

THE MLWGS Jabberwock

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Friday, June 5, 2015

A Culmination to a Life-Changing Experience

By Reshini Premaratne

On Wednesday, June 3rd, seniors shared their experiences from either seminars or mentorships this school year. During this day, termed ‘Senior Showcase,’ students of all grades were able to sit in on these presentations and learn about topics ranging from Italian cooking to nonprofit work to STEM.

Senior showcase serves as the culmination of a year-long experience, one which begins as early as the summer before for some students. Throughout the year, students become experts on the topic they are researching and witness once-in-a-lifetime experiences at the same time.

Students are required to partake in either a mentorship or a seminar during their senior year in order to garner a diploma from Maggie Walker. Some of the seminars this past year looked into photojournalism, military history, service-based learning, along with many other topics. Similarly, students who took on mentorships shadowed experts in fields such as nonprofit work, healthcare, and government.

Many students cite the seminar or mentorship experience as their favorite aspect of student life at Maggie Walker. Pranay Vissa (’15), a student in the Italian Cooking seminar, said, “I liked how we didn’t have to go to other places around the city to learn something unique; everything was available through the wonderful faculty at the school.”

Michael Thompson (’15), a student in the Relevance Rising seminar, expressed similar sentiments. “I had a great time and learned a lot about how NPOs and NGOs function within the American economy, what types of challenges they face, and how they go about carrying out their missions. I also got to witness first hand what some people have to go



Sam Schwartzkopf thanks integral people in her mentorship experience.

Photo courtesy MLWGS website

through in Guatemala and gained a new appreciation for the access we have to education.”

Students who participated in the mentorship option echoed appreciation and support for this program. Ben Wong, (’15), said “One of my main takeaways from the mentorship experience is that research is not as glamorous as you’d think...what the media doesn’t cover is how much time, patience, and ultimately perseverance it takes for those revolutionary ideas to come to fruition.”

Senior Showcase day also allows rising seniors to have a first-hand preview at what the seminar and mentorship experiences they are about to embark on will be like. Seniors even shared some advice for juniors as they enter this program next year.

Ben advised, “For those juniors who are pursuing a science-based mentorship, celebrate the small successes. Understand that you won’t always get immediate gratification for your hard work, but don’t let that discourage you.”

Pranay likewise recommended, “Learn as much as you can and immerse

yourself in the class because it can be a really rewarding experience.”

Michael had advice specifically towards junior signed up for the Relevance Rising seminar next year. “I would suggest that anyone taking the seminar next year really try to go on the trip.” He added, “Also order your limonadas with soda not water, and stay away from meats if you have a weak stomach.”

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Summer for Seniors

As summer vacation quickly approaches, students in all high school grade levels look forward to getting past final exams and spending the next three months relaxing and recharging after a stressful school year. More than anyone, the seniors anticipate having these next few months to spend with friends and family before heading off to college in the fall.

While most high schools in the metro-Richmond area have graduation before the end of the school year, allowing seniors to finish early, MLWGS seniors don't graduate until June 15. Cosby, James River, and Midlothian high schools (Chesterfield) all graduated yesterday, June 4, and Manchester, Matoaca and Thomas Dale graduate today. Henrico seniors are finished with school by June 5 and graduate at the beginning of next week. MLWGS seniors should also have an earlier graduation date and get out of school earlier.

The seniors have earned the privilege of starting summer early. After seven semesters of stress, sleep-deprivation and studying, they deserve a few extra weeks of relaxation. This is the time for seniors to celebrate their successes and share in their excitement as they head off to college. Most colleges start in August and many have orientation programs as early as July. Seniors should not still be in school through the middle of June

– they should be spending their remaining free time appreciating the journey that got them to where they are now, and gearing up for college, the next big journey of their lives.

Allowing seniors to graduate early also makes sense because second-semester seniors tend to develop "senioritis." After final college decisions are turned in on May 1, seniors shift their priorities. Rather than prepare for a history presentation or study for a math test, seniors should be able to use this time at the end of the year to find a roommate and register for college courses.

However, changing the schedule to allow seniors to finish school early presents a logistical problem to administration due to the fact that most classes are comprised of students in all different grade levels. AP classes aren't as much of an issue since students take the national exam in the beginning of May. In order for seniors to take the exam early for VCU dual enrollment classes, the course could be taught so that all of the material was covered in accommodation with the seniors graduating early. The remaining few weeks of school could then be used as exam review for the non-seniors in the class.

The MLWGS community will miss the seniors, but it is their time to graduate now and enjoy their summer vacation.

-CM

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER TO
THE EDITOR

newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us



THE MLWGS Jabberwock

Editorial Policy:

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. Statements expressed by columnists or in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. However, all editorials are the combined work of both the Editor-in-Chief and her staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us.

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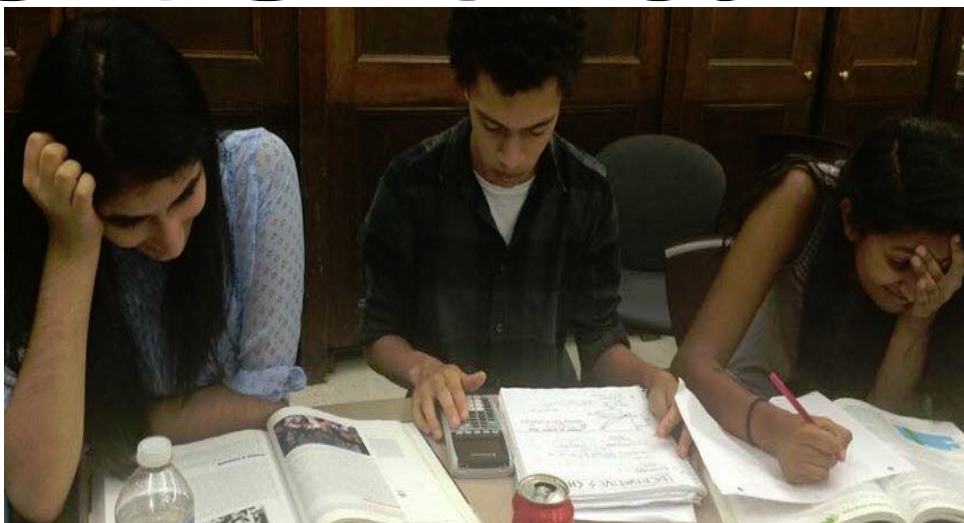
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Time to Cram

By Amanda Mier

Two weeks ago, you were a different person. You ate, you slept, you laughed with your friends, you went to the pool, you watched Netflix without a care in the world. This week, you are a studying machine. Or at least, you are supposed to be.

With finals fast approaching, many students at Maggie Walker are coming to the grim realization that they have less than a week to begin studying. They are flooded with questions: Where should I begin studying? What is the economic policy of mercantilism? Did we even cover this? Where are my notes? Can I memorize all forty-four presidencies in two days?



Students review textbooks and class notes in preparation for the upcoming final exams.

Photo courtesy of Asha Iyer

Students should try to focus on the fact that it is one test and the course of their life is not going to be drastically affected by one test.

While the other queries are more difficult to answer, some of the student body has answers to the first. Frances Heller ('18), a freshman and veteran of midterms, suggests making notecards and timelines. She recommends teaching someone else the content. Frances herself personally explains the topic to her mother, because "if I can get her to understand the information that means that I know the material well."

The unspoken question, however, is why so few people have begun studying. The answer is prevalent throughout grade levels: lack of motivation. "Finals are definitely hard ... since it's the end of the year and everyone wants it to be summer, studying and having enough motivation to apply oneself is impossible," said Audrey Paiva ('17). Mariko Lewis, another sophomore, confirmed this: "Last year ... I was super motivated

to do really well, especially because it was the last thing I had to do before I could relax for summer. But this year, I don't think I'll study as hard for finals as much as I did for midterms because I'm super unmotivated."

Teachers have not helped to make students prepare or feel prepared. "A bunch of teachers are giving us tests the week before exams," lamented Lewis. Other students feel that the teachers do not design the exams for student success. "I wish that teachers would do their best to design the tests in a way that would reward those who have the best understanding of the topic rather than those who simply memorize facts," said Heller. Harish Tekriwal ('17) agreed: "I think most teachers are pretty good about being fair to students...but I do wish teachers asked less for intricate details and instead tested on more broad, overarching themes."

So although you put off your studying until the last week, what should you do? A number of students feel that cramming, the trademark study method of the Maggie Walker Green Dragons, is a valid course of action. Junior John Li is an expert in the practice of cramming. "If it's a class that requires lots of practice problems, like math or chem[istry], I'll cram for two days doing practice

problems. If it's a class that's more conceptual like government, I'll take a day," Li said.

Chemistry teacher Ms. Todd strongly does not recommend cramming, but she also does not recommend stressing. "I think that students should try to focus on the fact that it is one test and the course of their life is not going to be drastically affected by one test," she said. "I think they should look over their notes for exam material and mark anything they don't know, understand, or have questions on."

Finals are definitely hard... having enough motivation to apply oneself is impossible.

Alternatively, students could begin studying early (or at least, earlier). A model to follow would be that of Kaan Sahingur ('17): "The key is to start studying for exams early. I usually start studying for exams over spring break, and you want to spend at least an hour every day since then studying, including weekends," he advised.

Reconsidering the FIFA World Cups

Opinion

By Parth Kotak

Every four years, the world's best national football, er, soccer, teams come together to play a series of matches to determine which group of men takes the prestigious title of best players in the world, aptly named the World Cup. The International Federation of Association Football (or FIFA; the acronym is French), a non-profit organization, organizes and oversees the tournament. The last two World Cups were held in South Africa in 2010 and Brazil in 2014 and, on the second of December in 2010, FIFA announced that Russia and Qatar would host the 2018 and 2022 World Cups respectively.

“All of the scandals rocking FIFA raise one massive question: where will football go from here on out?”

FIFA has always straddled the border of friendly organization and ruthless corporation, calling themselves a non-profit yet holding \$1.4 billion in cash reserves. Late May 2015, the United States finally decided to do something about FIFA's alleged fraud, corruption, and racketeering in assigning World Cup locations, in accepting kickbacks and bribes, and in electing Sepp Blatter for his fifth term. The FBI has, as of 27 May 2015, indicted nine high-ranking FIFA officials and five corporate executives.



During the aforementioned FBI investigation, investigators stripped off the veneer covering FIFA's operations for nearly three decades. Chuck Blazer revealed, during his plea agreement, that the executive committee of FIFA selected the 1998 World Cup to be in France and the 2010 World Cup to be in South Africa due to bribes—allegedly, FIFA accepted \$10 million from South Africa. All of the scandals rocking FIFA raise one massive question: where will football go from here on out? Will Russia and Qatar host their respective World Cups? Rather, should they, in light of possible, or even probable, bribery involved? Only FIFA itself can move back into the bidding process and reassign World Cups, but public sentiment could strongly push FIFA's decision.

Russia and Qatar should not be hosts of the FIFA World Cup, even if the current Swiss investigation into the bidding process reveals nothing out of the ordinary. Above all, football is a sport meant to unite masses, promote equality, and create peace over a shared pastime. In fact, FIFA's primary objective, as stated on their website, is "to improve the game of football constantly and promote it globally in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian val-

ues, particularly through youth and development programmes." Neither Russia nor Qatar has attempted to restore peace for its citizens and, in fact, has hindered attempts to restore peace for years now. Russia has passed laws effectively giving the government full capability to jail foreigners and NGO workers as well as having passed laws to criminalize the distribution of LGBT "propaganda." The Human Rights Watch has recognized the migrant workers' struggle in Qatar for many years now. Essentially, upon arrival and employment, employers take away the migrant workers' passports and force them to work, often not paying them full wage (or any at all) and not meeting health and safety requirements, despite both being laws (the authorities hardly reinforce them). The workers cannot change jobs with the current em-

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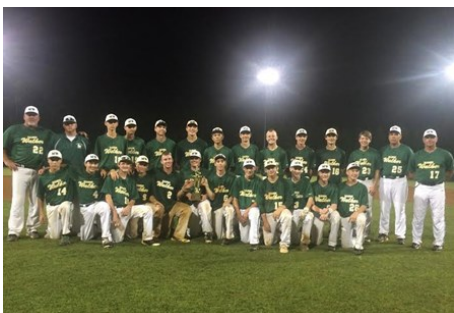
ployers' consent, and the workers cannot leave the country without employers' consent too. Striking and unionizing is prohibited under law. An estimated 4,000 workers, mostly from Nepal and India, are expected to die working on football stadiums before the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Clearly neither Russia nor Qatar promote the values of the World Cup and thus should not be host countries in the near future.

Spring Sports Wrap-Up

By Preston Hausser

Baseball

MLWGS Baseball finished the regular season with a final record of 10-7 and clinched the top seed for the Conference 33 Tournament, where they defeated Arcadia 13-1 and King William 9-4 to win the championship. The team will continue its championship hunt in the 2A regional tournament quarterfinals against Nottaway.



The Baseball Team celebrates its Conference championship. Photo courtesy of Phil Wyatt.

Softball

The Lady Dragons Softball team completed the regular season with a record of 4-14, winning games by large margins over opponents Arcadia and Highland Springs. In the Conference 33 Softball Tournament, MLWGS overcame Bruton 10-6 and advanced to the semifinals, where powerhouse King William ended their season 10-0. The Dragons will only lose three seniors for next season, where they look to improve upon the outcome of this year.

Boys' Soccer

Walker Soccer completed the regular season with a final record of 7-6-2, including major wins over rivals Douglas Freeman and J.R. Tucker. MLWGS entered the playoffs as a number-3 seed, defeating Arcadia 6-0 and Nandua 2-0 to reach the Region 2A Tournament, where they fell 2-1 to Prince Edward in the quarterfinals.

Girls' Soccer

MLWGS Girls Soccer finished the regular season with a 9-5 record, with impressive wins over Goochland, Douglas Freeman and Hermitage. The Lady Dragons entered the Conference 33 Tournament as the second seed, where they outscored opponents (Bruton, Nandua and Northampton) 19-0 over the week, clinching a spot in the Regional Tournament where they defeated West Point 8-0. The game was called with 37 minutes remaining the second half due to lightning.



Coaches Ian Kelley and Dave Hillgrove hold the Conference 33 Trophy. Photo courtesy of Willie Graham.

Boys' Outdoor Track and Field

Another team seeking to repeat as state champions is the Maggie Walker Boys' Outdoor Track team, who took home the title in 2014 for the first time in school history. Led by Ryan Buscaglia ('17) in the 1600 and 800 meter events, as well as Scott Miller ('15) in the 400m dash, the team looks to continue its successes of the season. The team will travel to Radford University on June 5th to try and claim dominance as the best track team in the state.

Girls' Outdoor Track and Field

The MLWGS Girls' Outdoor Track Team will be joining the boys in Radford on June 5th, as they as well have had a strong season. Junior Emma Call (1600 and 800 meter) and Sophomore Khloe Pointer (3200 meter) will look to win individual state titles for their respective races, while Shanthi Hiremath ('16) will lead a loaded pole vaulting team primed to set state records for Division 2A.

Boys' Tennis

Following up their record-setting 2014 campaign, in which they won a state championship, the MLWGS Boys' tennis team continue to wreak havoc in Division 2A in their quest for a repeat. Karl Katlaps ('17) won the Conference 33 Singles Tournament for the second year in a row, while the team itself defeated every opponent on their way to another regional tournament berth. Pierce Tarry ('17) and Robby Fischer ('15), along with Katlaps, led the team to numerous regular season wins as well.

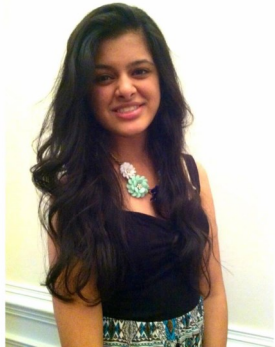
Girls' Tennis

MLWGS Girls Tennis also had another stellar season with the introduction of Anna Soffin ('18), who took over the role as top-seeded player throughout the course of the season. The Lady Dragons clinched a berth in the State Tournament with a win over Wilson Memorial on May 29th. Maggie Walker looks to win the title they were spurned of in 2014 with the help of Marissa Raper ('15) and Katie Wood ('15).



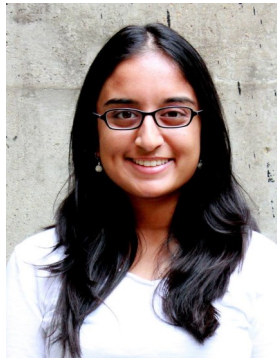
Girls tennis celebrates their advance to states. Photo courtesy of Katie Wood

Senior Farewells



Sharvani Mehta, Editor-in-Chief

Sharvani led the *Jabberwock* this year with passion and poise. As Editor-in-Chief, she dedicated countless hours to make the *Jabberwock* the best it could be and went above and beyond in all of her duties. Sharvani always made time to offer insight to staff members and help edit articles, and her enthusiasm and energy were unparalleled. She inspired everyone on the staff and has left a long-lasting mark on the paper. The staff will miss her tremendously next year, but wishes her the best of luck at UVA and in all future endeavors



Radhika Srivastava, News Editor

Radhika has provided invaluable writing and support to the *Jabberwock* since she joined. She took it upon herself to not only exceed expectations on every issue, but also to have one of the best attitudes and most helpful advice on our staff. Radhika brings a light to this paper that is unparalleled and will surely never be overshadowed. Radhika is not just an amazing writer and News Editor, but also an overall sparkling student and person. We were lucky to have her as a part of our staff and we will surely miss her next year.



Sam Martin, News-in-Brief Editor

With his talent for journalism and enthusiasm for writing, Sam has been a valuable member of the *Jabberwock* for the past four years. In addition to contributing short and informative news pieces, Sam also wrote feature stories and helped with distribution during his time on the staff. His diligence, skill and passion will be missed next year. The staff wishes him all the best with his continuing career at Middlebury College!



Srishti Sanya, Photo/Website Editor

"Srishti Sanya is absolutely, astoundingly gorgeous and that's the least interesting thing about her." This was an anonymous quote from the MLWGS Compliments page and it is absolutely true. Always cheerful and ready to help, her ability to balance everything from Robotics to Model UN and everything in between is admired by her peers. Even with all of her other commitments, Srishti was always dedicated to the *Jabberwock* and consistently produced quality photos for anyone who needed them. While her sunny personality and loyalty to the *Jabberwock* will be sorely missed, we wish Srishti all the best with her future.



Pranay Vissa, Opinion Editor

Pranay has done a fantastic job this year of presenting opinions for the *Jabberwock*. His pieces were always relevant, well-written and thought-provoking, and he contributed an opinion piece to nearly every issue during his tenure as Opinion Editor. The entire staff appreciated Pranay's unique manner of dealing with any issues, and he will be missed next year.



Annika Basch, Public Relations Officer

Annika Basch has been an invaluable member of the *Jabberwock* staff during her tenures as Public Relations Officer, Features Editor, and Photo Editor. Annika has always volunteered enthusiastically for any opportunity to help out, demonstrating her commitment to the paper and unique collaborative spirit. Her positive energy and bright personality are one of the highlights of working on the paper. The *Jabberwock* will miss her unique voice, outstanding team participation, and contagious zeal for journalism. The staff wishes her the best of luck at the University of Texas and can't wait to see where her incredible talent takes her.