



An Interview with the New School Principal

with Nathan Wang and Mr. Affeldt

What are some of the biggest changes coming to Memorial?

“One of the most significant things students will notice in classrooms is the approach from staff. A focus group last spring found that students felt they were just doing stuff in class, and it didn’t apply to real life. I then followed up by asking other groups of students and found most agreed with this statement, that we could do a better job of being clear with why we’re doing what we’re doing in class. It shouldn’t just be teachers thinking about how you can apply this information. They should get students thinking about it by using student friendly language. This will be in three parts: Content, what students should know and be able to do at the end of class; Literacy, the literacy skills used to get there; and a Check for Understanding, to make sure students got there. This is responding to a student request, and not just an administrative change. I understand this will take time, especially when teachers are learning how to do this at the beginning of the year. Research shows this is one of the most fundamental components of high quality education and we are trying to work together to accomplish this.”

You mentioned a check for understanding, does that mean more quizzes?

“No, these checks will be more informal because teachers can’t make quizzes and grade them everyday and students wouldn’t want to take them. These checks could be as simple as holding your fingers out on a scale from 1 to 5 of how much you understand, or trying a problem by yourself on a mini-whiteboard and holding it up. This could mean that there might be more informal checks that won’t go in the grade book which will hopefully give teachers an idea of where to head without stressing students out”

As far as content learning targets, what does that mean for skill-based classes like photography or woodworking?

“With these classes, it shifts from content to skills. For example a teacher might say, ‘At the end of the day I’d like you to be able to analyze this photo and tell me how light and exposure affects the quality of the photo. Then by the end of the week take 3 photos that use different exposure levels to take good photos.’”

What are some of your goals as Principal?

“I want everyone to feel safe, welcome, respected, and included at school. I want this for students first and foremost, as well as families and staff. The school has a very long history of being very interconnected and almost feels like a family. I want to maintain that and extend that to others so they feel welcome when they come here everyday. I also want better communication so everyone will be more in the loop of what’s going on in the school and I want their opinions to be heard and acted upon. The ultimate goal is to create an environment where all students can be successful.”

What are you looking forward to this year?

“The conversations staff will have around what they want students to know and be able to do, and getting to know incoming freshman. I love noticing subtle but important interactions between upperclassmen and freshman to help them find their way here at Memorial. I’m hopeful I can live up to everyone’s expectations, and I want people to know I’ll try my best to maintain and grow the reputation of school. I’ll make some mistakes and hope people will understand. I’m also looking forward to reconnecting with Student Voice and having the every week conversations about how things are going for students.”

Can you tell us a bit about yourself for the students who have never met you before?

“This is my 16th year working at the school. Before that I was a science teacher for 9 years, a school improvement coordinator for 3 years, and an assistant principal for 3 years. I graduated from Memorial in 1991 and also student taught here during college. I attended UW-Madison and earned a Bachelor’s in Education and Secondary Science. I also received a Master’s in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, and Education Psychology. I’m married to my wife, Sarah, and we have 9 year old twins, Bryn and Henry. I was also the girls’ cross country head coach for years and the assistant boys’ cross country coach for a couple seasons when I student taught. I was part of a group of staff that wrote the grant that created the neighborhoods. Not many people know this because I don’t seem like a tattoo guy but I have a tattoo for my kids on my wrist that reads HB.”

Any last words you want students to know for this coming year?

“Beyond instructional purpose and all the different communication stuff I’m trying to put into place, to me the most important thing is that I want us all to become better people; to live out the Memorial way and the culture this school is based on.”



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Welcome, Freshmen! Advice from Upperclassmen High School: Pursuing college, Life Skills, and Fun

By Brian Luo

Welcome, freshmen! Your short time in high school will arguably be some of the most important years of your life. And that’s because from here on out, everything changes. Whatever happened in the past barely matters anymore. Good grades, bad grades — all gone. Most of your accomplishments before high school will no longer be recognized. Many of your old friends will become distant and will make way for a wealth of new friends. I know that’s scary, but it can also be relieving. It’s a fresh, blank slate; a new you, with new opportunities.

But this time, your slate is permanent. And near the end of this four year road, you’ll have to show this slate--whatever’s ingrained in it--to colleges. *I want you to understand what lies ahead of you these next few years*, because you can have an incredibly successful time if you follow some simple guidelines that others will overlook. If you take some time to read these tips, you’ll have a huge advantage just by selectively absorbing advice from someone who’s gone through most of what you’re about to go through. There will be overlap between advices, but they’re all still distinct enough to be individual tips.

1. Whatever you do, **always be conscious of college**. I know you just got into high school. But whether you like it or not, you are born into a small part of a system where colleges use these next 4 years of your life, turn them into a few pieces of paper with some numbers, and decide who will move on and go where. You can try and fight this almost-Darwinian system, but you’ll probably have much more success doing that when you become a politician or get a degree in education policy which obviously, you’d have to get through high school first. So regardless, you’re stuck for the next few years sucking up to people you don’t know sitting behind desks at colleges hundreds of miles away. It sucks, but it also sucks for me, your friends, millions of other people, and it sure sucked for the billions of alumni who survived this system. The good news is, it doesn’t have to ruin your high school experience at all.

The point of this tip is not to scare you. It is to give you a head start **mindset**, so that you don’t come into your junior or senior year with almost nothing good for college, because by then it will be too late. But what does being conscious of college really mean? It means to be constantly **aware of any opportunities to boost your chances of getting into a good college**, while still weighing the costs. Colleges look at a number of things: standardized test scores (sigh), grades, leadership, extracurriculars

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Student News

Get Involved at Memorial!

By Hamayail Ansari

Whether you're an incoming freshman or a senior already struck with senioritis, you can find clubs you'll enjoy here at Memorial that get you involved with your fellow peers and the community, all while pursuing your interests! To get you started, here are a few clubs at JMM with short descriptions that will help you determine whether the club is a good match for you!:

Sword and Shield: The newspaper you're reading right now? It was written by JMM's Sword and Shield Newspaper! The school newspaper focuses on bringing news, events, and popular topics to students and teachers. Get sports updates, horoscopes, opinion articles, and much more through the newspaper. New members are welcomed with open arms and can contribute articles, stories, pictures, etc., and can join the Facebook page Sword and Shield Newspaper. We meet every Thursday after school in the photolab, room 521.

Women's Club: Although a newer club at Memorial, the Women's club has already expanded to more than a hundred members. The purpose of the club to have "A place to openly share experience as women, build awareness of women's issues, share feminist media, and make our school and world a better place". Membership to the club is open to both boys and girls, and meetings are usually held in the Wisconsin Neighborhood Center on Friday mornings. Join the Facebook page to get updates and share news with other members: JMM Women's Club.

DDAF: This club consists of three main parts, Drama, Debate, and Forensics. The Drama club is responsible for three productions a year (including a fall play, a musical, and a spring play), along with the help of JMM's Stage Crew and Technical Theater. Debate and Forensics focuses on competitive public speaking, and each of these groups forms a very strong team bond. DDAF is always looking for new members, with meetings every Tuesday after school in Theater 300. You can also join the Facebook page JMM DDAF (Drama, Debate, and Forensics) 2014-2015 for updates and more information.

HOSA: Health Occupations Students of America is a club dedicated to providing opportunities for students to become more knowledgeable about enhancing the quality of health care in the community. The club usually meets every other week to plan fundraisers, and organize volunteer activities. The club also attends a yearly leadership lab,



She feels very excited to work as an administrator and looks forward to building a different type of relation with students as an assistant principal."

What are some of the things you'll be doing around school?

"The job is changing with the new teacher evaluation system in the state so I'll be helping out with that. I'll also be supervising AVID, the social studies and world languages departments so I will be involved in observing their practice and providing teachers support where needed. Some of my other responsibilities are helping students and family, I am responsible with overseeing fieldtrips that happen in the school, I help with professional development for teachers and also adjust how to manage the school."

What's something you want to do this year?

"I want to support and grow the AVID program using my 5 years of experience from when I did AVID at West. I have some goals for the program but most importantly I want to support the teachers already involved with AVID."

What are some fun facts about you?

- >>Used to cross country ski race at the national level for 5 years!!!
- >>Was sponsored by Rossignol
- >>Would be interested in being connected/supporting the ski club at our school (Memorial CC skiers might see her around!)
- >>Has a 7 year old daughter
- >>Her and her husband have rescued greyhounds for 13 years
- >>Used to be adoption coordinator for Madison area where she would place former race hounds and foster dogs before being adopted.
- >>Have had a total of 7 greyhounds over the years and 2 currently

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and competes at the leadership conference at the state and national level. The clubs meetings are updated on the Facebook page: JMM HOSA 2014-2015.

SYS: The Spartan Youth Service Club is JMM's largest volunteer club consisting of more than 200 members! SYS makes a huge difference in the community by providing volunteer opportunities to students at JMM. The club meets every Wednesday after school in the Fox Neighborhood Center (aka the Fishbowl) and

Yearbook: JMM's yearbook club is responsible for putting together the annual "Olympian" to document each unique year. Members select sections to work on and throughout the year, they take pictures, document, find quotes, and organize cherished memories from the year into another edition of The Olympian. This year the yearbook will be working with the Sword & Shield after school on Thursdays in the photolab, room 521.

Spanish Club: The purpose of Spanish Club is to help students interested in improving their Spanish speaking and writing through conversations in Spanish with other group members, as well as watching some great movies in Spanish. The club's meetings are updated on the Facebook page (JMM Spanish Club), but normally

Meet Mrs. Wesolek, the New Rock Neighborhood Principal!

with Nathan Wang and Mrs. Wesolek

A Little Background Info: Mrs. Wesolek used to teach at West High School as a social studies teacher for 18 years. During her time at West she also taught AVID in addition to social studies for the last 4 years and was on the AVID site team for five years. She also served as her Department chair for 3 years. As a teacher, she slowly took up more administrative duties and thought the shift from teacher to administrator would be good.

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What are some of the things you'll be doing around school?

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meet Thursdays after school.

BadgerBOTS: BadgerBOTS is a non-profit organization that sponsors various high school robotic teams that is informally known as Robotics club. The prime focus of the club is to expose students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through "...teaching, learning, creating, inspiring, and growing", all while giving them a unique opportunity to not only meet professionals in related fields, but also receive access to scholarships for college. If interested you can email Mr. Ben Senson at bsenson@madison.k12.wi.us, visit the BadgerBOTS website, or even come by 7615 Discovery Drive on Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 9pm (free of charge) to get a firsthand experience.

This is just a taste of the kinds of clubs you find at Memorial, and with over 40 clubs, various athletics, and opportunity to start your own clubs, JMM offers its students more than enough chances to get involved!

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Link Crew: Behind the Scenes

By Maryann Rehani

Being in 8th grade is a blast! You're at the top of the food chain. You've worked for this for the last few years and you're finally here! Then, freshman year hits. You're back at the bottom with circa 2000 new kids. What if there were a way that freshman year could be the best year of every high schooler's life? There is! It's a couple of words. 8 letters. No, not I love you, but Link Crew! Link Crew is a leadership program whose goal is to let freshmen have a great year! Each group has 4 Link Crew leaders and around 20 freshmen and meeting during PCT time.

We are here to help make the transition easier. We show freshmen the ropes of Memorial! Link Crew leaders are here to act as models, friends, and teachers for incoming freshmen. We get it; Memorial is a huge school, no matter what middle school you came from. Whether your 8th grade graduating class was 30 or 300, Memorial is a pretty big difference! Link Crew is here to help enhance the freshman high school experience! Our goal is to set the freshmen up for success.

Studies have shown that if students have a good year their freshman year, they're more likely to succeed in their next three years in high school. Link Crew is centered on the idea that students can help their peers succeed. Since

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& photos on page 9*

(specifically the ones that meant the most to you and you got the most out of), volunteering, maturity/work ethic, etc. Bottom line is, they want to know that you can succeed at their college and make their school look good. If you find a good way to prove that to them, then you will succeed in this respect. Good examples are challenging yourself to take harder classes (to your ability), spending a lot of time volunteering for a group, taking leadership positions in clubs important to you, or dedicating yourself to one of your passions through a club or other organization.

2. **Join clubs/sports and branch out.** You've been told this a million times, *I know*. But there is little to no harm in joining other clubs. High school extracurriculars are literally designed to be flexible with one another--yes, even sports. A lot of sports players will use their sport as an excuse to not join another club, but people do it all the time. If there is a club that you think you could maybe, possibly, enjoy, just join it. Seriously. If you have to sacrifice some clubs because of time or you decide you don't like it, then you can do that later. And guess what? You lose absolutely nothing. You might've even gained something.

One big reason that I see people reluctant to join clubs is because of peers. You'll invariably fall into some friend groups, and those friend groups will invariably be more inclined towards some clubs and disinclined towards others. It's difficult to break away from the mindset that you're similar to your friends and should join similar clubs and reject clubs where you won't have (your current) friends in.

My advice is simply to be conscious of this fact, and set yourself apart from whatever stereotype others have made you into. Join something that you would not think to join. For example, people might tell you that you are a "sports person", but humans are not defined by singular adjectives. You can still do sports and join forensics. Also (most) clubs are fun because they're usually chill, people are generally nicer, and people **genuinely want to be there**. They're a great way to meet new people, and maybe pick up a new hobby. An awesome example is DDAF (Drama Debate and Forensics). Very few people have ever tried any of these going into the club, but it remains one of the largest in the school, and dropout rate is extremely low.

The bottom line is you will **never** know if you like something until you try it. You can always drop a club if you don't. But you might just find a new passion.

Some other shorter tips:

3. **Commit to your interests.** After you branch out and find an activity that you really like, whether or not you liked it before, it is time to decide whether or not you want to commit. Colleges will generally only look at the extracurriculars that mean something to you or that you have spent a lot of time in, so make sure to decide on which extracurriculars those are and really develop them.

4. **Ask for help.** You will struggle in high school at some point (or many points). Memorial has so many resources, but many people will be too lazy or won't care enough to go out and utilize these resources. For one, you can ask almost any teacher or staff member. Remember that teachers and other staff are literally paid to help you, and it reflects well on them if they can successfully do so, so they have plenty of incentive. Another great person to ask is your guidance counselor. They're here solely to guide you through the confusing cluster that is high school; not just worry about your academic concerns. All you really have to do is show up to the Student Services room and chances are they'll be available; otherwise, you can schedule an appointment with them anytime. Finally, there are student tutors, and your friends, all of whom will likely readily help you.

5. **Volunteer, and track your hours.** Volunteering is amazing. It helps you get into college, and it intrinsically feels amazing to help out other people. You can do this through a multitude of programs throughout your community, but at school one amazing club that is specifically designed for this purpose is Spartan Youth Service (SYS). SYS provides a numerous amount of volunteer activities that are laid out for you on a silver platter. Take this opportunity and help the community. Also, have one singular document that just has a list of every time you've volunteered. Create that document ASAP, and use it for the next 4 years.

6. **Use your planner.** I know you didn't in middle school (if you did, I'm impressed) but this will make your life ten times easier. Write all of your assignments, anything else you have to take care of, dates, emotional rants, etc.

If there's one singular piece of advice that ties all of these together, it's **BE PROACTIVE (or assertive, if that makes more sense to you)**.

No one is here to babysit you anymore. Whatever you decide to do is for yourself, not for your friends, teachers, or parents. Like I said earlier: if you want help, everyone is more than happy to help you. But we can't read your mind, so you have to make your mind heard when you want something that they can help you with. Don't just wait around passively and hope that your grades will come up, or hope that the teacher will change your grades, or hope that people will start to recognize you. If you miss a good opportunity, it might be gone forever. So start taking the initiative early and come out good when your junior or senior years near.

Good luck, Class of 2018!

Link Crew: Behind the Scenes Continued from pg 1

freshmen are all in the same boat, juniors and seniors are the only students able to facilitate Link Crew. We do our best to show freshmen that their first year at Memorial isn't that bad! If you're given the right tools, you can do amazing things!

In the last few years, Link Crew has been a complete success at Memorial! Leon Pan, a returning Link Crew leader and senior says "In retrospect, I wish I had senior friends that shared their insight on school achievement, be it teacher paradigms or even the politics of club leadership. Really, I want to give freshmen a head start in high school." This basically sums up the opinions of the class of 2015, as they didn't have Link Crew yet. Many members of this class have told me that Link Crew would have been very helpful and that the

freshmen who have the opportunity to go through the program are very lucky! My class, the class of 2016, was the first year to go through the Link Crew program at Memorial and I don't know where I'd be without it!

So, if you're a junior and you're considering joining Link Crew, apply for next year! It's a nationwide acknowledged program that will look great on college applications, it's a really fun group, and the people in it are so great! If you're a freshman, make sure you make use of your Link Crew leaders! We're here to help you succeed! Whether you're coming from a school of 200 or a school of 2000, it really helps to have your Link Crew leaders there for you. To sum it all up, Link Crew is made up of juniors and seniors helping freshmen succeed during their first year of high school.

The 'ALS Ice Bucket Challenge' – What You Need to Know to Avoid Going in Cold

By David Luzzio

In the latest of seemingly ridiculous Internet dares, last spring's 'Cold Water Challenge' has been taken to a whole new level through the new and improved 'ALS Ice Bucket Challenge'. This time, instead of jumping in cold water, participants are, shockingly, dumping it on themselves, and they have a mere 24 hours to do so before being obligated to donate 100 dollars to the ALS Association. While looking past the astonishing originality of this trend, one must stop and think- is there a point to all this, besides gleefully

watching friends and family drench themselves in hypothermia-inducing liquid for fear of emptying their wallets?

The ALS ice bucket challenge has served its purpose though. Numerous philanthropists and ice water-adverse people alike have chosen to donate. According to the ALS Association, a grand total of 306,598 donors, including celebrities such as Jim Parsons, Chris Hemsworth, Bill Gates, and Kermit the Frog, have contributed thus far. In short, this challenge has performed nothing short of a miracle for the ALS Association, having raised nearly 41.8 million dollars since its inception last July. While this challenge may initially seem similar to other viral childish feats, such as chugging gallons of milk and choking down spoonfuls of cinnamon, it has served a purposeful cause. With this money, the ALS Association can continue to raise awareness for and contribute to research of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease for the famed New York Yankees' first baseman who was stricken with it.

ALS, a neurodegenerative disease, induces muscle stiffness, progressive weakness, and difficulties in speaking, swallowing, and breathing.

Approximately 30,000 Americans suffer from this disease today, preventing them from performing numerous physical activities. Later stages of the disease lead to abnormalities, such as severe weight loss, diminished lung function, and even respiratory failure. Although many have dubbed the challenge a joke and often complete it as though donating were simply a time penalty, the 'ALS Ice Bucket Challenge' is anything but. By promoting ALS donations and other charitable giving, this challenge will improve the lives of thousands stricken with ALS and other diseases. So grab a bucket, get a video camera, and head to the ALS Association website, because I not only challenge you to be drenched in gallons of freezing water, but also to make a contribution you won't regret.

Photo: Jacob Gonring accepts the ice challenge on Facebook

A Note From the Editor

By Nathan Wang

It's an exciting time of year! Freshman are getting used to the confusing hallways, Teachers are just meeting their new students for the year, and Seniors are prepping for their college apps. Though the new school year brings on an onslaught of things to do, it's important to remember to enjoy yourself. Do clubs you like and take classes that you're legitimately interested in. Turn school into a place that you want to be at and look forward to everyday. Just remember that having fun is just as important as learning and we'll have another great school year. And if the work seems to be overwhelming, just remember that countless others have braved the dangers of high school and we're no different. I look forward to the coming school year and wish all the Seniors applying for college good luck!

Life at Memorial Then and Now

By Hamayail Ansari

From the first day Memorial opened its door, the school that many of us refer to as a second home was inaugurated as a place that would "... develop students who are independent, self-reliant seekers of knowledge" (Principal Richard Gorton). Back then, in 1966, West Towne Mall did not exist and farms, cornfields, and barns still landscaped the surrounding areas. Now, students are able to walk a short distance to get to their favorite restaurants, stores, and coffee shops. JMM won its first state championship for boys' cross-country in 1967, and was home to only about a dozen extracurricular activities. Now after almost five decades, Memorial has founded over forty clubs and has won 65 state titles. Not only has Memorial been recognized for its athletics, but for its academics as well, receiving a National School of Excellence Award in 1991 and consistently ranking its students in state and national levels for the ACT and SAT. We've gone from writing letters and emails, to hash tagging new trends on Twitter and sharing our favorite memories on Facebook. Although Memorial has changed its physical appearance, with additions such as the Fieldhouse and expansions such as those done in the 1970s, it has always valued the Memorial Way to be Respectful, Ready, and Responsible.

Summertime in Seoul

By Caroline Zhou

Over this summer, I traveled to Seoul, South Korea, as a study abroad student through the NSLI-Y program.

Participating in an intensive language-learning program proved to be one of the best experiences I've ever had. Sogang University, one of the most prestigious universities in South Korea, provided a learning environment where forty-nine other scholarship recipients and I learned Korean for four hours a day. For the rest of the time, we were allowed to venture into Seoul and explore. Seoul, the capital of South Korea, displays the extraordinary historical and modern aspects of Korean culture. We furthered our understanding of Korean culture by living with a Korean

host family. By the end of the program, it was extremely difficult to leave after becoming very attached to my Korean family. Overall, I was very fortunate to have been able to participate in the NSLI-Y program, and am thankful for all the wonderful memories I have taken from it. If you're interested in a merit-based scholarship for learning Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian, or Turkish, in locations around the world, I strongly advise for you to apply!

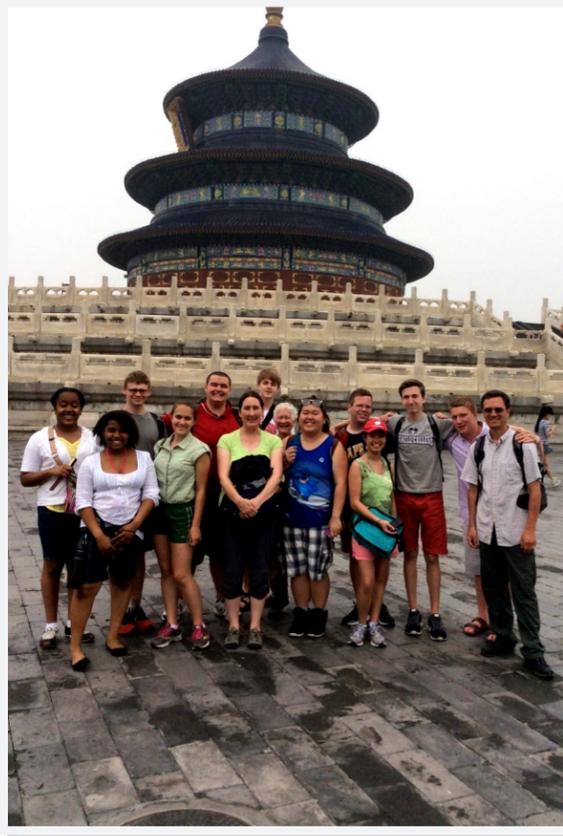
The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students and recent high school graduates to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs. (taken from <http://www.nsliforyouth.org>)



Summer China Trip 2014

A small group of Memorial and Middleton students went abroad this summer: not to Europe, not to South America. No, these students traversed the Pacific Ocean to enter the Middle Kingdom: the People's Republic of China.

Much time and effort went into planning the trip, as the travelers had several meetings before Jun 16. Meeting on Sunday afternoons in the Middleton Public Library, Chinese teacher Natasha Pierce and former teacher Claire Kottenbeutel taught the students about cultural courtesies, what to expect while in China, and about traveling abroad in general. For a few students, this was their first time out of the country, and these meetings helped prepare them for the experience.



Group photo at the Temple of Heaven. Front row (left to right): Alisha Campbell, Margot Wulfsberg, Natasha Pierce, Wendy Vang, Pan Jun Rader. Back row: Laela Ezra, Benjamin Townsend, Jacob Mann, Alex Delfosse, Claire Kottenbeutel, Timothy O'Shea, Benjamin Ropa, Baird Miller, David Ropa

The trip's itinerary contained a 3-day stay in Beijing, an 11-day host family stay in Zunyi, and another 3 days in Beijing. Unfortunately, a day of the trip was lost from the 12-hour flight, but after resting in the 5-star Hotel Otani Chang Fu Gong, the travelers were up and ready to go.

While in Beijing, the travelers toured the city on foot and by bus, seeing everything from the Temple of Heaven (pictured here) to the Great Wall to Beihai Park.

While in Zunyi, the students stayed with host families all related to Zunyi No.1 High School; the chaperones stayed together in a nearby hotel. Each day was filled with sight-seeing, exchange activities with No.1 High School, and having fun with friends and locals.



Overview:

- Number of People: 14 (11 students, 3 chaperones)
- Duration: Jun 16 to July 6 (20 days)
- Cities Stayed In: Beijing and Zunyi (北京 and 遵义)
- Sights seen: Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall Mutianyu Section, Pearl Market, Red Army Mountain, Jin Ding Mountain, Xiang Shan Buddhist Temple, Tea Fields in Meitan, Ox Street Mosque, Beihai Park, 798 Art Zone

For more pictures, videos and info about the trip, check out this blog: <http://jmm-middletonchinatrip2014.tumblr.com/>



Baird, Ben R, and Tim playing tennis with a local in Beihai Park.



JMM Art Department Goes to Europe!

July 7 - 17, 2014 the Art Department went to London, Paris, Barcelona and Madrid.

It was an exciting time. Look out for future trips!



(top left) The group at JMM before leaving, (top right) Sacre' Coeur De Montmartre, Paris, (left) the art team posing at Casa Batllo in Barcelona, (above) cooling off in Madrid after spending time in the Prado, (right) posing near St.Pauls in London, (left) at the beach in Barcelona.



Summer News

By Amol Rajesh

For those of you who have been sleeping for most of the summer, here are some important news stories you may have missed.

1.) 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil

This year's world cup took was exciting and full of surprises. The returning champions and favorites, Spain, were stunned in the opener by the Netherlands, who won 5-1. Spain later got eliminated against Chile in the group stage. Spain wasn't the only good team to underperform in Brazil: Italy, England, and Portugal were eliminated in the group stage as well. On the other hand, the less experienced Team USA surprisingly managed to proceed past the group stage. Team USA persevered even in the face of soccer heavy weights, Portugal and Germany. America's win over Ghana, draw with Portugal and loss against Germany was just enough for Team USA to advance. Brazil, which historically has been the best team at World Cup (5 time champions) didn't live up to expectations, despite having home field advantage. Brazil initially looked strong, but by the time they got to the semi-finals vs. Germany, they looked very shaky. To top it off, they also had to play the semifinal without its 2 star players: Neymar (Injured), and Silva (Suspended). Even then, the destruction that followed shocked the world. Germany scored an early goal in the 11th minute, causing Brazil to lose confidence that later caused them to concede 4 goals in the span of 6 minutes! Germany added to the pain by scoring twice more resulting in a 7-0 lead. In the last minute Brazil scored a symbolic goal leaving the final score at 7-1. This was the worst performance ever seen in all of Brazilian World Cup history. The World Cup Final was more enjoyable as it was between equally matched Argentina and Germany. The game was very thrilling because no one side seemed to dominate the field of play. At the end of 90 minutes, the score was still 0-0, which led the match into extra time. In extra-time Germany seemed to have the upper hand and it wasn't too soon before Mario Götze scored a goal in the 113th minute, which led to Germany's 1-0 win. Germany became the first European team to win the World Cup in South America.



2.) Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

Thousands have died in West Africa due to a deadly virus known as Ebola. Ebola is a rare virus that causes internal and external bleeding. The virus is extremely deadly, as the fatality rate can be 90%. The Ebola virus in West Africa originally came from animals and bats. When a human's skin or bodily fluid comes in contact with animals or humans exhibiting Ebola like symptoms, the virus rapidly spreads. Even though there is no known medicine or vaccine for Ebola, its spread can be prevented with intense sanitation procedures. Many of the deaths in West Africa from Ebola are a result of healthcare and burial workers being in frequent contact with infected bodies. It is unfortunate that in West Africa, many hospitals and communities do not have enough money to buy gloves or other necessary medical equipment to help Ebola patients. As a result, many brave doctors from around the world are coming to Africa to treat patients, knowing well that the journey to help others may cost them their own lives.



3.) Iraqi Crises

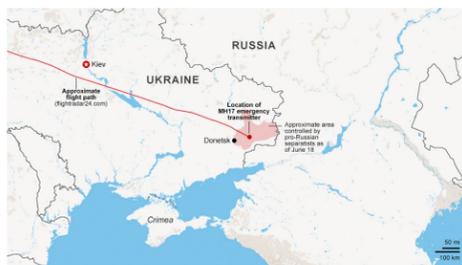
The crisis in Syria has crossed over the border, thanks in part to ethnic tensions and instability in Iraq. The Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS) is a terrorist group led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi that has plans to take over all of the Middle East to form a modern day Islamic caliphate (empire). Starting in Syria as an affiliate of al-Qaeda (terrorist group responsible for 9/11), the group has been aggressively fighting against western-funded rebels and the Syrian government. Known for its violent tactics, that range from beheadings, crucifixions and torture of enemies and civilians, the organization has been deemed too extreme even for al-

Qaeda, who recently cut their support for ISIS. ISIS has launched a huge offensive and has so far captured about one-fourth of the Iraq. The advances have led to an Iraqi army retreat from some military bases, resulting in ISIS getting access to money and heavy weaponry. Furthermore ISIS has also no toleration for non-Sunni Muslims, waging a war against ethnic Kurds and committing genocidal activities towards religious minorities, such as the Yazidis. Recently America has provided air support and military advisors to the Kurdish militia (Peshmerga) and the Iraqi army that has resulted in ISIS retreating. Iraq is a country that is majority Shia Muslim, but also has significant Sunni Muslim and Kurdish minorities. Some analysts say that the instability in Iraq is a consequence of the previous leader, Nouri al-Maliki not being inclusive of minorities in his government.

4.) Downing of flight MH 17

As the Ukrainian government continues an all out offensive to rid the country of pro-Russia separatists, the state of Ukraine remains in crises. However, on July 14th, the world was reminded how wars impact even the most innocent of people. The Malaysia Airlines jet took off from Amsterdam, Netherlands and was flying over eastern Ukraine to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia--when it was hit by a surface-to-air missile fired by pro-Russian separatists.

The explosion and falling impact killed all 298 passengers on board. The separatists initially boasted that they had downed a Ukrainian cargo plane, but later understood that their missile had a much graver impact. America and Europe have criticized and imposed sanctions on Russia for arming reckless groups that would down a passenger jet. On board were several world-renowned AIDS researchers, and a Dutch senator.



5.) Death of Michael Brown

On August 9th, Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was fatally shot by white police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri. There are many people in Ferguson who believe that the killing was racially charged, while others believe that it was an unfortunate mistake by a police officer. A preliminary autopsy report revealed that Michael Brown was shot a minimum of 6 times. What was surprising was that the initial peaceful protests were met with a militarized police response, which ranged from tear gas to tactical teams. The protests soon turned violent, as many protesters looted stores and threw projectiles at the police. The Governor of Missouri has requested the help of the National Guard and State Highway Patrol to help restore order and peace in Ferguson.

Sources: CNN, NBC, The Washington Post, and The New York Times



Model United Nations: What it is and Why We Need It

By Vishal Narayanaswamy

New York City is home to an incredibly popular Facebook photoblog, the Naked Cowboy, and dozens of restaurants claiming to be the "Original Ray's Pizza", but just next to the East River in Manhattan's Turtle Bay neighborhood stands the hub of global diplomacy- the Headquarters of the United Nations. This month, at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly (GA), all 193 member nations will gather at this site to deliberate and discuss ongoing global crises, the financing of multilateral operations, and the state of international relations. As delegates from everywhere from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe prepare to meet in New York, we can expect



the General Assembly's agenda to focus on peacefully mediating disputes- such as this summer's flare-ups in Israel and Ukraine- as well as setting a pragmatic roadmap for achieving the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight international development-oriented goals ranging from eradicating poverty to ensuring environmental sustainability. As the first deadline for evaluating the success of the MDGs is 2015, member states will likely emphasize the latter issue in the General Assembly, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has already launched a "500 Days of Action" campaign designed to draw attention to progress made by the MDGs.

And yet, while more effort is increasingly put in to highlight the good that the international community can collaboratively achieve, it seems that fewer people may actually care. Today, a gridlocked Congress on the domestic front and an often times- on issues ranging from Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea to the Syrian Civil War- equally impotent United Nations on the international front have eroded confidence in the spirit of collaboration. What a terrible shame this is, for in a time of division and distrust, we must make efforts to foster diplomacy. While we may think that the solution to these issues is an overwhelmingly complex and hopeless series of societal changes, thinking on a smaller scale may yield a surprising level of hope. From building students' ability to knowledgeably debate and speak to inspiring a future career in diplomacy and international relations, Model United Nations is the answer.

As was the case with many of my now-senior classmates, I spent the last months of junior year scurrying around the school gathering signatures for my National Honor Society application. In the midst of my mad dash to determine which teachers would write effective recommendations for me and which teachers saw me as a self-absorbed slacker (I would try to make amends with them, but I'm far too important to waste my precious time with that), I noticed an oddity on the application. Model UN (MUN) appeared as an option under "academic clubs"- checkable for one's résumé-building purposes- yet no such club, to my knowledge, currently existed. Upon further inquiry, I learned that MUN had been defunct at JMM for a number of years, after waning student interest saw the club meet with a League of Nations-like fate. Intrigued by the idea of MUN, I set out to restart the program. However, much like the vast majority of Americans, I hadn't the smallest clue as to how the UN- model or not- functioned. And so, with my proud ignorance in mind, it was off to camp!

In July, I attended a Model United Nations camp at Georgetown University organized by Best Delegate, the leading trainers, consultants, and experts on Model UN. There, I learned the foundational basics of the UN, its obligations and duties, and how Model UN prepares a cohesive simulation of everyone's favorite intergovernmental organization. As I learned, MUN conferences will typically last for three or four days, allowing ample time for speaking, constructive debate, and collaborate resolution-writing. There, students will role-play as delegates for a UN member nation, researching their country's policy on a particular issue ahead of time so as to be well-informed during the conference. A MUN conference itself is split up into many committees, each representing the different organs of the UN General Assembly or other specialized agencies such as the World Health Organization, in which delegates debate and collaborate to ultimately craft resolutions that address the conference's highlighted issue. Within committees, debate is split into moderated and unmoderated caucuses, with the former allowing delegates to give speeches highlighting their country's policies and stances on particular issues and the latter permitting the informal creation of working "blocs", or groups, of delegates whose countries share similar policy stances and resolution goals. With this knowledge in hand, I then attended Harvard University's Model United Nations conference in Hyderabad, India in August, seeing firsthand how delegates in committees of nearly 200 members each could debate the nuances of nuclear globalism (the conference's selected topic) and collaboratively form working blocs and resolutions. While not only providing an exciting travel opportunity, HMUN India exposed me to an array of skilled international students and diverse spectrum of political viewpoints.

After my invigorating exploration of diplomacy, debate, and damn good curry, my goal is simple: to restart Model UN at Memorial. However, one's personal experiences can only account for so much. Perhaps the most evident reason as to why JMM needs MUN lies in the activity's uniqueness. Unlike the competitive atmosphere of traditional debate, MUN values and rewards collaboration- for example, cooperating with other delegates to craft a resolution that addresses common needs. Simply put, the only way to "win" at MUN, and be the best delegate, is to bring out the best in other delegates.

And so, in a world where US-Russian relations are at their worst since the Cold War, the delegate cooperatively debating territorial sovereignty at a conference today may be the diplomat resolving the Ukrainian conflict tomorrow. In a world where the Syrian regime continues to violate humanitarian law by using chemical weapons against its own citizens, the delegate forming blocs to discuss human rights treaties today may be the diplomat uniting the global community against Bashar al-Assad tomorrow. In a world where Qassam rockets and Iron Dome missiles continue to be fired in the Gaza Strip, the delegates discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict today may be the ones brokering a two-state solution tomorrow.

And in a world where students value the spirit of cooperative debate and collaborative thinking, the delegates of Model United Nations today may well be the leaders of the world tomorrow.

Movie Reviews

By Jack Harrington

This summer I, like many of my burned-out classmates, went to the theater to catch the newest films. Here is a collection of the best and worst movies of the summer. To qualify as a "summer movie", these films had to have been released either after June 13th or before August 1st.

The best:

#1 - Begin Again

Charming, funny, well-written, wonderfully paced, beautifully filmed, and terrifically cast, *Begin Again* is a film that stays true to its heart while also avoiding cinematic clichés. The characters are relatable and likable, and Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo have great on-screen chemistry with a very believable friendship. On top of the excellent acting, the film's music is instrumental in progressing the story and is incredibly well written.

9/10

#2 - 22 Jump Street

Funny, on-point, and happy to make fun of itself as well as sequels in general, *22 Jump Street* is hilarious and entertaining. Only two shortcomings hamper this film, one being Jonah Hill, who seems bored for most of the film. Often, it feels as if Hill is merely reading his lines rather than acting them. The other problem is the presence of some painfully immature jokes in the movie, which luckily don't detract from the overall enjoyment of the film.

8/10

#3 - Dawn of the Planet of the Apes

While beautiful and very well paced, the general plot of *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* is incredibly unoriginal. If the apes in the film were replaced by aliens or even another group of people, this story would feel like a repeat of countless movies, books, and screenplays. To be fair, *Apes'* story is strong enough to carry your focus and interest from beginning to end, and aside from some awkward and occasionally poorly written dialogue, there's very little wrong with the movie.

The worst

#3 - Deliver Us From Evil

While not a horrible film by any means, *Deliver Us From Evil* tends to fall flat and add nothing to either cop or horror films. Moreover, it cannot seem to pull itself above repeating all of the tried and true aspects of horror and buddy-cop films: the "laid back cop" in the film makes jokes at inappropriate times, the lead neglects his family for his job, and scary music precedes the reveal of a mere housecat.

To quote Father Mendoza "Do you have any more stereotypes you'd like to throw at me?"

5/10

#2 - The Purge 2: Anarchy

While the first *Purge* film merely toyed with the idea of legalizing crime for 12 hours and examining its effect on society, *The Purge: Anarchy* takes this concept into full swing. But instead of using its premise for subtle social commentary (the rich "killing" the poor) like the first did, *Purge 2* takes off the mask and screams its allegory in your face while simultaneously screeching, "Look how clever I am!" The film becomes dull and overdrawn very quickly to the point where I was constantly checking my watch in theater to see when I could leave.

4/10

#1 - Tammy

Do you want to hear Melissa McCarthy and Susan Sarandon make uncomfortable sex jokes and have the most out-of-place rendition of *Thrift Shop* of all time? Yeah, me neither.

2/10

Robin Williams: The Man of a Thousand Characters and Voices

1951-2014

By David Cao



Over the summer, we were all shaken when we learned that genius actor, comedian, film producer, and screenwriter Robin Williams passed away. He was indeed one-of-a-kind and probably considered one of the best, funniest comedians of all time.

Williams, ironically, was completely unlike the comedian he became when he was younger. Born in Chicago in 1951 to a modeling mother and a father who was a senior executive at Ford Motor Company, he was unusually quiet and shy in his primary and middle schooling years. Nevertheless, he excelled in school, joined the school's soccer

and wrestling team, and became the class president. Later, he moved twice, first to a 40-room farm house in Detroit before settling in California, where Williams attended Redwood High School. It was not until he joined his high school's drama department that his comedic character emerged from within him. He graduated in 1969 and was voted both "funniest" and "least likely to succeed."

But sure enough, he developed a very successful career as a comedian. He attended Claremont Men's College and later got a full



Aries (Mar 21 - April 19) Your independent nature will give way to many opportunities at the beginning of the school year! You're not one to run away from risks, so don't hesitate!

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Indulge in some much needed back to school shopping with some of your buddies, Taurus! This will give you a chance to relax and catch up with your friends!



Gemini (May 21 - June 20) The sociable atmosphere that comes along with a new school year will bring out your talkative personality! This quality will help you get to know everyone in your classes!

Cancer (June 21 - Jul 22) You'll be happy and healthy at the beginning of the year and you'll also be drawn to joining nearly all of the clubs! Let go of any shyness you have and you'll reap all the benefits!



Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) You feel energetic and fresh at the beginning of the year! Show your school spirit, and head down to any social/sporting events at school!

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22) A new year may seem scary, but will be able to handle whatever comes your way like a pro! Don't forget to rewind when you get home to end the day stress-free!



Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) With a balancing scale as your symbol, Libra, it's no wonder that you are able to balance your schedule at the start of the year! Any spur of the moment events won't take you by surprise!

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Join some art classes this year, Scorpio! You are quite talented when it comes to the arts. Your creative character will give you an advantage!



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Embrace your adventurous nature and let it take you places! Go out for those sports or clubs that you've always wanted to join. Now is the time!

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) The start of the school year may be hectic, Capricorn, but your hardworking nature will get you through your busy schedule! Don't forget to have fun though!



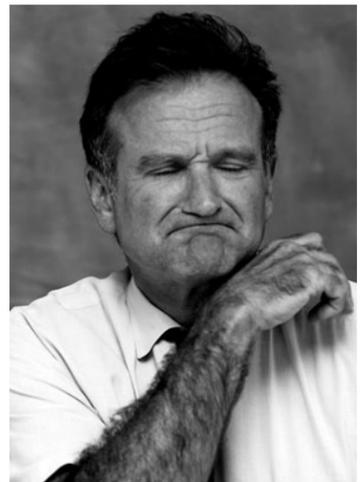
Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) The new school year will bring plenty of new faces, as well as give you an opportunity to reconnect with some old ones! Make the most of your vibrant energy!

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) You are on a path that will boost your confidence, Pisces! Be as outgoing as you can because you won't regret it!



scholarship to study at New York's premier arts school Julliard. That year, he was one of only two freshman students to be accepted by John Houseman into the Julliard Advanced Program; the other freshman was Christopher Reeve. After learning all he could from John Houseman, he left Julliard to pursue his career as a comedian. He started off doing stand-up comedy shows in the San Francisco Bay Area, soon moving to Los Angeles. His talents and fame as a comedian accrued as he performed around Los Angeles. Williams' career flourished after his appearance as the high, nasal voiced alien Mork in a 1978 episode of the TV series *Happy Days*. His character was so popular with the viewers that it led to the starting of a hit television sitcom, *Mork & Mindy*, which ran for 4 years from 1978 to 1982.

His fame continued, as he was featured in various TV talk shows and films. His work and humor in his films was soon known nationwide. Some awards Williams has won include the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, two Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards and five Grammy Awards. He's been in 56 movies; some of his most famous include *Popeye* (1980), *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987), *Hook* (1991), *Aladdin* (1992), *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993), *Jumanji* (1995), and the two *Night at the Museum* films (2006 & 2009). His talent, his brilliant mind, his fast and quirky jokes, his voice, and his impersonations will surely be missed for years to come.



How to Tackle College Essays with a Little Advice from Ernest Hemingway

By Shalini Patro

On August 1st, 2014 at 8:00 o'clock in the morning the Common App opened its doors to the incoming Class of 2015. That same day, hundreds of thousands of upcoming high school seniors could be heard across the country having meltdowns: some crying, some screaming, some even *smiling*, but there was no denying that *all* were anxious about the college application process finally starting.

If you (or a loved one) have had the pleasure of knowing a senior during this time, it may be hard not to notice the fear in their eyes, the steady stream of complaints rolling off their tongue, or the high levels of stress that seem to suffocate the atmosphere around them. If in that situation, you may be thinking, *but what's so bad about applying to college anyway? If you get accepted, you go. If not, you move on. There's a reason why your counselor makes you choose safety schools in the first place. After all, it's not like it's a life or death decision. It's just choosing another school to attend for the next four years.*

Though that thought may hold a grain of truth in it, in reality there are actually a number of good reasons as to why applying to college is one of the most stressful times of senior year. *Transcripts, standardized tests, recommendations, extra-curriculars, awards, scholarships, internships, and not to mention essays...* and the list doesn't stop there. Most seniors have to deal with all of those things on top of juggling classes, sports, clubs, and a social life. That kind of stress is enough to make *anybody* go insane. Yet out of all the different things to be stressed about, college essays are definitely the worst of all.

Just like there are a number of good reasons as to why applying to college is stressful, there are probably yet a hundred more as to why writing college essays are a huge stinker. For one, essays are definitely a major factor of the college admissions process. After all, they're the only thing that projects *your* voice, and *your* thoughts out of everything in the application. The grades are just numbers, and the awards and extra-curriculars are often just qualifications. Most colleges look at applications holistically anyway so that they can accept a diverse group of students from a plethora of backgrounds, rather than admit all the 4.0's, class presidents, and valedictorians. In the 21st century's competitive world of college admissions, just excelling academically often doesn't make the cut when applying to prestigious institutions, and having average grades often doesn't mean a death sentence. More often than not, it is the college essay that sways admissions officers in one direction or another. That being said, it is important to write an essay that will wow your audience, not a late night BS story that you somehow came up in a couple of hours. *But, how am I supposed to write the perfect essay?* You ask. Well, the answer is actually pretty simple: turn to Ernest Hemingway.

Ernest Hemingway was a 20th century American author and journalist. He is famous for many novels such as *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. He is also famous for the renowned quote: "*Write drunk; Edit sober*" and a lot of others, many of which happen to be great tips for writing advice. Additionally, he happens one of my favorite people to quote as well. In fact, other than the quote mentioned above, my favorite Hemingway saying would have to be: "*I love sleep. My life has the tendency to fall apart when I'm awake, you know?*" I can't tell you how many times I, and probably many others, have related to that quote perfectly, especially in context with all the stress between school and everything else! So without further ado, here are some ways to tackle the dreaded college essays, with a little help from Ernest Hemingway:

✎ "*Write drunk; Edit sober*": Contrary to the popular belief, this quote has nothing to do with its implication. *Write drunk* does not mean to go out and get wasted, and *edit sober* does not mean come back and write your college essay while you're in the middle of a hangover. Instead, it refers to the *idea* of the two relations. *Wait*, what? It's actually pretty simple: whenever someone is drunk, they usually have no filter or reservations. They throw everything they have out there without a single thought. When writing your college essay, you should do the exact same thing. Who cares if something doesn't sound write at that particular moment? You can edit it later—sober! Trust me, coming from someone who critically analyzes every single word of their writing assignments...it's not worth it. The only good you'd get out of it is literally going insane. That being said, for the first draft, just spill *everything*. The time to edit will come later—I promise, and when it does, you'll have a clear head and a bunch of ideas to work from. Talking about first drafts brings me to my next point:

✎ "*The first draft of anything is sh*t*": Don't deny it, we all know it's true. After all, why else would English teachers make you revise every single first draft you write? They know it's crap. Heck, you probably even know it too. Most first drafts are probably ones that you threw together at the last minute, 2 AM during an all-nighter, that sort of thing—and that's okay. After all, they're meant to suck anyway, right? Well, yes and *no*. Once again, I would strongly advise *not* writing your essay the night before it's due, but also spending a little bit more time and effort to create the first draft would save a lot of time going over editing changes in the long run. Considering the amount of colleges you're probably applying to, as well as the amount of essays you have to write for each one, writing a slightly better first draft would definitely lighten your load a bit.

✎ "*There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed*": Once again, this is another *yes* and *no* type of topic. For the Common App essays, you are really free to write about whatever you want—as long as they stick to the prompt. Yet, there are some topics that might be a little *too* personal to put down on paper, and the last thing you'd want to do is make an admissions officer feel too uncomfortable about your essay. Yet, if there are some emotional events that truly did affect your life in some way, there is no restriction that says that you can't write it—just make sure it doesn't sound like a sob story and write in a way that shows that you overcame that incident and grew from it. Sob stories are *not* okay when writing college essays, and neither are super personal stories as well. Yet if there is a need to write an emotional event, be emphatic in showing growth and knowledge from it.

✎ "*My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way*": Again, this would have to be one of my favorite points as well. As stated before, your college essay is a representation of *you* as a person in the eyes of the admissions officers, which means that it's basically

the same as a first impression. That being said, it is best not to fill your essay with words you just looked up in a thesaurus, or just flatly tell your experience. As cliché as it may sound, the saying "*show, don't tell*" is a good one to keep in mind when writing. For example, let's say the first time you flew a kite was a very influential part of your childhood. The reason it was so influential was because it was right after the day you and your grandpa had finished building your first kite together, and a few days before he had died. Don't just say, "I was elated to be flying my first kite!" Instead, opt for: "The minute I saw the kite climb into the crystal blue sky, I felt my mouth start to widen as a grin crept around the edges of my mouth. Soon after, my cheeks were aching from the amount of elation I felt just watching that simple black and white diamond shaped kite dance in the air. To others walking by, I'm sure I looked like some sort of happy-go-lucky fool". See, doesn't that sound a lot better? Not only does that pique the reader's interest, but it also showcases the genuine feelings experienced by the narrator at that time. Again: keep the language in your essay simple, but not simple to the point where nothing can be felt from the experience.

✎ "*There's no rule on how to write. Sometimes it comes easily and perfectly; sometimes it's like drilling rock and then blasting it out with charges*": Yet another good point to be aware of. The road to writing the "perfect" college essay is not a smooth course. There will often be potholes and speed bumps, and probably even a few traffic jams as well. Frustrations will run high, tears will be shed, hopelessness will be felt—but if you think about it, that might very well be the worst that can happen. I know the experience of having an amazing idea visualized in your head, but not quite having the proper words to get it down on paper. In fact, I'm sure that there are many others who have felt that way. I know what it feels like to constantly feel like you need to repeatedly write and rewrite your essay to the point where you can't tell if one draft was better than another, or that one sounded cleaner—just breathe. Chances are, you have quite a while before the deadline (unless you're writing it the night before, then shame on you!) and enough time to get everything figured out right. If you're writing multiple drafts, save all of them! It's better to see all the revisions you've made and come with new ideas based off of them than it is to save a completely new version of your essay and then realize that you liked the previous version best. Another thing to keep in mind is the fact that rough patches are only going to be there for a little bit. Before you know it, you'll once again be cruising smoothly on the road again.

✎ The final piece of advice I have to offer has to do with editing: "*All my life I've looked at words as though I were seeing them for the first time*". Though parents, teachers, friends, and you are probably familiar with yourself, admissions officers are not. Not only will they assume that your college essay is your best piece of work, but they will also use it as a representation of your true self. That being said, like the quote mentioned above, they'll be seeing your words for *the first time*. They'll be reading the words you have written for *the first time*. In the end, they will be making a decision based on something they have acknowledged for *the first time*. So what does that mean? That means that you yourself will have to be reading *your* essay as if it was for *the first time*—and that is no easy feat. Too often we read over things so many times that we get tired of reading them. When we get tired, we get lazy, and as a result might not catch the mistakes we would have if we had seen them for the first time. In dire times like these, it is important to get another opinion on your essay. The world is full of parents, teachers, counselors, and friends—use them! Don't be afraid of showing them your true thoughts—in fact, they'd be more than happy to oblige. However, don't let them change your essay to the point where you can't recognize it as your own ideals shining through. This is *your* essay, not your friend's, not your teacher's, and *definitely* not your parents'. This is the one time in your college application where you are allowed to have your individual voice heard—let that be the *only* voice shining through.

Writing the perfect college essay is definitely a stressful event. However, with these tips, I hope that

you feel that some of the pressure has been reduced, and instead of being lost, you now have a sense of direction in the topics you choose. That being said, I would like to share another sassy quote by Hemingway to conclude: "*It is none of their business that you have to learn how to write. Let them think you were born that way*". Show the admissions officers who the *real* boss is by rocking that college essay. Believe in yourself, and believe that you can do great. Do your best and the rest will quickly fall in place. For all the graduating seniors out there: good luck writing the college essay for your dream school. Always remember that I, and many others, believe in you.

S&S meets in room 521, the photo lab, Thursdays after school 3:45 to 4:15 pm. First meeting is 9/11/14.

Spartan Seniors Recount 2014 Latin America Volunteering Experience

Organized by Leon Pan

Were you a couch potato this past summer? Well, these **Amigos de las Américas** volunteers weren't. Between traveling to Latin America, teaching communities, constructing infrastructure, and engaging in Spanish linguistics, JMM Seniors *Maya Arora*, *Emily Hubbard*, *Changning Shou*, and *Maddy Randel* exhibited the qualities contrary to the classic "bum." Here's what they had to say:



1. Where was your AMIGOS volunteer site?

MA: Bahoruco in the Dominican Republic. **Maya also volunteered in Madriz, Nicaragua the summer before.*

EH: Coclé, Panama

CS: Madriz, Nicaragua, in a beautiful community in the mountains called Chagüite.

MR: Madriz, Nicaragua. My community is called "Las Cruces de Yalagüina".

2. What kind of projects did you do with your community?

MA: Within Vista del Lago—my community and work area—my partner and I worked to extend the community's water system. We also held daily *campamentos*, or extracurricular camps, to teach the local children about themes such as health, the environment, and caring for one another.

EH: Our focus was on renovating the community park's playground which wasn't being used because it was overgrown with grass, full of garbage, and falling apart. But we were able clean-up, replace the broken elements, and repaint the playground.

CS: We renovated 4 drinking wells. We also facilitated daily camps with the youth and had weekly themes around which we planned educational lectures, activities, and games.

MR: After having numerous meetings... we came to the conclusion of building an awning outside of the school for graduations and cultural dances (social events) and painting their central building where they hold community meetings and fiestas.

3. Your most uncomfortable/disturbing experience.

MA: There's a lot of racism between the Dominicans and the Haitians, especially in the area I was in, since it was so close to the border between the two countries. I had one man, for example, tell me that Haiti's economic problems and the earthquake of 2010 were a result of the people all being Satanists and cannibals. There was a very present Haitian population in the area, so the tension was definitely uncomfortable.

EH: I was thanking an older lady for lunch and saying goodbye, so I went to give her a hug. However, people typically give each other a kiss on the cheek in that case, so she gave me a kiss and just stood there while I hugged her. We were both laughing, though, so it was funny

CS: Waking up your entire host family because you need to use the latrine at 2am and can't get the door open... then actually sitting on the latrine as flies, ants, cockroaches and who knows what else fly, crawl, and buzz in a 20-foot-deep pit under your naked butt.

MR: Everyone in Las Cruces was very welcoming. For me, it was very hard to jump start the Spanish process. I found that the only way to get better is to mess up. I had to break my fear of speech and practice my Spanish. In all, I am very proud of how I pushed my speaking abilities this summer.



4. Do you feel like you formed a strong connection to your host family and/or community? If yes, what was the hardest part about leaving?

MA: My host family was amazing. I had three little host sisters who were always nearby, and my host mom was not only an incredibly helpful resource in the work we did but also such a kind, loving, and energetic woman. More than anything else, I love the opportunity that AMIGOS provides for volunteers to connect with another

community and another culture on such a deep level. It was really hard leaving. As cheesy as it sounds, I have a second family and a second home there. I miss them every day.

EH: Definitely; the hardest part about leaving was being asked when my partner and I would come back and not knowing the answer.

CS: I formed a really strong bond with my host family, which made it all the harder to say goodbye. I feel lucky to have spent the 6 weeks with a family that really cared about me—some volunteers don't connect well with their host families. The hardest part is not knowing when I'm going to see these people again.

MR: I made a forever lasting bond with Las Cruces. My host family is just like real family. I keep in contact with my mom and dad often. My little sisters love to talk to me on the phone all the time. Aside from my family in Las Cruces, I made a ton of friends. The hardest part about leaving was saying goodbye to my friends Anthony and Dimar. I can't begin to describe how it feels to be able to speak your thoughts in a different language. The friendships become more real and unforgettable.

5. In terms of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, how much has your Spanish improved AND/OR how prepared do you feel for the AP Spanish Language test?

15 Life Hacks to Freshman Year

By Maryann Rehani

There you are... Walking through A wing, or is it B? You can't tell the difference. Once you finally reach your class, you see a smiling teacher asking for your name and 23 other freshmen staring at you. That's it. You were late on the second day, so now your entire high school experience is ruined. Not exactly. If you ask any high schooler there's probably a flashback that goes along with this story. Don't sweat it! With these tips, you'll be on your way to graduation-er-Link Crew in no time!

1. Don't freak out if you're late to class during the first few weeks. Memorial is a *huge* school. Within a month, you'll be walking down the hallway like it's your senior year!
2. That brings me to my next tip. If you're a freshman, don't act like a senior. Seniors have earned their spot at the top of the food chain! That's why it's called *seniority*. It's good to befriend the seniors so that they can tell you all of the tips they've learned over the years!
3. **DON'T BE LATE.** For the first few weeks, teachers will be pretty lenient for freshmen! But later on in the year, teachers will get annoyed if you walk in 10 minutes late to every single day. A lot of teachers have daily warm-ups or things like that which account for easy points! If you get to class on-time, you'll be able to get those points and keep your grades up!
4. Keep up with the pace while walking in the hall. Don't walk super slowly because you're trying to read a text. Don't sprint through the hallways because you're in a race with your friends. Don't stand in the middle of the hallway and talk because then you're a road blocker! Nothing bothers other students and teachers more than the people who don't walk as quickly as the rest of the people in the hallway.
5. Don't procrastinate! If you have a project due in 2 months, don't wait till 2am the night before to start. Pace out your time! This will give you enough time to ask teachers questions, get feedback from friends, and make sure the project shows your best work!
6. Get to know your teachers/counselor-and make sure that they know you! Your teachers are great resources for things down the road like letters of recommendation, references, and people to vent to! Memorial is lucky to have such a great staff! Make sure that you use them to your advantage!
7. Go to sporting events! Football games, especially, are a great way to meet new people! Even if you're not that into football, \$3 is a small price to pay for the amount of fun you can have at the games! Plus, it's always great to cheer on your fellow Spartans!
8. Get involved! Join as many clubs as possible at the beginning of the year and pick 2 or 3 to stick with. Colleges love it when you show continuity.
9. Don't stick to your comfort zone too much. It's good to go with your gut for most things, but it's also nice to try new things every once in a while! Join a club you wouldn't normally do, try out for a sport you've never done, take a class you're not sure you'd like! It's always good to try out new things because you never know what might peak your interest!
10. Don't take the hardest classes you're offered just because your parents tell you to. Take the classes you feel you can handle. If you're taking all honors classes but you know that you're going to get a low GPA, talk to your counselor and switch-ASAP. Colleges prefer to see you get an A or a B in an easier class than a C or a D in an honors class. Though, some vigor is good in a schedule. Take harder classes in the subjects you enjoy most!
11. Use LINK Crew to your advantage! Your LINK Crew leaders are there to help you! Don't be afraid to talk to them about classes, friends, family, etc... If you don't want to talk to an adult or you feel that an upperclassman would be able to relate better, your LINK Crew leaders are the perfect solution!
12. For the first few months of school, the weather is going to be perfect! Memorial is conveniently right next to the West Towne Mall, Starbucks, a gas station, and many other places where you can go out to lunch! Just make sure that you're back in time for your next class.
13. Make use of the after-school study sessions! In the LMC after school, tons of teachers come in to give help with homework! Don't be afraid to stop in and ask a few questions!
14. Go to school events! Memorial has three dances per year. Homecoming, the Midwinter Formal, and Prom! Freshman can't go to prom (unless they're going with an upperclassman), but Homecoming and the Midwinter Formal are always open! Don't freak out if you're going to Homecoming without a date. This year, it's within the first month of school-not a lot of time to find a date! Going with friends is just as fun as going with someone!
15. Make use of Infinite Campus! Teachers are usually very good about keeping it up-to-date. Check IC every night! That way, you can make sure that all of your work is turned in on-time and that your grades are where you want them to be. If they aren't, then you'll have enough time before semester grades come out to fix them!

Hopefully, with these tips, your freshman year will go as smoothly as possible! Just remember, nobody's freshman year is perfect. Learn from your mistakes and make sure that you can laugh at yourself! If you find yourself wandering through an unfamiliar hallway 7 minutes after class has started, try to find a teacher or security guard to direct you! Don't forget: it'll all get easier with time!

Spartan Sports

Fall Sports Preview

By Ryan Morgan

Fall sports are right around the corner and there are many that you can go spectate. Whether you're playing or watching these sports, there's always room to go out and watch your friends. **Here are the first "home" games/meets after the school year starts:**

- Girls and Boys Cross Country have a meet in Verona September 6th
- Football has a game @ Mansfield Stadium September 5th against Sun Prairie
- Boys Soccer takes on Sun Prairie @Mansfield Stadium September 9th
- Girls Swimming has a meet against Sun Prairie @Home September 5th
- Girls Tennis competes against Beloit @Home September 4th
- Girls Golf has an invitational September 6th @Pleasant View Golf Course
- Boys Volleyball kicks off their season against Beloit @ Home in the Main Gym

Good luck to all the teams competing in these upcoming seasons. No matter what you're doing in the fall, make time to go out and support your fellow Spartans.



Prep Profiles

Name: Ben Schlenker

Favorite Class: probably German 3. I love the language, and the classroom environment was not only productive but creative and fun.

Current Sport: My current (and only) sport is cross country.

Career Highlights: hosting the cross country sleepover. Not many people do it, and it makes you cooler I think.

I love cross country because: I can just explore my emotions while putting my body on autopilot. No other sport allows such extensive self exploration while both exercising and competing simultaneously.

Season Goal: to make new friends and be as helpful of a person as possible.

Other Sports: I don't know what this prompt means but other sports are fun also. I like watching them and playing them.

I love being a Spartan because: I love being a spartan because I can identify with a community like no other. The companionship between spartans is unmatched. Spartans are also ferocious warriors which I am.

Most memorable moment in sports: The most memorable moment in sports is when Austin Wilson and I bought a machete at a garage sale during a cross country practice.

Most embarrassing moment in sports: When Joe Venuta scored a lame touchdown against Sun Prairie for the first football game of the season.

Everyone on the team knows me as the guy who... will love his team mates unconditionally as if they were all my brothers. I'm the guy that eat, sleeps, and bleeds cross country.

Pregame music playlist: consists of Chief Keef, Tyga, Drake, Macklemore, Nas, Based God, and Big K.R.I.T. These are the major rappers of our generation and I love running to their music.

Pregame Fuel: usually a cappucino followed by half a bottle of water. As for food? I consume hummus on a daily basis.

Most inspirational teammate: Jonas Bietz. This man is a true runner. He possesses the determination of a bald eagle accompanied by the physique of a white tiger.

Favorite Athlete: Joe Hoffman.

Favorite Opponent: every opponent. I love the spirit of the game, and this is the mindset necessary to fully experience what is cross country.

I wish I could compete against: Phil Sorge in an arm wrestle. He still won't accept the challenge.

Favorite Movie: Bat Thumb.

Favorite TV show: sports.

I describe myself as: a determined young adult to take on the world and show everyone what I'm made of.

I look up to: every single one of my teammates. Respect is key in my sport and we all look up to each other.

I can't live without: my band, Clocksafe. Music is what keeps my soul alive and vibrant.

I wish I could meet: the guy from Cash Cab.

During the Olympics I watched: skate edits.

Did you know...: I'm a pretty shy guy but I'm crazy around my friends?!

Post High School plans: basically following my heart.

On the bucket list: basically a secret.

Spartan cards sold: 2

More profiles on page 10.



The Nerd Word: How Will We Get to Mars?

Part 1

By Ryan Das(Not Satire)

Any science enthusiast has probably heard about plans to send people to Mars. We've been "20 years away" from Mars since the '70s, yet 40 years later there still aren't any humans taking vacations on the red planet. Numerous plans have been in order, but none so far have panned out. However, NASA still has hope in executing a manned mission to Mars. Today, NASA is developing a new rocket, the Space Launch System, which may send the first humans to the surface of Mars. Meanwhile, in the private sector, entrepreneur Elon Musk plans to set up the first Mars Colony and make humans "multiplanetary".

Space exploration kicked off in the late '50s and early '60s and was fuelled by the intensity of the Cold War. After the successful launch of the Soviet satellite Sputnik, both the United States and Soviet Union saw the potential military applications of space travel like powerful spy satellites and raced each other to develop the technologies first. In 1969, the United States triumphantly clinched victory in the "Space Race" by sending the first men to the moon, only seven years after President Kennedy challenged the country to do so. Many enthusiasts presumed that a manned moon mission meant that humans could be on Mars within another seven years. However, when the US realized that the Soviet Union had largely folded their hand after losing the Space Race, the US followed suit. From 1966 to 1976 NASA's budget plummeted 80%, and NASA has struggled with funding and approval of their projects ever since.

In the second half of the 20th century, NASA and other foreign space agencies discussed all sorts of different plans to eventually send humans to Mars, none of which made much progress. Work stalled at NASA because they faced the great challenge of keeping projects between presidents. Each president would set goals for space exploration, and NASA would begin work, only to have the next president cancel the current plans in place of their own goals. Bill Clinton's administration cancelled Bush's Space Exploration Initiative in favor of robotic exploration, followed by George W. Bush proposing the Constellation project to return to the moon, only for Barack Obama to cancel Constellation in favor of the Space Launch System. NASA made little progress on each program, and has been stuck in this cycle since the '80s.

Currently, NASA is developing the Space Launch System, a Super Heavy Launch Vehicle. The design of the rocket uses hardware from the Space Shuttle program to save money and time. It uses the same fuel tank design, same main engines, and similar boosters to send giant payloads into space. The Obama administration hopes that by using old hardware, they can speed development and cut costs to avoid cancellation. Beyond the first manned flight of SLS, NASA plans to keep options open for missions such as a manned mission to Mars, the Moon, or to a near Earth Asteroid.

Many critics claim that SLS, and NASA's approach to space costs too much and will never pan out, favoring government cooperation with private companies. Though SLS is currently on schedule and under budget, many doubt whether or not the rocket will ever fly before the next administration cancels it. Though the future for NASA looks somewhat bleak, a private California Based company, SpaceX, plans to start a colony on Mars within the next 20 years or so, and they might just have the most promising plan yet, but that's for Part 2.

Link Crew



Prep Profiles

Name: Ryan Murphy
Favorite Class: Mammalia
Current Sport: Football
Career Highlights: beating Middleton to start my junior season, being a part of the longest kick return in Wisconsin state history, 10 tackles and a touchdown in the junior year homecoming game
I love football because: it takes so much complexity to reach such a simple goal
Season goal: grow a beard like Isaac Kysely
Other sports: basketball with Academy, baseball, recreational poms
I love being a Spartan because: green highlights my skin tone
Most memorable moment in sports: hitting a grand slam in tee ball once
Most embarrassing moment in sports: taking a football off the face mask freshman year for a fumble and touchdown for the other team
Everyone on the team knows me as the guy who... sold all his spartan cards
Pregame music playlist: Lana del Rey
Pregame fuel: diesel
Most inspirational teammate: Leo Mendoza
Favorite Athlete: Alex Morgan
Favorite Opponent: Beloit
I wish I could compete against: my little bro's 7th grade spartan youth team
Favorite Movie: Frozen
Favorite TV show: Blue Mountain State
I describe myself as: Effulgent, jocular, and heuristic
I look up to: Henry Houden
I can't live without: Henry Houden
I wish I could compete against: Henry Houden
During the Olympics I watched: Netflix
Did you know... I used to have a bowl cut
Post High School plans: Attend a four year college and most likely some grad school
On the bucket list: tailgate a brewers game
How many spartan cards did you sell?: enough

country in the world?
Post High School plans: More school
On the bucket list: Run across the country
Spartan cards sold: It rhymes with won



Name: Sean Surtees
Favorite Class: CAMM
Current Sport: soccer
I love soccer because: it's the only sport I don't suck at
Season Goal: is to win state and go 9-0 in conference.
Other Sports:No
I love being a Spartan because: it's the best school in Wisconsin
Most memorable moment in sports: either scoring a hatrick against Verona, or basing Middleton, the #2 team in the state in playoffs
Most embarrassing moment in sports: Missing the pk in the alumni game with my brother and all his friends watching
Everyone on the team knows me as the guy/gal who... Always wins in FIFA
Pregame music playlist:Bangarang, Work remix, Rolling, Lose Yourself
Pregame fuel: PB&J
Most inspirational teammate: Ryan Henry
Favorite athlete: Michael Owen
Favorite opponent: West/Middleton because they always talk smack
I wish I could compete against: Ibrahimović
Favorite movie: Any Transformers movie
Favorite TV show: The office
I describe myself as: powerful, wise, warm
I look up to: Ryan Henry
I can't live without: Ryan Henry
I wish I could meet: Steven Gerrard
During the Olympics I watched: Ping Pong
Did you know... You use 100% of your brain
Post High School plans: Wait for Klinsmann to give me the call
On the bucket list: Go to a England world cup game
Spartan cards sold: 7.



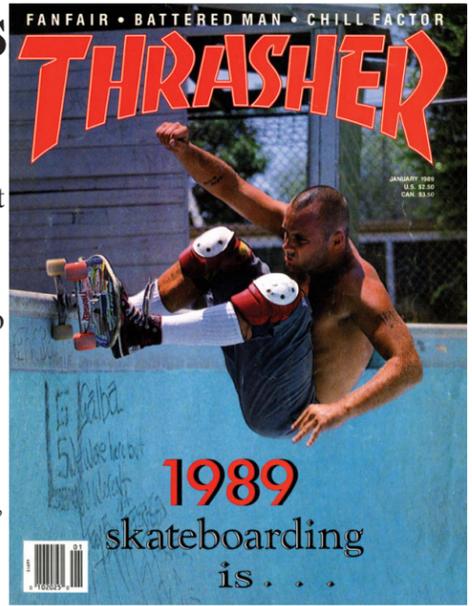
Name: Emily Hubbard
Favorite Class: First class
Current Sport: Cross Country
Career Highlights: Lettered in Boys Hockey for being a manager
I love CC because: Everyone's nice to each other
Season goal: Don't walk
Other sports: Ultimate Frisbee is more than a club
I love being a Spartan because: Half my clothes are forest green
Most memorable moment in sports: The first time I peed my pants during a race
Most embarrassing moment in sports: Not embarrassed
Everyone on the team knows me as the gal who... talks really loud
Pregame music playlist: Bailando - Enrique Iglesias
Pregame fuel: Naners (Bananas)
Most inspirational teammate: Nat Statz
Favorite Athlete: Mr. Raabe
Favorite Opponent: Self
I wish I could compete against: Derek Hubbard
Favorite Movie: Frozen
Favorite TV show: Netflix
I describe myself as: Fun-loving, easy-going, open-minded, all-American girl
I look up to: Nathan Larson
I can't live without: Insulin
I wish I could meet: Ellen DeGeneres
During the Olympics I watched: Sports
Did you know...Canada eats the most mac & cheese per capita of any



Indie Sports Monthly

with Ben Schlenker

Mahalo! Summer concludes with an eventful first installment of Indie Sports Monthly (ISM). Where to begin? I'll tell ya where. I met the most radical guy this summer. He is a GoPro sponsored surfer, and gnarly skateboarder. The one and only Nathaniel. I don't know his last name. He is my friend's cousin from Cali. He came to WI with his family this summer, and skated with us in Madison. He is pretty young, only 12 or something. We took him all over. He is so much better than us at everything. He is the real face of indie sports around America. He also left a little bit of his individual Cali style in all of us, acting as a perfect segue for my next topic. My other friend got a carver board. This brand was introduced to us by the one and only Nathaniel. We all loved his board. The dual bushing truck system is wild, giving the board a unique ride, similar to surfing. Man, can this thing rip. Take it to bowls, vert, or just the streets for an unforgettable experience. Lastly, the world of indie sports suffered a great loss this summer. Jay Adams, an original Z-Boy passed away August 14th due to a heart attack at the ripe age of 53. This man influenced skate style, and likely the previously mentioned carver boards were influenced by him. To Jay, I grant the Indie Sports Image of the Month. Until next month fam.



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