

THE BERKELEY FANFARE

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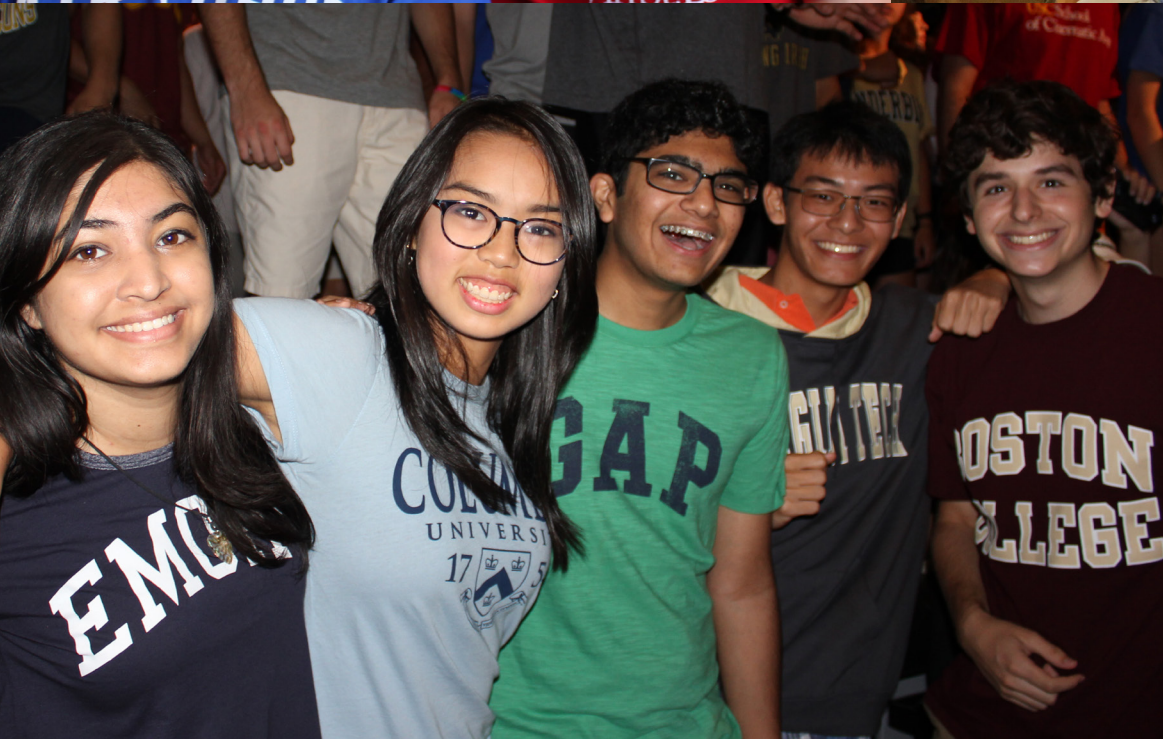
June 9th, 2017



Commencement



2017



The Fanfare

2017-2018

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Farewell Column: A Community of Progress

By Jen Luo
2016-2017 Co-Editor-in-Chief

A community is what you make it.

In all of the clubs and activities that I have been lucky enough to partake in, the underlying theme behind the most positive experiences I've had has been one of community.

At a glance, community seems relatively simple to define. According to Merriam-Webster, community is "a group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists." For three years, as I wrote and edited for The Fanfare, I sought community as a concept that came along with being a member of a club. Community was the simple fact that my fellow writers and I were members of The Fanfare, we loved writing, and we met together on a weekly basis to discuss the logistics of meeting again on another week. The Fanfare remained a small print newspaper with an issue produced twice a year until we went on continuing with our weekly meetings.

Yet coming into my fourth year on The Fanfare as a co-editor-in-chief with a crew of only six inexperienced editors to replace the ten seniors who had graduated, I found myself burdened with creating the community that I had taken for granted, which seemed to have taken its leave along with the seniors who had graduated. Yet thanks to my small group of editors (two co-editor-in-chiefs doubling as section editors and a single section editor heading over twenty people), we have headed a website redesign, integrated social media with our articles, and headed new columns that our writers are passionate about. We've made it through a year of InDesign troubleshooting and scrambling for photos for articles, and I like to imagine that I have finally found the community that I longed for. After a year of learning, thus begins my attempt to define community, explained according to Merriam-Webster's definition.

Part I: "A group."

I had always thought that weekly meetings were all that was needed to form a group. As long as we had a shared identity and reiterated that we were members of a club, we had a group. Yet, I have found that at the core of creating a group is enthusiasm. As an editor-in-chief, I have witnessed only the most enthusiastic writers, the ones who attend every meeting, who ask questions, who come with ideas for articles,

gain the most from being a member of The Fanfare. They do not let the opinions of others curb their excitement for being a part of The Fanfare and they hold on to their passions and ideas. It is these writers who bring a sense of family as they are united in their excitement for the truth.

More importantly, along with their shared ardor for writing, these writers are enthusiastic about each other. No one person's idea is rejected — every thought is written on the whiteboard and given an opportunity to be developed and expounded. Through each weekly meeting, these writers find that the best ideas are bred within their peers. It is through mutual enthusiasm that The Fanfare has brought a gaming column, a travel column, Humans

siege, The Fanfare stands united in a common pursuit of the truth through journalism. I have, and always will, urge my writers to fight for what they believe in. After all, we live in the nation of the free. Constraints are grounds for breeding creativity and exist as flexible boundaries for creating change.

This is not encouragement to break the rules, rather, to fight for what you believe in to create better rules. At The Fanfare, we've made small victories. We have sought to include more political coverage this year, including news on the Women's March on St. Petersburg (accomplished through meetings with Berkeley's administration in an active effort to incorporate student opinions within the paper) and coverage on the 2016 presidential election.

These small victories are only the starting point for more change within Berkeley.

Part III: "Distinct."

Leading the Fanfare can be both rewarding and challenging. Issues faced by student journalists are often different from those faced by professional reporters and editors. Yet we are trying, day by day, to distinguish The Fanfare. We have moved toward an online platform, collected more writers and refined our articles through multiple levels of editing. In our effort to distinguish The Fanfare as the student voice of Berkeley Preparatory School and a source for change, we must cast aside our own ambitions toward a greater task. It is never about one person's vision for the paper (a mistake I made at the beginning of this year), rather, it is about creating a better newspaper through united visions.

With this, I leave you with one message. Community is created. It is not an easy task, but the benefits reaped through creating a community of positivity and encouragement are great and many. I wish the best for future editors of The Fanfare, and who knows, someday we could find a future Marty Baron.

To our sponsors, Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Harris-Marcus, thank you for always supporting us in everything that we do.

To my editors, thank you for spending hours on InDesign fixing the kerning on textboxes and for teaching me that the opinions of others are to be treasured.

And to The Fanfare, thank you for teaching me that community is created. Thank you for giving me a reason to continue writing and an outlet for my own voice within Berkeley.



THE FINAL GOODBYE: Luo bids farewell to The Fanfare.

of Berkeley and even a recipe column to our newspaper. Each of these columns reflect an active effort to incorporate individual writers' interests which contribute to the growth of the paper as a whole. Through enthusiasm for each other, we have created a group where all of our voices are heard.

Part II: "Common characteristics or interests."

Journalism centers around a pursuit of the truth. In a time when journalism lies under



SMILING THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL: Luo's constant optimism throughout her years at Berkeley will continue to pave the way to her success.

Honors Night Awards and Accolades

Book Awards

English

English 9: Marcelle Kelley
 English 10: Amelia Laxer
 English 11: Anuj Bhatia
 Honors English 11: John Patrick
 English 12: Freyda Mannering
 Honors English 12: Sammie Lee
 AP English Language: Mira Rajani
 AP English Literature: Shaila Ghanekar
 Understanding Modern Man:
 McKenna Ebert

Foreign Languages

Chinese II: Victoria Grills
 Honors Chinese II: Edward Kuperman
 Chinese III: Jared Zukoski
 Honors Chinese III: Amelia Laxer
 Honors Chinese IV: Brayden Jenkins
 Honors Chinese V: Hayley Divers
 AP Chinese: Paul Engel-Penalosa
 French I: Macy Maiocco
 French II: Cali Governale
 Honors French II: Jacqueline Hennecke
 French III: Andres Fernandez Noriega
 Honors French III: Ornella Pigeon
 Honors French IV: Catherine Sykes Eckhard
 Honors French V: Ethan Franzblau
 AP French Language: John Patrick
 Latin I: Christopher Dieffenthaler
 Latin II: Taman Kanchanapalli
 Honors Latin II: Nadia Sadanandan
 Latin III: Reilley Poulin
 Honors Latin III: Benjamin Graham
 Honors Latin IV: Sarah Sbar
 Honors Latin V: Elizabeth Carson Eckhard
 AP Latin: Marie Harwell
 Spanish I: Briana Orbegoso
 Spanish II: Max Camuzzi
 Honors Spanish II: Claire Armstrong
 Spanish III: Marcelle Kelley
 Honors Spanish III: Anuksha Wickramasinghe:
 Spanish IV: Karina Shah
 Honors Spanish IV: Lindsey Marian
 Honors Spanish V: Rachel Weiss
 Honors Spanish Seminar: Mira Rajani
 AP Spanish Language: Samir Rajani
 AP Spanish Literature: Maria Rios

Mathematics

Geometry: Connor Leach
 Honors Geometry: Michael Jones
 Algebra II: Marcelle Kelley
 Honors Algebra II: Esha Bhatia
 Precalculus: Addison Aloian
 Honors Precalculus: Samantha Schimmel
 Honors Accelerated Precalculus with AP Calculus AB: Tony Leche
 Introduction to Calculus: Dawn Taylor
 Honors Calculus: Morgan Risi
 AP Calculus AB: Batia Friedman-Shaw
 AP Calculus BC: Ryan Li
 Honors Statistics: Avery Heyck
 AP Statistics: Spencer Sherman
 Multivariable Calculus: Ryan Li
 Fundamentals of Business: Ben Miller

Physical Education

Athletic Conditioning: Katherine Hoover
 Athletic Training: Rohan Singh
 Basic Physical Education: Van Pittman
 Fencing: Edward Kuperman
 Golf and Bowling: Jack Houser
 Outdoor Adventure: Maggie Murphy

Personal Fitness and Health: Matthew Thomas
 Power Fitness: Caitlyn Distasio

Science

Biology: Abigail Forman
 Honors Biology: Marcelle Kelley
 AP Biology: Samir Rajani
 Physics: Ryaan Hatoum
 Honors Physics: Jacob Bennett
 Honors Physics Engineering: Nick Hajjar
 AP Physics I: Christian Amburgey
 AP Physics II: Jalen Li
 AP Physics C: Ryan Li
 Chemistry: McKenna Ebert
 Honors Chemistry: Lindsey Marian
 AP Chemistry: Batia Friedman-Shaw
 Anatomy and Physiology: Isabella Monticciolo
 AP Environmental Science: Emma Edmund
 Astronomy: Madeline Ide
 Meteorology: Robert Cecil
 Microbes and Man I: Caitlyn Distasio
 Microbes and Man II: Kerry Horan
 Microbiology: Sydney Corey

Social Sciences and Religion

World History: Marcelle Kelley
 AP European History: Benjamin Graham
 U.S. Government and Economics: Lauren Dumar
 U.S. Government and Economics: Frank Giallourakis
 Honors U.S. Government and Economics: Jalen Li
 AP Economics: Tony Leche
 AP Macroeconomics: Shaila Ghanekar
 AP Government: Jennifer Luo
 AP U.S. Government and Politics: Ethan Franzblau
 U.S. History: Tatiana Paula
 Honors U.S. History: Victoria Rodriguez
 AP U.S. History: John Patrick
 Honors Psychology: Summer Henderson
 AP Psychology: Madison Gadea
 Honors International Relations: Marissa Maddalon
 Contemporary Global Issues- Middle East and North Africa: Chloe Davis
 Contemporary Global Issues- South Asia: Alexa Rudolph
 Cultural History: Arielle Bader
 Anthropology: Bridget O'Carroll
 Sociology: Amanda Dumar
 World Religion: Matthew Heyck
 World Religion: Robert Heyck
 Ethics: Kevin Kim

Technology

AP Computer Science A: Pierce Governale
 AP Computer Science Principles: Rowan Majumdar

Visual and Performing Arts

Advanced Art: James Langley
 AP Music Theory: Lucie Imholz
 Bagpipes: Logan Guzik
 Beginning Guitar: Michael Jones
 Cantabella: Madeline Grills
 Ceramics: Ornella Pigeon
 Concert Band: Nicholas Hayden
 Concert Band: Jalen Li
 Concert Band: Griffin Markowitz
 Design and Technical Theatre: Daniel Feliciano
 Design and Technical Theatre: Michael Sheyner
 Digital Design: Jacqueline Hennecke
 Digital Design: Noah Kraus

Digital Photography: James Langley
 Film Production: Carmen Mills
 Intermediate Art: Ryan Li
 Media: Claire Armstrong
 Performance I: Tallulah Nous
 Performance II: Cameron Gunn
 Singers: Shaila Ghanekar
 Singers: Anjali Shah
 Strings: Ann Ross

University Awards

Brandeis University Book Award: Emme Pogue
 Columbia University Book Award: Jack Phifer
 Dartmouth College Book Award: Tony Leche
 Harvard Prize Book Program: Anuj Bhatia
 Hollins Creative Writing Book Award: Victoria Rodriguez
 Princeton Book Award: Max St. John
 Randolph College Book Award: Katie Crino
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Mathematics and Science Award: Ryan Whelan
 Rhode Island School of Design: James Langley
 Rhodes College Book Award: Anders Douglas
 Sewanee Award for Excellence in Writing: Samantha Schimmel
 Smith College Award: Rhea Thielbar
 St. Lawrence University: Taylor Reyes
 University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Award: Faizan Sagheer
 University of Rochester-Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award: Samir Rajani
 University of Rochester-Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award: Isabella Diaco
 University of Rochester-George Eastman Young Leaders Award: John Patrick
 University of Rochester-Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology: Samuel Feuer
 University of Virginia: Batia Friedman-Shaw
 Wake Forest University Award: McKenna Ebert
 Washington and Lee University Award: Erika Kudryk
 Washington College-Leadership and Community Service: Justin Kuhn
 Washington College-Environmental Stewardship: Makayla Rutski
 Wellesley College Award: Emma Edmund

Special Awards

Anne Frank Humanitarian Award: Justin Kuhn
 Baker-Aye Award: Tony Leche
 Betty-Bruce Hoover Award: Anjali Kapadia
 Carol Kennedy Pro Communitate Award: Sean Nguyen
 Sylvia Richardson Young Woman of Promise: McKenna Ebert
 Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf Leadership Award: Tristan Yang
 Newman-Gottsch Award: Anna Arcuri
 Edgar T. McClearly Award: Andre Partykevich
 Headmaster's Trophy: Van Pittman

Ten Year Faculty

Zoe Anderson, Jennifer Frank, Danielle Marcantuono-Polstra, Carmen Raterman, Mike Van Treese

Other Awards

Top Scholars

Grade 9: Claire Armstrong
 Grade 10: Benjamin Graham
 Grade 11: Tony Leche
 Grade 12: Jennifer Luo

Awards for Effort

Grade 9: Claire Armstrong
 Grade 9: Marcelle Kelley
 Grade 9: Karishma Pandya
 Grade 9: Anuksha Wickramasinghe
 Grade 10: Jalen Li
 Grade 11: Batia Friedman-Shaw
 Grade 11: Tony Leche
 Grade 12: Ethan Franzblau
 Grade 12: Shaila Ghanekar
 Grade 12: Anna Gorsky
 Grade 12: Isabella Monticciolo
 Grade 12: Alexa Rudolph
 Grade 12: Mary Stephen Straske

Headmaster's Service

Anders Douglas, Anna Wren Fleming, Kaden Quinn, Maria Rios

National Merit Finalists

Carson Eckhard, Marie Harwell, Julia Hossain, Anjali Kapadia, Kevin Kim, Sammie Lee, Jennifer Luo, Mira Rajani, Rohan Singh, Jake Sokol, Samantha Tun, Theo Vasiloudes

National Merit Commended

Sydney Allen, Sydney Corey, Hayley Divers, Ethan Franzblau, David Gasser, Max Goldenberg, Anna Gorsky, Maddie Grills, Rowan Majumdar, Spencer Myers, Sean Nguyen

National Hispanic Recognition

Jessica Cascio, Ivan vonGreiff

Headmaster's Scholars

Jessica Cascio, Luke Corey, Sydney Corey, Elizabeth Corn, Hayley Divers, Carson Eckhard, Andres Fernandez-Noriega, Ethan Franzblau, David Gasser, Shaila Ghanekar, Anna Gorsky, Maddie Grills, Jeffrey Guttentag, Marie Harwell, Julia Hossain, Lucie Imholz, Anjali Kapadia, Kevin Kim, Noah Kraus, Sammie Lee, Ryan Li, Jennifer Luo, Marissa Maddalon, Rowan Majumdar, Freyda Mannering, Kyra McDonald, Ryan Montgomery, Isabella Monticciolo, Max Mortonson, Kaitlin Murray, Spencer Myers, Sean Nguyen, Van Pittman, Jesse Potts, Mira Rajani, Morgan Risi, Sarah Roth, Alexa Rudolph, Jacob Safee, Anjali Shah, Spencer Sherman, Rohan Singh, Jake Sokol, Mary Stephen Straske, Dawn Taylor, Samantha Tun, Maureen Ubani, Ivan vonGreiff

U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award

Lindsey Marian, Nicholas Petit-Frere

Straske Advises Grads to Be Kind, Build Connections and Volunteer

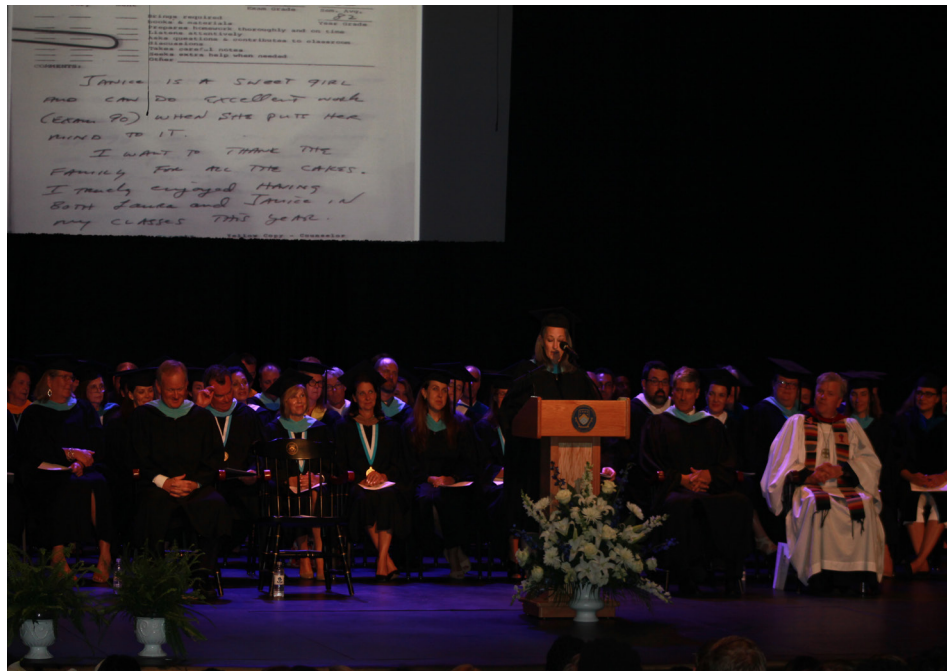
By JANICE STRASKE
Berkeley Alumnus, Class of 1987

When Mr. Seivold called and asked me to speak tonight, I was terrified. Because no matter how old you are or how well-behaved you are, if the headmaster calls you assume that you've been busted for something. When I realized that I was not in trouble, I asked him if, instead, I could possibly bake something and speak to each family individually; that is much more in my comfort zone. Public speaking? Not so much. But he encouraged me that, as a proclaimed lifelong learner, public speaking would be a good new skill for me to tackle. So here we are.

Here we are thirty years after my own Berkeley Baccalaureate and Graduation in May of 1987. It is hard to believe it! When I arrived as a Freshman in the Fall of 1983, Berkeley looked very different than it does today. The Kelly Road campus did not have all of the incredible facilities that we have now. There was no Lykes Center for the Arts, no Lower Division campus, no Steinbrenner Center, Gries Center or Straz Family Fieldhouse. There was no climbing wall or swimming pool. And how did we manage to function with only one gym? The parking lot was not paved, so we were constantly slogging through mud to get to class. Instead of the café, we had some faux-wood paneled Serv-O-Mation vending machines in Gills Hall that dispensed syrupy flat sodas and nasty, shrink-wrapped sandwiches. We ate all of our lunches either at long tables in Gills Hall, or outside on the Mound. On a pretty Tampa day, having lunch on the mound was lovely. We would spread out picnic blankets and slather on Bain de Soleil suntan gel to catch a few rays during lunch. That was great. However, if you were unlucky and had the second lunch period, then the seagulls, having been attracted to the leftover sandwich crusts from the first lunch period, would circle overhead, looking for targets. That could get messy.

I entered Berkeley pretty wide-eyed and naïve. I was dorky and didn't have any fashion sense. I had Kelly green corduroy pants, a copy of the Preppy Handbook in my backpack and an unfortunate haircut that was meant to look like Princess Diana's hair but turned out like a girl mullet instead.

In my middle school, we were rewarded for being polite "good listeners," answering things correctly and not making trouble. But the classroom style at Berkeley was an eye-opening shift from that. I hadn't known that teachers could be mentors and partners in learning. We had so much intense discussion, and I embraced the relationships that we developed. They were interested in us as people, not just as recipients of their subjects. I was a pretty good student in some



GET OUT THERE: Baccalaureate speaker Janice Straske tells graduating seniors not to be afraid to learn, try new experiences and see where life takes them.

classes, but a truly terrible math student. I wonder if Dr. Morris keeps a list of his most accomplished mathletes. If he keeps a separate list of his most frustrating students, I am more likely to be on that list. Throughout Berkeley, my teachers were amazing. We shared books and cups of coffee and canoe trips down the Peace River. They encouraged us to learn and explore and grow into young adults. I learned so much from my them about their subject material, but I learned even more about bigger concepts: things like how to find my voice and ask questions, challenge assumptions, occasionally challenge authority and think independently.

“Be willing to hear different perspectives.”

As I figured out my classes and other activities, I was just as busy figuring out the high school social world. Really, this was my top priority. I met great friends. We were not all exactly alike, but we quickly formed a strong bond that might be even stronger today. These women were the soul of my Berkeley experience. For four years we had class together and shared lunch on the mound. We discussed boys, and debated the merits of perms. We argued about music. We planned future careers. We made weekend plans, and we carefully memorized the story that we were telling our parents about those plans. We

talked endlessly and passionately about the changing role of women in society, as we found ourselves with so many more options than our own mothers had. We aspired to be doctors, lawyers, teachers, professors, writers and mothers, and we discussed which things should take precedence. We were all over the map religiously, socially and politically, which made for robust conversation. From them I learned loyalty. I learned to be authentic, to not be afraid to be different. I learned that you can intensely, fundamentally disagree about some things and not have that be a barrier to friendship. It is funny to think that being part of a group could help us develop individuality, but we (sic) did. Every one of us went to a different college. This was a time when laptops, cell phones, Instagram and Finstagram didn't exist, so we wrote letters back and forth, sharing stories, making new friends and embracing college life. When we came home for the holidays, we picked right back up where we had left off. This might be the most important part of my Berkeley experience—how important Berkeley was as a place to develop friendships, nurture relationships and build a supportive community.

Thirty years later, those dear friends and I, we live very different lives. We are professionals, volunteers, bakers, doctors, lawyers, real estate developers, restaurateurs, Master Gardeners, college professors, HBO programming directors, stay at home moms and dynamic combinations of those things. We have wildly liberal and politically conservative viewpoints. Some of us are pink-hat protesters, and some are quiet behind the scenes women. We still provide a sounding board for each other, an unvarnished second (and third) opinion.

We celebrate each other's joys and support each other when there are inevitable mistakes, setbacks and devastating losses. And now, instead of snail mail, we have a group text to make that process instantaneous. The strong community that we built in high school still supports us in our adulthood.

You all are at an exciting crossroads today. In the world beyond Berkeley that you are headed into, you will find lots of joys, challenges and opportunities. After your years here, you are academically well-prepared to be a successful student. You might know exactly what you want to study, and are ready to go—I'm always impressed with people with laser-like focus. But if you're like me, your path may be a little windier. I would encourage you to take classes that sound interesting, just for the sake of learning. Get to know your professors—visit them in their office hours, look for mentors and be willing to ask lots of questions. Work hard. It will not always be easy, but you are more than capable of being successful. That will make your next four years of study a satisfying experience.

At the same time, what happens outside of class has a lot to do with how satisfied and happy you are in general. Outside of class, your experience is really up to you. As Mark Twain said, don't let school get in the way of your education. I think that developing relationships, building community and strengthening the ties that bind us together is equally as important as your academics. So, work hard in class, but go to the party on Saturday night. Friendships, relationships and social experiences set the framework for your support system for life. People who have more social interactions live longer and are happier. Be kind. Talk to people, get to know them and hear their stories. Stay up late into the night figuring out what is wrong in the world, and figure out what you can do to fix it. Volunteer for organizations that make things better. Be willing to hear different perspectives. Disagree, talk about what you see differently and then sit back and listen. Give people the benefit of the doubt. Look for common ground. Don't be a jerk. If you find that you have somehow acted like a jerk, then apologize sincerely, move on and try to not do it again. Being nice doesn't mean being a doormat, it means that when you have conflict or controversy, you can behave in a way that is civilized, professional and respectful. There is always room to demonstrate compassion and kindness; find ways to make it part of your day. Mother Teresa said to "Spread love wherever you go. Let no one come to you without leaving happier." Make that as much of a goal as scoring a killer internship.

What I'd like to leave you with is this. You may be uncertain and wistful about leaving here, and a little bit anxious about what's happening next. Or, you might have one foot out the door, itching to get out of Dodge. Mr. Merluzzi used to call those students the Too Tight Blazers—their uniforms been outgrown, but they won't be here much longer so there's no reason to buy the next size up. You might feel one way today and the opposite way tomorrow. That is all completely normal. Know that you are ready to take the next step, capable of determining your own path. Whatever you choose to do, work hard, be kind and build friendships and community wherever you go. I look forward to watching your next chapters unfold, and seeing how you make a positive difference in the world.

Congratulations!



BEST FRIENDS FOREVER: Straske and her fellow Berkeley alumni continue to "provide a sounding board for each other" as they frequently meet up.



EVERYBODY CUT FOOTLOOSE: The Baccalaureate audience enjoyed Straske's prom picture from the 1980s.

Yelverton Urges Students to Continually Expand Their Horizons

By EMMA EDMUND
2017-2018 Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Sunday, May 21, graduating Berkeley seniors attended their Baccalaureate ceremony, a religious event that allowed students to reflect on their high school career and look forward to new learning experiences in college.

In addition to the main ceremony, Berkeley's graduates were treated to a dinner service and speech by elected speaker and Upper Division English teacher, Ms. Mary-Rush Yelverton. Yelverton's speech was extremely touching to this particular group of seniors, as they were the first Berkeley sophomores Yelverton taught, and like the seniors, Yelverton also graduated from Berkeley 23 years ago. On her Baccalaureate night, Yelverton remembered feeling every kind of emotion: "I was excited, impatient, ready for my "life to begin," as I saw it, but, like many of you, I was also anxious, nervous, sad at the prospect of leaving behind everything I'd ever known and apprehensive about what the future might hold." And throughout her speech, Yelverton conveyed what she believed will help seniors make the journey into their next part of life.

Yelverton's speech began as she reminded the students that their upcoming summer was the last one until their

"Savor these last little moments of being a child, because the chance will not come again."

"real life" began. She told the students, "if at all possible, treat this summer as a blessed interruption—a treasured interval between where you're going and where you've been, and an invitation to celebrate all the people who have accompanied you this far." For her, high school held an "if...then" mentality (if I do well on my APs, then I'll get into a good school), prompting students to focus on the future rather than enjoying the moment. Yelverton told students that this last summer was the summer to reflect on the incredible experience of high school, but, most importantly, to cherish the ones you love one last time.



Nina Pastore

TAKE RISKS: Yelverton challenges the Class of 2017 to branch out from what they are set on achieving in life.

Yelverton continued, saying that students need to also cherish their friends this summer—the friends who accepted and even loved students' imperfections, the friends who did crazy things with them (for Yelverton, crazy things in the drive-thru of a McDonald's), and those same friends they may not see many times after they leave for college. "Be with your friends," Yelverton said, "be with your family. Savor these last little moments of being a child, because the chance will not come again."

As important as it is to take advantage of this upcoming summer, Yelverton noted, it is just as important for graduating students to take advantage of the opportunities that will surround them in the summer. But Yelverton did not mean to focus on career networking, but rather to take advantage of the high concentration of "people who are so invested in growing, changing, exploring and learning—and not for the sake of personal profit or gain, either, but for the joy of the journey itself." Yelverton challenged a quote made by F. Scott Fitzgerald in the Great Gatsby that said man has for the last time discovered a new continent. Yelverton argues that in college, students will find not a new continent, but "a whole new world (with apologies to Aladdin). And this new world absolutely can accommodate and even exceed your capacity for wonder."

Yelverton illustrated to the students that any interest they have, no matter how small, will be able to develop with the unique resources offered in college. She encouraged students to take advantage of those opportunities, and to allow people

around them to "push you to examine your beliefs and question your assumptions, stretch your minds, broaden your perspective, and immeasurably enrich your experience of life".

To tie her point together, Yelverton urged students to expand "your mind, your heart and your horizons." She added that one of the primary ways to properly expand is to take risks. But she meant not physical risks, but "intellectual risks, the kind that push you into new territory and beget entirely new possibilities." Yelverton added an anecdote, about how some of the classes that she took that were out of her comfort zone. She took, but dropped, a quantum physics class, and she said that when she met Stephen Hawking, she regretted not sticking with the class so she would have more to say to him. Yelverton also took a jazz music and history seminar, which fostered her intense interest to "learn everything I could about the cultural and artistic production associated with the African diaspora." She even focused on that specific interest when she decided to pursue her doctorate. Using her experiences as evidence, Yelverton told students that "I want you to branch out, to veer even slightly from the narrow path no matter how determined you are to arrive at a set destination." She even said that students may find a new career focus or path with the interest they decide to develop.

Yelverton shifted to a focus on students' roles in a future society. In an experiment at UC Berkeley, teams of three were arbitrarily assigned a leader. In each group, a plate of four

cookies was set out. Although everyone got one, the arbitrarily-assigned team leader consistently took the fourth cookie, as if they were entitled to it. But the experiment showed that the leaders were chosen based on the randomness of luck. Yelverton added that in many ways, Berkeley students already have lives full of luck, from being lucky enough to attend the school and lucky enough to go to college. Yelverton warned students not to get too conceited with what their luck had brought them—"already, you've been faced with the chance to take the extra cookie many times, and inevitably, you will be faced with that chance again, and again, and again. Don't be that person who mindlessly believes that all the cookies by divine right belong to her."

Yelverton ended with a critique of the current definition of success. She said that "the definition of your success is the gratification of your needs and your desires no matter how limitless those desires may be," but "if you define success in this way, you will never truly feel successful because you will always want more." She contrasted that definition of success with a different one, one that focuses on using the luck students have had already toward solving world problems and helping those who are less fortunate. Yelverton's final sentence echoed the sentiment of Berkeley's motto: "to truly make a positive difference in the world, you must find a way to share your luck in whatever way you can."

Go to www.bpsfanfare.com for Yelverton's full speech.



Nina Pastore

SIBLING SUPPORT: Rachel Gasser '19 celebrates her brother David Gasser '17 (from left) at the Baccalaureate dinner.



Nina Pastore

FRIENDS CELEBRATE: Julia Hossain '17, Catalina Cepero '17 and Maria Rios '17 (from left) celebrate at the Baccalaureate dinner.

Baron Implores Seniors to Stay True to Their Moral Compass

By **MARTIN BARON**
Berkeley Alumnus, Class of 1972

Thank you for inviting me back to Berkeley for this special occasion. Congratulations to all the graduates on what you have achieved. Back in 1972, when I was in your place, I could not wait for this day. I had learned a lot at Berkeley. I would miss friends when I went off to college, where I would know no one.

But I was ready for the rest of my life. Definitely. I was ready, but I had absolutely no clue what the next 45 years would bring.

“Prepare yourself for some pleasant surprises. And, also, some unexpected - and, often difficult, challenges.”

Take, for example, what happened on September 12, 2014. First, I was working in an office at The Washington Post as its executive editor. I could never have anticipated that. I mean, being editor of the Berkeley Fanfare was great and all, but it wasn't exactly a well-trod steppingstone in the field of journalism.

On that September day, in my glass office at The Post was the actor Liev Schreiber. He was asking me questions about my career, my life, my relationship with former colleagues.

He was struggling to understand my personality. That was the hard part! He had heard I was, to use his words, “totally inscrutable.” I sort of am.

The office was buzzing. I hadn't told anyone Liev Schreiber was coming. But in no time women were parading by my office window to get a good look inside. One came by once with her hair up, and then a second time with her hair down.

As the regular occupant of that office, this was an unfamiliar experience for me.

But here was the guy who played Sabretooth in X-Men Origins: Wolverine, with pronounced canine teeth, retractable claws, regenerative powers and enhanced senses.

Liev is also the guy who plays the lead in “Ray Donovan,” the Showtime series. His character is a menacing Boston-bred fixer for Hollywood stars who makes troubles disappear for the wealthy and famous – with his fists, a gun, a baseball bat . . . and, for good measure, some blackmail. Not infrequently, he is seen with blood adding some color to his crisp white dress shirt.

So, it was only natural that he would play me -- in a movie where the fists pound only at a keyboard and where the wardrobe was once described as “the artless look of the Boston journalist.” Despite that, thankfully, that movie, “Spotlight,” would go on to win the Academy Award for best picture in 2016.

At that moment, in my office, I be-

gan to think, “This is great. When people hear my name, they'll think of Liev Schreiber – four inches taller, infinitely more fit and a lot better looking!”

So, today as you sit here thinking about what your life is going to be like, you just have no idea. Prepare yourself for some pleasant surprises. And, also, some unexpected – and, often difficult, challenges.

The reason the movie “Spotlight” was made can be traced, in a way, to something I learned here at Berkeley – although it wasn't taught in any of my classes: How to question authority. I did that fairly often as editor of the Fanfare in 1971 and 1972. It had me knocking heads with the headmaster. He didn't like it. I don't think he liked me. And I wasn't all that wild about him.

Neither of us would back down.

It was an education – an extracurricular one, you might say. And, although I didn't know this at the time, it was fabulous preparation for my career!

The movie “Spotlight” grew out of an investigation I launched 29 years later on my first day as editor of The Boston Globe. There was evidence the Catholic Church had engaged in grave wrongdoing, covering up sexual abuse by clergy. The Catholic Church was the single most powerful institution in Boston. The easy thing would have been to look away, do nothing, avoid controversy and conflict. But that's not what you should do when you see people getting hurt, the powerful being protected at the expense of the weak. Not in my view, at least. And it's not what you do if you're a journalist committed to the principles of your profession

And so we investigated. And I firmly

“The right thing is not always the popular thing. Very often it is the hard thing. You will need a spine.”

believe we did a lot of good. A powerful institution was held accountable for covering up true evil. Reforms were implemented. Children were made more safe. Other institutions began to treat credible accusations of abuse with far more urgency and seriousness.

The best thing about all that – for me, personally – was not the Academy Awards the movie won 14 years later. It was the rewards that came from knowing that ordinary people – abuse survivors, in this instance – felt someone had finally listened to them, had given them a voice.

Well after the Globe's first story was published in January, 2002, I received a letter from Father Thomas P. Doyle. He had waged a long and lonely battle within the Church on behalf of abuse victims. He wrote this: “This nightmare would have gone on and on were it not



Isabella Schlaet

LISTEN TO YOURSELF: Baron '72 urges the Class of 2017 to “do what your values tell you is right.”

for you and the Globe staff. As one who has been deeply involved in fighting for justice for the victims and survivors for many years, I thank you with every part of my being.”

“I assure you,” he wrote, “that what you and the Globe have done for the victims, the church and society cannot be adequately measured. It is momentous and its good effects will reverberate for decades.” I kept Father Doyle's letter on my desk in Boston until the day, four and a half years ago, that I headed to Washington for my current job. The letter was a reminder of why I do what I do.

I hope you can someday receive a letter like that. Or just simple gratitude for listening to someone who needed you to listen, or helping someone who needed a hand up. The value cannot be calculated in currency. There are rewards greater than a certificate, a prize or a paycheck.

So, every once in a while, you've got to do what you've got to do. The right thing is not always the popular thing. Very often it is the hard thing. You will need a spine.

And, sometimes, if you stand for something, you will have to stand alone.

You will need to consult your own moral compass. You will need to have a moral compass. You will need a soul, a set of values. They will help you through life's most trying moments. You will need them if you want to be your own person.

When I went to Boston in 2001, I was immediately labeled an “outsider.” I didn't grow up there, didn't go to school there, didn't know anyone there. I was an object of some suspicion. That was not easy to deal with.

And then in 2002, in the middle of the Boston Globe's investigation of the Church, a cardinal in Latin America who was seen as a candidate to be the next pope equated our coverage of the abuse scandal with – quote – “the times of Diocletian and Nero and, more recently, Stalin and Hitler.” A Harvard law professor who would later become U.S. ambassador to the Vatican declared that awarding us the Pulitzer Prize for that work would be – quote – “like giving the Nobel Peace Prize to Osama bin Laden.” (We went on to win the prize anyway.)

This year, I was among those subjected to a different label. The president of the United States classified Washington journalists like me as enemies of the American people. When you go from being an “outsider,” as I was deemed in

Boston, to what the president labels “enemy of the people,” well, that's what we call career advancement in the field of journalism.

I had traveled a long distance from knocking heads with Berkeley's headmaster to knocking heads with a Cardinal and the Catholic Church to being among journalists who knocked heads with the president of the United States. But, you know, the same principles apply.

You do what your values tell you is right.

My values today, in my current job, arise from what a revered founder of this country, a key author of the Constitution, and its fourth president had to say on behalf of the First Amendment. That person is James Madison, who extolled – quote – “the right of freely examining public characters and measures,” and who called free expression “the only effectual guardian of every other right.”

Fulfilling the mission Madison envi-

“One person really can make a difference. You don't have to change the course of history, or anything like that. But you can change someone else's life for the better.”

sioned for the press – holding our government to account -- is central to this country's foundational idea of self-governance. There is no democracy without free expression and an independent, free press.