into it. I'm glad I was part of it. Even though I was basically 'a tree' in it."

Mr. Wlasick applauds the performance of his actors. "Audience members were very receptive to the play's humor and got jokes. All of the students put forth their best efforts. Certainly, Daniel Lopez worked hard honing his comic timing and comic business. Abel Reyes worked hard to get the singing down. Shelsea Ascencio was marvelous in her cameo part in the "Undressing Girls" number. Jocelyn Huerta was a revelation with her acting and singing skills. Melissa Gallegos worked hard to get the funny nuances of Mama Kolowitz's character and songs. Vanessa Torres was brave to appear on stage as she did, but the laugh her cameo got was worth it."

## "Night of Spoken Words" speaks to the heart



Sophomores reciting their poems in Ruth B. Shannon Center.

BY EMILY JAMES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

April may be National Poetry month, but Mrs. Zeko's 10th grade English Honors class celebrates poetry for an entire semester. For the past five years, Zeko's students have participated in A Night of Spoken Word. This night consists of cover songs performed by students and original poetry written by the students.

In order to prepare for this night, the students must undergo an extensive writing program, which is taught under Zeko and other professional poets. This year, Zeko took a different approach and asked local poet, Eric Morago, to help teach her class.

Morago, who hosts an open mic night once a month in Uptown, Whittier, came to El Rancho every Thursday to help the students with the writing process. He did so by offering different exercises he utilizes when he conducts writing workshops. Be-

fore the show began, Morago had nothing but positive words for the students. These words were well received when the crowd began to chant "Eric" in unison.

While Zeko and Morago helped the students with the writing process, the performance aspect was a whole conglomeration of people. A large majority of the assistance for performance came from older peers who had undergone the program themselves.

Students from Mr. Sorenson's first period Creative Writing class assisted with their insight gained from their participation in the Classic Slam.

The success of A Night of Spoken Word is a testimony to the amount of work put in by everyone involved.

The sophomore students pushed themselves to tell their own stories in a new way, the teachers provided the resources for their students to be heard, and the older peers showed their support through constant guidance.



SENIOR CLASS

Most Outgoing



Bryant De la Torre Leslie Perez

Most Unique



Sergio Gamiz Samantha Castellanos

Most Likely to Change the World



Melissa Gutierrez Cesar Covarrubias



Most Athletic



Crystal Rodriguez Bryan Rojas

Best Hair

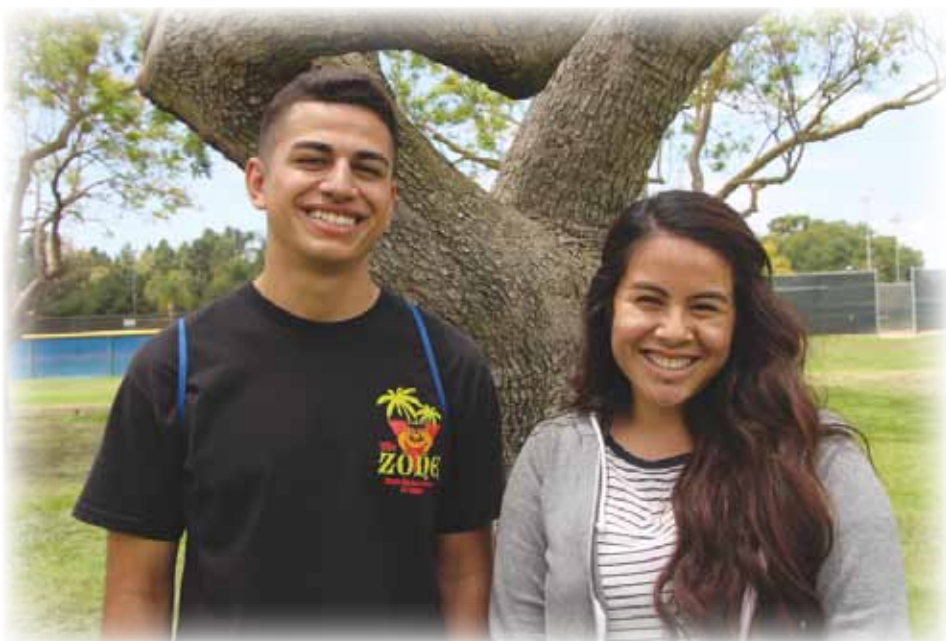


Raymond Lucero Jocelyn Hernandez



# CLASS FAVORITES

## Best Smile



Alexander Escobar Jasmine Armas

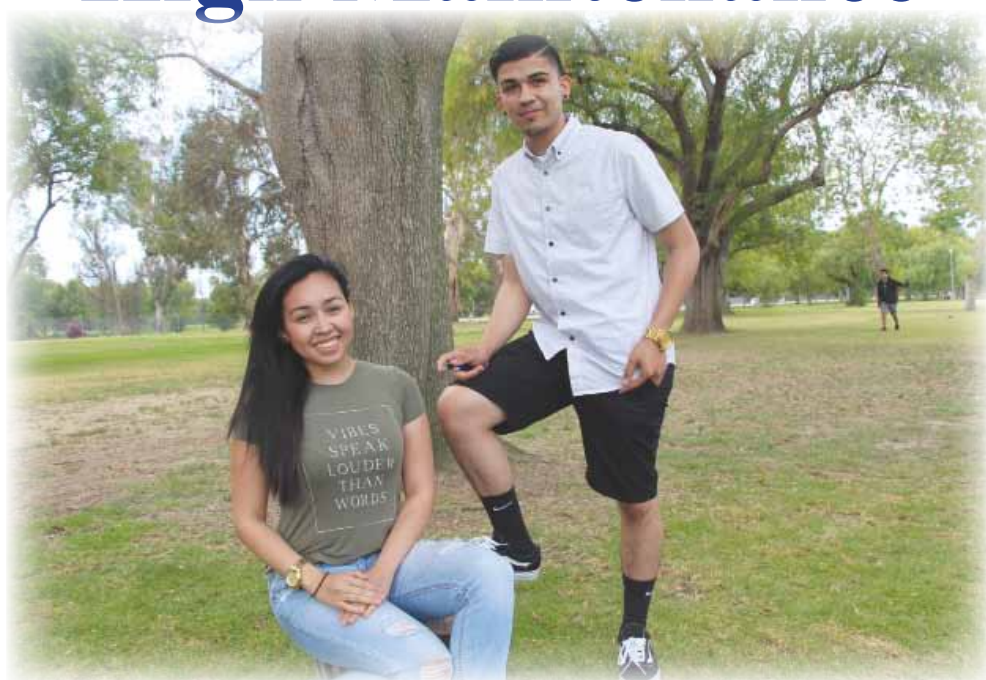
## Most Talented



Samantha Muñoz Fernando Sida



## Most High Maintenance



Dominique Aldaba Jose Avila

## Class Clowns



Sergio Gamiz Trisha Duran

## Best Personality



Cesar Covarrubias Sabrina Moreno

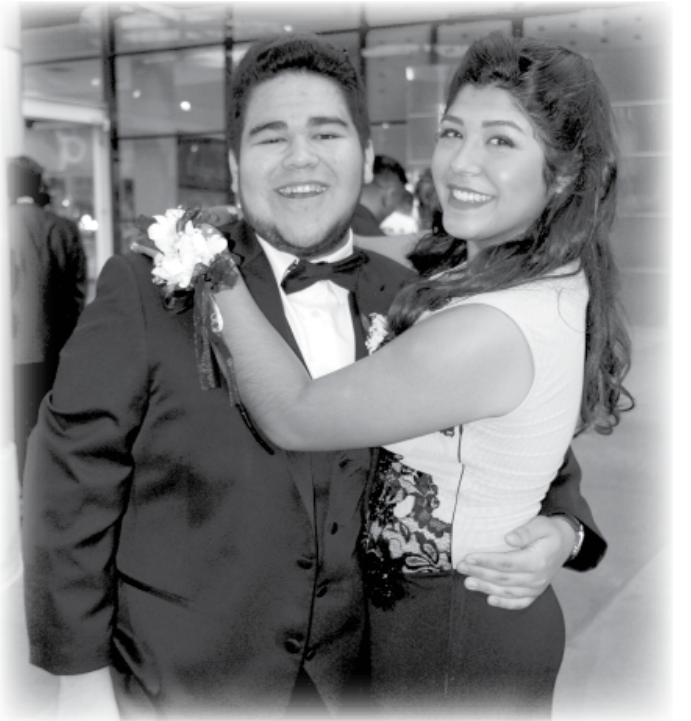


# PICTURE THIS

## Dons bid farewell to a "Big Blue" family



The 2015 dodgeball winners, the Italian Stallions, hold their In-N-Out gift cards, after winning a week long tournament.



Seniors Daniel Espitia and Jazmine Sanchez pose for the camera at Prom outside the California Science Center.



Sophomores cover under an umbrella on a rainy day in the quad.



Senior Cesar Covarrubias, showing off his Honor Crest Cord, alongside his parents.



Chef Luna's Culinary Arts class, and kitchen 6, creates "A Night in Paris."



Junior Jacob Amavizca performs during the So Long, 174th Street musical production.





# PICTURE THAT

## A finish filled with smiles, laughs, and spirit



Senior Ruben Rodriguez during Spirit Week.



Seniors enjoying their last Farewell Assembly by laughing and smiling.



Mr. Wlasick's AP Lit Class after he was awarded teacher of the year.



Seniors play with a beach ball at Senior Sunset.



Seniors show off their class shirts at the annual Senior Picnic.



Students run towards the ball during the annual week-long dodgeball tournament.



Dons at the library during the morning in preparation for finals.



Students and teachers playing soccer during Students vs. Staff week.



# SENIOR PROFILES



## Kimberly Serrano



I am majoring in Mathematics and Chemistry  
In ten years, I see myself working as a pharmacist or chemical engineer in a big, successful corporation.  
This summer, I would love to go swimming and cliff diving in one of the rivers in Mexico, which is most likely where I'm going on vacation.

## Sergio Gamiz



## Danielle Nunez



I will be majoring in Business administration.  
In ten years, I see myself back in California and having a stable job as a businesswoman. I will have met my husband and hopefully start my family by then.  
This summer, I plan to spend a lot of time with my family and friends before I leave. I also plan to find a job, so I can have spending money in college. I also hope to get a matching tattoo with my best friend Mitchi on my 18th birthday.



## HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

I will major in Business-Marketing  
In ten years, I see myself as an Entrepreneur with a business franchise. I want to manage a company.  
My summer bucket list consists of going to Hawaii.  
A vacation before college would be great.



## Jessica Mancera



I will be majoring in Business.  
In ten years, I see myself working as an accountant and also living in Southern California with a family.  
Before I go to college, I want to spend as much time with my close friends as I can. I also want to learn how to drive manual transmission so I can buy a Honda S2000.



## Manuel Mercado

I will be majoring in Biology.  
In ten years, I see myself happily finishing up my schooling and beginning my career. I also want to experience traveling to multiple countries before I start my family.  
Going camping with all of my closest friends is on my summer bucket list. I really want to make some good, last memories before we all go our separate ways.

## Carlos Guerrero



I will major in Computer Science.  
In ten years, I see myself having my own video game studio.  
This summer, I would like to go to the beach with my friends and be able to throw a party.



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY



## LUIS HERRERA

I will be majoring in Electrical engineering.  
In ten years, I see myself working in a career that I prepared for. I would also like to start saving so that I can buy myself a house.  
For my summer bucket list, I want to take a road trip with my friends from state to state.  
I also want to say all my goodbyes before I leave.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Forkin Good Cafe is a great place to grub

BY JAMES CHOW  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Uptown Whittier is teeming with small business shops, ranging from neighborhood boutiques to good-humored cafés and restaurants. If you had \$20 and you wanted to spend it on a dinner for two, find a date to go with first. Then, spend that cash on a homey lunch or breakfast at Forkin Good Café in Uptown Whittier. The conversational environment coupled with friendly waiters and up-to-standard quality food will make your experience at Forkin Good an unforgettable one.

Caterer and Chef Denise Portillo brought her culinary career into the limelight with the establishment of her café. “I wasn’t planning on opening a restaurant. I wanted to use the kitchen here to help out with my catering career. [However,] the city decided they needed me to actually open a restaurant on Greenleaf, so I went for it. I wanted to bring the whole foods concept to Whittier. I believe in eating healthy which means eating in moderation.”

When I walked in, the waitress greeted me with a genuine friendly “hello” buttered with a cheeky smile, an always tasteful touch. When I got to my table, I ordered a Cucumber



Mint Lemonade. The cucumber is very discernible; however, it compliments the sweet tangy taste of the lemonade.

The service was a little slow, but the wait was worth it. My seasoned turkey sandwich came after what seemed like twenty minutes. The artisan bread was cooked to a nice toast in the middle. The turkey was comfortably sliced and served with an appetizing layer of mixed greens. The sauce was a little

bitter, but it’s an acquired taste. Overall, the sandwich’s taste and its presentation delineated the café’s comfort food ambiance.

Portillo was not wrong in establishing a café with a conversational mood. “There will never be a television in my restaurant. I want people to communicate with each other. I think [communication is] important for people’s well-beings.”

Portillo’s preachings of quality, wholesome products are

exemplified in her food. Portillo says, “A lot of people complain that we take a long time, but we devote that time to making sure the customer’s food is as good and as fresh as it can be. We don’t do fast food.”

Saying the food is good would be an understatement. Portillo makes sure her product is the Rushmore of the Whittier community. To extend the pungent flavors of my meal, I ordered a white pizza consist-

ing of ricotta cheese, herbs, mozzarella cheese, and a pineapple citrus twang in the crust. The combination of the ricotta cheese and the fruity crust was a blended heaven for my taste buds.

One may ask why such an innovative, homestyle restaurant would have such an ingenious almost-vulgar name. Portillo attributes this name to her frustrations in the kitchen. “Most chefs cuss in the kitchen. When I was coming up with a name for my café, I tried to think of something french and fancy. [However,] my daughter critiqued the bleakness of a French name, claiming such a name to be ‘boring.’ When I was making the menu, my daughter suggested that I should name my café something that reflects me. Since I really couldn’t think of a name that describes the food, I took my daughter’s advice and named it after something that reflected me: a cussing chef.”

The friendly environment and tasty food of Forkin Good Café is the perfect local date spot. After you watch an affordable romantic comedy with your date at Starlight Whittier Village Cinemas, talk about it and enjoy a sandwich at Forkin Good Café. You’ll have a “forkin’ good” time!

## Students recognized for their art

BY EMILY JAMES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho is often praised for its athletic accomplishments. However, at the 33rd annual High School Congressional art competition, the Dons showcased their artistic side and received much approval.

Since 1982, members of the United States House of Representatives have hosted a high school art competition nationwide in order to garner the talents of art students across the nation. The winners within each district receive two tickets to meet the president of the United States and also receive the honor of having their artwork displayed in the U.S Capitol for one year.

This year’s competition was held at the Pico Rivera Centre for the Arts and involved numerous students from Mr. De la Loza’s Advanced Art class. De la Loza describes his experience as “enjoyable because [his students] created something new. I’m very proud of them.” De la Loza is praised for allowing his students the ability to grow on their own. He does so by allowing them to choose their mediums while working and by pushing students to gain their own style. De la Loza says, “It takes people a long time to find their own style, but these kids did it in such a short amount of time. I didn’t do a whole lot. It was mainly them being self-driven.”

Junior Karen Lopez is one of the students who showcased her work at the ceremony.



Members of the Advanced Art class are awarded for their rad artwork.

She explained that when she arrived at the exhibit she was “so impressed and the artists had a lot of good techniques.” She explained her feelings toward El Rancho’s pieces when she says, “We had really good pieces. None of us submitted anything mediocre. We put a lot of effort and time into it, so I’m happy people acknowledge it.” Lopez credits her ability to paint at a higher level to Mr. De la Loza when she says, “He’s actually a really well known artist and has a lot of great pieces out. When I’m in his class, I’m able to relax and feel comfortable about what I do.” Lopez’s piece is ultimately dedicated to her close friend Alexis O’Neal.

Along with Lopez, senior Samantha Castellanos had work displayed as well. Not only did Castellanos have work displayed, she received an honorable mention and a two hundred dollar reward. De la Loza elaborates that Castellanos’ piece, “brought him to tears. Her simplism showed so much maturity and insight.”

Her pieces evoked an emotional response from some spectators, and even lead one woman to ask if she could purchase the art. The piece is “meant to shed light on the ability for a woman to grow from a traumatic experience.”

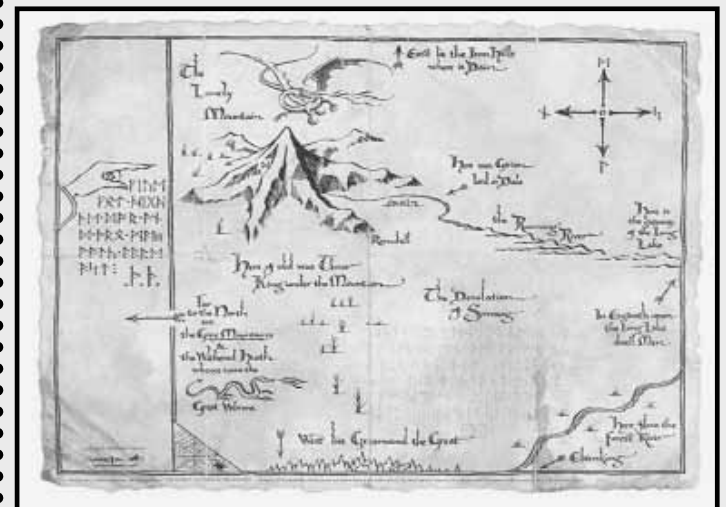
Castellanos explains her experience as, “very different from anything I’ve ever been to before because it was really professional. I liked seeing all of the art in our county because I feel like I’m limited to only art from this school.” Castellanos explains her feelings about receiving Honorable Mention as “a great surprise. My parents were very proud of me.”

Other honorable mentions were artists with a very different medium. Photographers from Mr. Zeko’s Digital Imaging class, Sabrina Moreno and Andrena Haro received recognition for their new-age skill as well.

Ultimately, the art show was a success on behalf of the students of El Rancho and brought attention to a growing community who appreciates art within Pico Rivera.

## LIBRARY CORNER

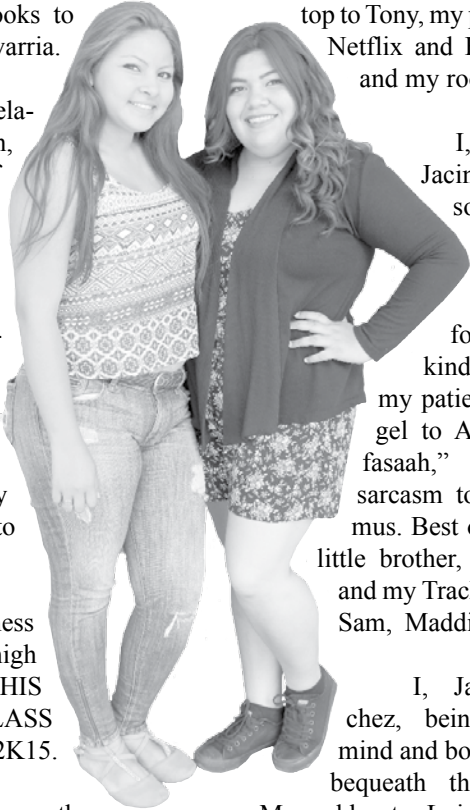
Name the map and the title of the book. The first three students who bring the correct written answer to the library will receive a prize.





# SENIOR WILLS

I, Ashley Magaña, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My swag to Sam Chavarria, my Disney pass to Sam Chavarria, and my good looks to Sam Chavarria.



I, Melanie Beltran, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My laziness to Brandon (brawn-don), my negativity to Elena, and my happiness to the high school. THIS IS IT! CLASS OF 2K15.

I, Samantha Castellanos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My right hand to Olive Ball so I can always hold her left hand in spirit, my mad skills with the ladies to Sam the Supreme, my mind to Mr. Wlasick because he's definitely lost his, my positive attitude to anyone who needs it, my confidence to all the girls out there, and my sweet tooth to all the bitter haters.



I, Karina Chavez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My NYX soft matte lip cream to Bianca, my smelly cheer shoes to Crystal, all of my hair ties and bobby pins to Desiree, and my awesome captain skills to Alyssa C.

I, Dominique Aldaba, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My pom poms to Janely Madrigal, my awesomeness to my dear brother Frank Aldaba, and my Pepster Jacket to Ms. Annette Sevillano, xoxo.

I, Diego Cervantes, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sense of humor to my good friend Sebastian Arzate.

I, Richard Cuellar, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My hands and my record to break to Zay Zay, my great eating skills to Mason, my famous RC3 number 3 to Marcos, and my spit game to Malachi.

I, Raymond Torres, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My P90x to Mason, my football number 7 to little James Garcia, and

my bathroom will remain RC3's.

I, Giselle Santana, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My laptop to Tony, my passwords for Netflix and Hulu to Joey, and my room to Jullian.

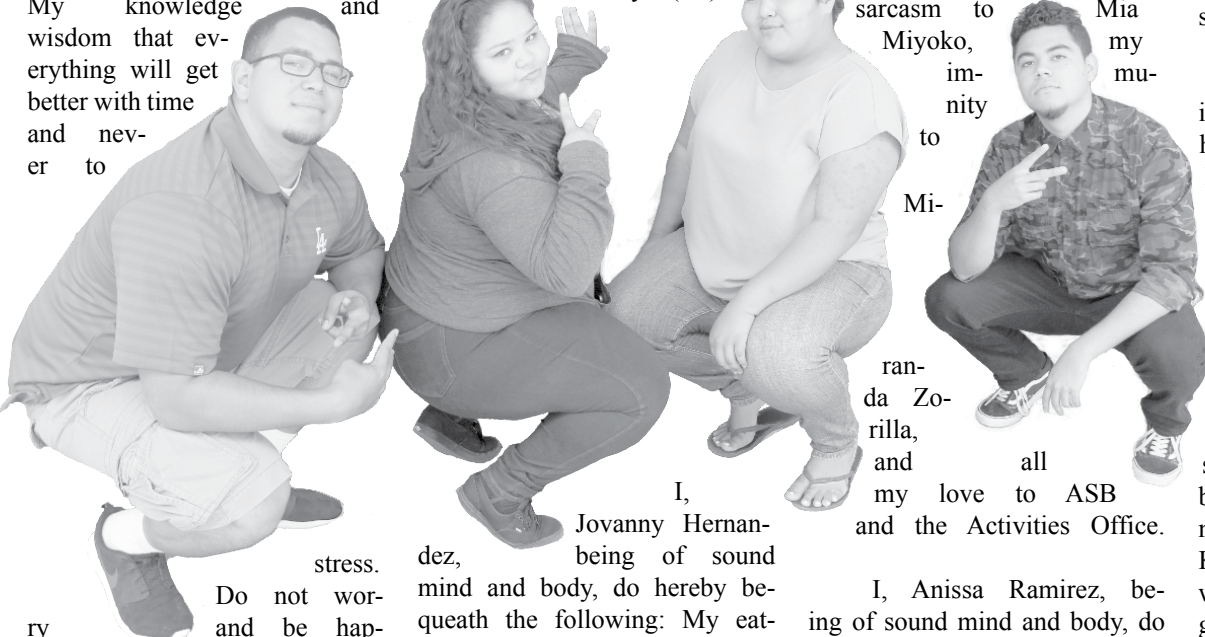
I, Kimberly Jacinto, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My kindness to Matt, my patience with Angel to Ash aka "mufasaah," and my sarcasm to Erika Lemus. Best of luck to my little brother, Pablo Perez, and my Track girls, Steph, Sam, Maddie, and Jazly.

I, Jazmine Sanchez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My cubby to Luis Garcia, my sassiness to Francisco Garcia, my word "Dirty Little Hamster" to Miranda Zorrilla, my last name to my brother Matthew Sanchez, and my cell

I, Sandi hyphen Rose Wood, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My drama locker to Jacob Amavizca (Yes, I meant to put JABOB.), my handshaking skills to my best friend, Daniel Lopez ("No, move your arm up and down!"), my constant mockery of Jacob to Anthony Cervantes and Vanessa Espinoza (If I'm not there to make fun of him, someone has to do it for me), and lastly, all of my heart, love and joy to the underclassmen of Thespian Troupe #2164. "Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

I, Nicholas Murillo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My leadership skills to Jason, my speed to BENCHEZ, and my weights to my benching buddy (LT).

I, Jovanny Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My eating skills to Kimberly Cortez.



are beautiful. I bequeath my football locker to my cousin Mason "Big Sexy" Gonzalez.

I, Danielle Nuñez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My position of ASB VP and my cubby to my best friend Francisco Garcia, my love of Taylor Swift to Erick Cortez, my smile and happiness to Mr. Romero, my unfinished high school drama to Maddy Meneses, my school spirit to

Miranda Zorrilla, and my soccer and captain abilities to Patty Herrera.

I, Savannah Ovaldia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Feminist rants to any misogynists at El Rancho, my vegetarian ways to anyone who truly loves animals, and my confidence to any insecure person here.

I, Luis Herrera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Shotput and Discus skills to Jesse, Adolf, and Carlos, and my love for Basketball to my cousin Susy.

I, Brandy Sandoval, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sassiness to both Francisco and Luis Garcia, my cubby to Sophia Roman-Lopez, my sarcasm to Mia Miyoko, my iminity to Mi-

I, Jocelyn Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My hair. When it's sunny you'll have shade, when it rains you'll have an umbrella, and when the seagulls come you'll have safety.

I, Christine Morgutia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My amazing procrastination skills to all of the underclassmen, my Derek Jeter obsession to Angie Valentino because she "loves him so much," and my great singing skills to all the future choir members.

I, Crystal Chavez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My late night red squad adventures to Kristie Machuca, my cravings for whoopie pies to Samantha Leggis, my matching track spikes to Elisha Lugo, and my cheesy

I, Alexa Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My car and GPA to Francisco Garcia, my leadership position to Yasmin Ramos, my school spirit at football games to Car-



I, Amanda Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My fabulous ink pen to Andrea Hui-zar, my sassiness to Balram Kandoria, and my smarts to Crystal Sanchez.

I, Rocio Barrios, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My shot put medal to Samantha Romero, my sense of humor to Jacklyn Reyna, and lastly my college acceptance letter from UCI to Fabiola Garcia.

I, Kimberly Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My blue pride to my little sister Cassandra Cerda.

I, Jasmine Armas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My attitude to Yasmin Ramos, my senioritis to my



Ling Ling, my Parks & Rec Obsession to Balram, my role as the ASB BALLA to Derek Peyton, my sassiness to twin #1, and organization to twin #2. Love you guys!

I, Jocelyn Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My amazing procrastination skills to all of the underclassmen, my Derek Jeter obsession to Angie Valentino because she "loves him so much," and my great singing skills to all the future choir members.

I, Anissa Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My chair in the ASB room, ASB cubby, and mic to Kelly Lugo, my awesome poster-making skills to Luis Garcia, my amazing eyeliner skills to Sarah Navarro and Serena Perez, and lastly my position (Pep Commissioner) to Mir (Miranda Zorrilla) for 2016-2018.

I, Rocio Barrios, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My shot put medal to Samantha Romero, my sense of humor to Jacklyn Reyna, and lastly my college acceptance letter from UCI to Fabiola Garcia.

I, Ashley Miller, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My love for the game to the Girls Basketball team. Create your own legacy, and continue to make history! I'd specifically like to leave my shooting skills and seat in the Varsity room to my Little Shooter Brit-tany, and my weird and energetic personality to Maddie. Keep being who you are and never change!

I, Adrian Palacios, being of sound mind and body, hereby bequeath the following: My locker to Zay, my linebacker skills to Mike, and my house to Raytee.

I, Christine Morgutia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My amazing procrastination skills to all of the underclassmen, my Derek Jeter obsession to Angie Valentino because she "loves him so much," and my great singing skills to all the future choir members.

I, Crystal Chavez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My late night red squad adventures to Kristie Machuca, my cravings for whoopie pies to Samantha Leggis, my matching track spikes to Elisha Lugo, and my cheesy

I, Anissa Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

I, Anissa Ramirez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:



# SENIOR WILLS

pickup lines to Randy Valenzuela.

I, Arturo Gomez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The high responsibility of keeping a high GPA to Noah.

I, Mia Castillo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My beauty to Ivy, my creative mind to Mir, my cubby to Balram, my flirting skills to the twins, my ASB Presidency to Ms. Huizar, my snapchat to Natalie Woo, my name to Mia, and my great listening skills to Mrs. Leal, and my leadership and poster making techniques to ASB.

I, Kimberly Guido, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sun dresses, good-hair days, and good looks to Monica Guido.

I, Alondra Alvarez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sneezes to Mr. Francis, my yawning to Mr. Wlasick, my senioritis to Jacob "Jacon" Amavizca, and finally my TI-Nspire CAS to Anthony "Melissa" Cervantes.

I, Steph Navarro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My soccer cleats to Elizabeth Lopez, my jokes to Coach Romero, and my fashion skills to every underclassman who complimented me.

I, Adrianna Yanez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My soccer skills to my sister Lucia, and my brains to my brother Daniel.

I, Anthony Diaz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My seat in the varsity room and my game experience to my little brother Nick, my dedication to little Turi, and finally my patience to the volleyball team.

I, Crystal Lopez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My volleyball skills to Arianna Silva, and my organizational skills to Vanessa Sanchez.

I, Areanna Figueroa, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sass to Kelly, one buttock each to Mia and Miranda, my attitude and enthusiasm to my twins Francisco and Luis, my stool to Sabrina, my amazing dancing abilities to Val Ann Bieber, and finally

my poms to my cousin Marissa. I'll always be cheering for you!

I, Brenda Aria Brito, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My locker to Daniel Lopez, my secret thinking spot to Xcaret Estrada, and the responsibility of geeking out over Game of Thrones to Jose Acala.

I, Jessica Mancera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My love for chocolate chip cookies to Kristie Machuca, my investigation skills to Samantha Leggis, my skittles wrappers to Miguel Paniagua, my track tool to Heaven Vasquez and Ashley Grajeda, and finally my Kanye shrugs + to Andrew Aguirre.

I, Elizabeth Jacome, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My El Rodeo Newspaper layout page to whoever is going to take it over next year, and my WSU acceptance to Francisco Garcia.

I, Sabrina Moreno, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sassiness to Sam, my patience to Miguel, my hatred of running to Kristie, my flannels to Jennifer, and my hoodies to Albert.

I, Ana Lezama, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My legacy to live on and prosper in

track and field to my siblings (I would love for them to beat our record), my optimism and determination in making a great yearbook to my yearbook family, my party planning skills to the next Dance Commissioner (I want them to have the strength in exceeding through everyday life), and my turtle even if I don't have one to Anissa lol. Don't forget the chip business haha. Rave on and stay groovy!

I, James Chow, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Deez nuts to Carmen Toscano.

I, Lorena Rodriguez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My best wishes for the upcoming Cross Country and Track seasons for the new generations of competitors, and my wisdom and dedication to my baby brother Moises Rodriguez. It was a great privilege to have shared these past seasons with you, and I thank you for sticking by my side. I love you and I look forward to sticking through YOUR senior seasons. Stay motivated. Stay humble. Stay hungry, and run on mighty dons!

I, Eveline Garcia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My wisdom and hope to the following generation of AVID students. I hope that they use the techniques and strategies efficiently and think well of the future that is ahead of them.

I, Alejandra Limon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My soccer skills and my soda addiction to Evelyn Alfaro, and my spidey powers to Kristine Gutierrez.

I, Veronika Vargas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: All my belongings to be split between Richie & Carmen.

I, Natalie Meneses, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Just Dance skills to Bethania Perez, my big smile to Diana Gamez, my procrastination skills to Madelyn Meneses, my hyped up energy to Luis-Francisco Garcia, and finally my other half, Koko, to Cbass, make koko laugh as much as I do.

I, Juan Flores, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: All of my pillow pets to Donald Brown.

I, Rebecca Guzman, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: All of my sass to Miguel, my toughness to Kristie (tough love is the best love), my soft side to Jen (I'll be your gf anytime), my fun side to Sam (even though you don't need it), and everything else to Jamie (\*sippin the tea).

I, Raquel Saldana, being of

sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My dancing skills to Valerie Ann Viray, my kindness to Valeria Gomez, my hair-spray to Kristine Gutierrez, and

I, Esther Espinoza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My paper, pens, and pencils to my sister Sandy, this advice to all the future Dons: listen to your teachers, study hard, and learn all you can, and, to my Mom, Dad and Alex, a big heart, and a special thank you for all of your LOVE and support. GO DONS!

I, Bryant De la Torre, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Sadly, I will not be bequeathing anything. The greatness ends with me (insert sad face emoji).

I, Valeria Hurtado, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My eagerness to try new hair colors to Miriam Arellano, my procrastination skills to Lindsay Rodriguez, and my nonexistent organization skills to Nicole Francis.

I, Marisol Almazan, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My never-ending, sometimes annoying, sass to Ruby Perdomo, my organization skills to Dons for Christ (specifically Mr. Brandt because God knows he needs them), my writing and layout skills to the future Newspaper Staff, and my procrastination skills to the juniors for beating us at everyting. I am still salty af.

I, Cesar

Covarrubias, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The legacy of the Math Club to Nikesh Kumar and Javier Torres, my passion for math and science to all who enjoy the subjects, and my kindness to all who also believe that Character Counts.

I, Gerardo Calderon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The legacy of the Math Club to Nikesh Kumar and Javier Torres, my awesomeness to Eduardo Bautista because he needs it, and my smartassness to Zackary Hernandez.

I, Kimberly Serrano, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My thugness to my brother, Carlos Serrano, my stress to Nikesh Kumar, and my awesome speed skills to Natalie Torres.

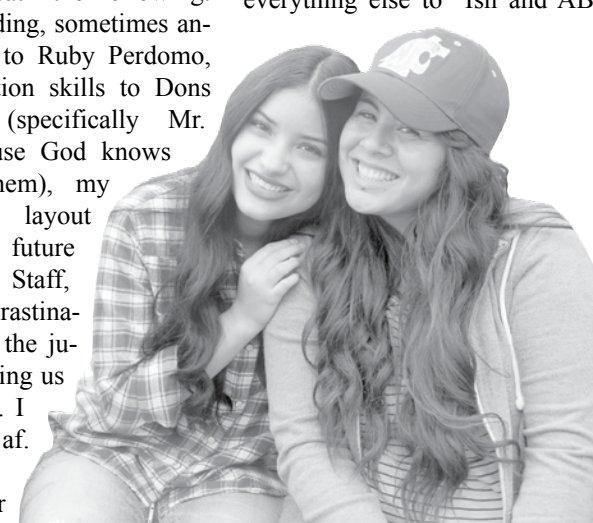
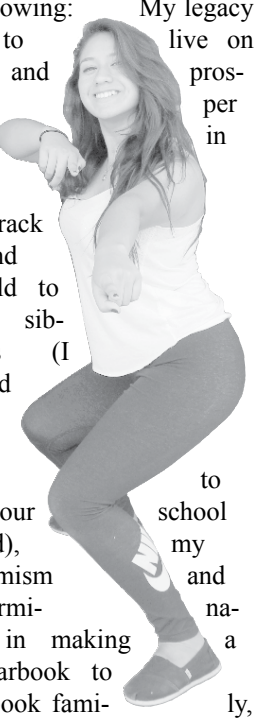
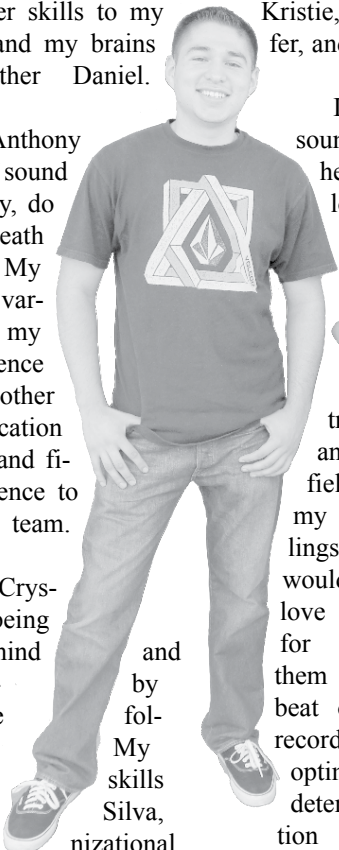
I, Tatiana Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The knowledge I have attained from Mr. Wlasick, Mrs. Senteno, Mrs. Elliot, and Mr. Leonardi in helping me become a better human to others and the environment. I leave it to all El Rancho students and faculty to be carried on for generations.

I, Jazmin Santos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My confidence to all the upcoming freshman who will need it to start their own high school experience.

I, Dorelia Villagomez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: all my lovely customers to the upcoming sellers. Make that feria!!!

I, Randy Lazaro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My last name to my little sister. She will be the last Lazaro left at this school... Well as far as I know.

I, Pedro Moreno, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sneaker game to Adrian Lopez, my comedy to Jorge, my roast game to Daniel Martinez, and everything else to Ish and AB.





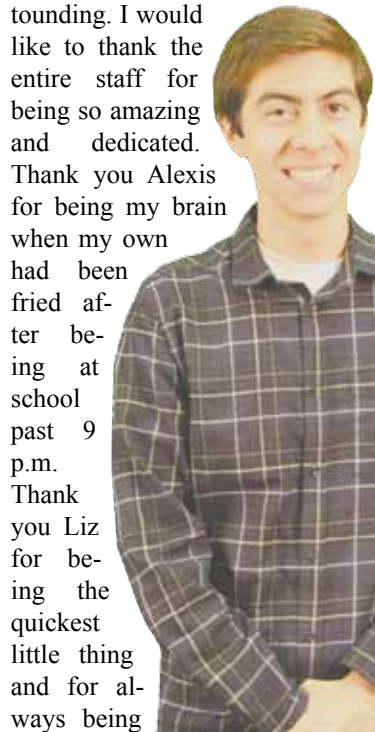
# STAFF FAREWELLS

I have never looked forward to going to a class until I joined journalism. Tuesday's were miserable days for me because I didn't have to look forward to every time I walked through X-1, I automatically felt at ease and in my happy place. I'm glad I was able to spend the two years writing a newspaper. I've counted working towards one goal, seeing my name in print. I've never been so dedicated to something in my life. Through this class I have learned so much about myself and others and I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for spending your free time with me in a dim-lit classroom along with our bald headed advisor. I also wanted to add that I'm thankful that I finally get the chance to clarify that I AM IN YEARBOOK.

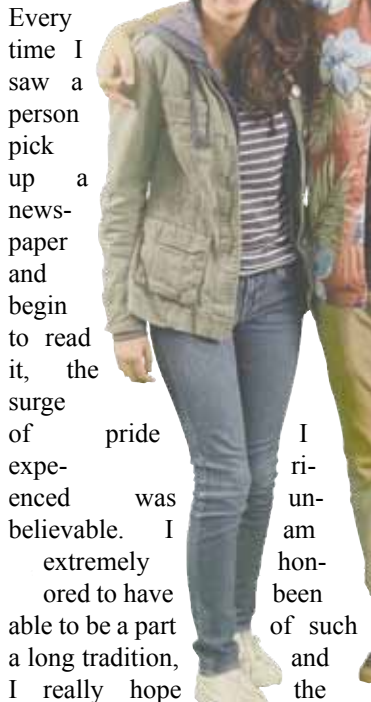


-Elizabeth Jacome.

This paper is by far the greatest responsibility I have ever had bestowed upon me. The amount of work that was put into each issue is simply astounding. I would like to thank the entire staff for being so amazing and dedicated. Thank you Alexis for being my brain when my own had been fried after being at school past 9 p.m. Thank you Liz for being the quickest little thing and for always being



as enthusiastic as I was about the paper. Thank you James, Emily, and Sam for editing every grammar error that I wasn't able to master in Wlasick's class. Thank you so much Mr. Zeko for being the best advisor there can be and for trusting me on my decisions. Every time I saw a person pick up a newspaper and begin to read it, the surge of pride experienced was believable. I'm extremely honored to have been able to be a part of a long tradition, and I really hope to be the next Editor in Chief as much as I do.



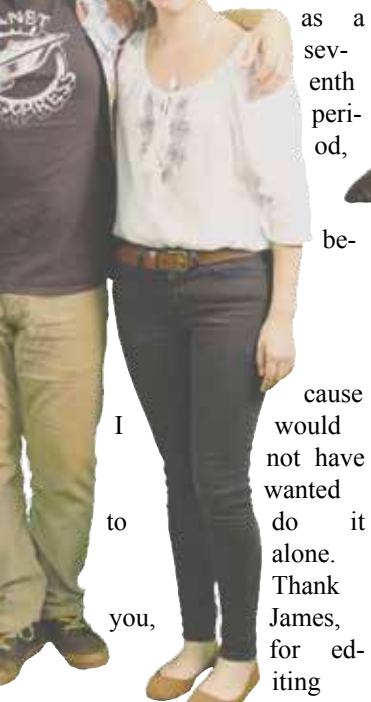
-Odalys Chavez.



The past two years in journalism have been very crazy. I've had very memorable moments in this class, like all of the hilarious Photoshop's we did of each other, eating pizza till our stomachs burst, and my favorite memory yet: The Zeko Christmas Tree. That was my creation by the way. ANYWAYS, I will never forget the people that I have met in this class and I am going to miss them dearly. It is because of these wonderful people that I stayed sane during our late hours of layout. Thank you guys so much for making these past years in journalism worth it!

-Marisol Almazan.

I came into journalism late, but never once did I feel like an outsider. The entire crew accepted me the moment I stepped in the class, and I am so grateful for that. I want to thank Odalys for convincing me to take journalism as a seventh period, because I would not have wanted to do it alone. Thank James, for editing all my mistakes and being cool about it. I apologize to Randy for always messing up his tetris streak. Thank you Sarah and Aly for the Shia Labouf inspiration. I will never be the same after that. Lastly, thank you Mr. Zeko for letting me join journalism late and for picking up the pizza.



-Emily James.

My time as an El Rodeo Staff Writer, I can assure you, would be something I would not forget anytime soon. However, if I get older and get Alzheimer's or some kind of cognitive impairment, I'd probably forget about it. Nevertheless, the friendships I've gained and the skills I've learned in this class are undeniably fresh.



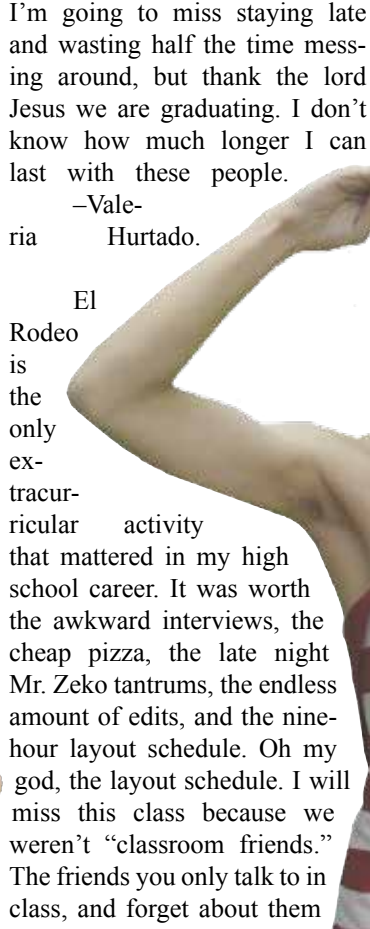
-James Chow.

I miss Journalism. I'm especially going to miss all of the laughs we've shared, whether in class, or editing afterschool the newspaper; I think we're all a bunch of pretty hilarious people. My favorite memories have to be the Zeko Christmas tree, the debate about what color that dress was, or taking my staff farewell pictures with Jazmin. See ya'll at our ten-year class reunion when all have kids and are in debt because of student loans!



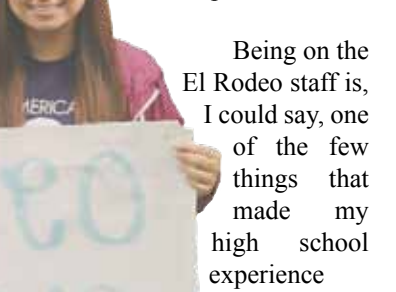
-Samantha Munoz.

These past two years have been so much fun. My favorite pastime was editing funny pictures for everyone to enjoy. I'm going to miss staying late and wasting half the time messing around, but thank the lord Jesus we are graduating. I don't know how much longer I can last with these people.



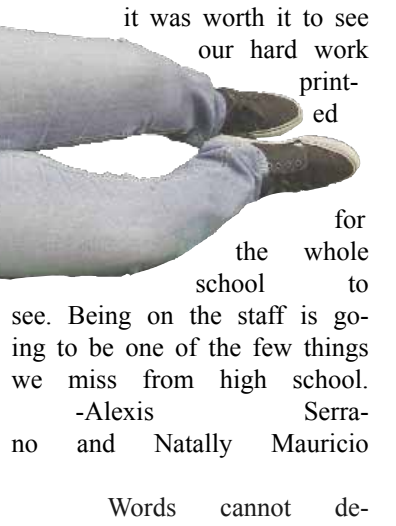
-Valeria Hurtado.

once the bell rings. We were a family. We are the people behind the words.



-Laura Edith Castro-Spencer

Being on the El Rodeo staff is, I could say, one of the few things that made my high school experience great. I'm gonna miss not staying here late into the night working on the paper. I bid farewell to all the friends I've made since elementary school. I'm gonna miss them a whole lot especially Michael, Erik, Benny, and the bench. It's been fun chillin', you guys.



-Randy Lazaro.

Although we only joined the newspaper staff because our friends convinced us, and we thought it would be like an open period, we ended up enjoying it more than we ever believed. The staff was like one, big family. At times we laughed together and other times we wanted to kill each other. Despite that, we wouldn't change this experience at all. We spent long nights together finishing layout while eating pizza and listening to Pandora. Making the newspaper was difficult, but it was worth it to see our hard work printed for the whole school to see. Being on the staff is going to be one of the few things we miss from high school.

-Alexis Serrano and Nataly Mauricio

Words cannot describe the memories in this room, hence, my fellow peeps and family: farewell!

-Jazmin Hernandez Vergara

I never thought the day where I'd be writing this would come but here it is! Journalism has been a nonstop blast with everyone and I couldn't ask for a better newstaff!

-David Hughes.