

ACACIAWOOD PREPARATORY

EAGLE FLYER

March 2023



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SENIOR TRIP

By: Sarah Bolton



After months of strenuous fundraising and planning, the senior class's hard work finally paid off with their arrival in London, England on March 11. Their week-long adventure delivered unparalleled experiences and appeased their international ambitions. Miss Chen and Wesley Liu led the seven seniors to explore England's rich history, visiting the Greenwich Observatory, Big Ben, the British Museum, the National Gallery, the city of Cambridge, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, eating at Borough Market, and much more. They also visited the Warner Brothers Studio Tour and enjoyed exhilarating experiences at the London Dungeon. The class was greeted and graciously hosted by saints and former AcaciaWood alumni.



FRONTIERS IN HISTORY

By: Alethea Fong, Esther Jou, and Anamaria Viana



The AWP community has returned to the competitive field of academia. We would like to congratulate 5th graders, Poima Bernier and Lucas Menendez, for winning at county level and making it to state level in the annual National History Day Contest. Here's what our winners had to say:

Q: What was your topic about and how did you decide on it?

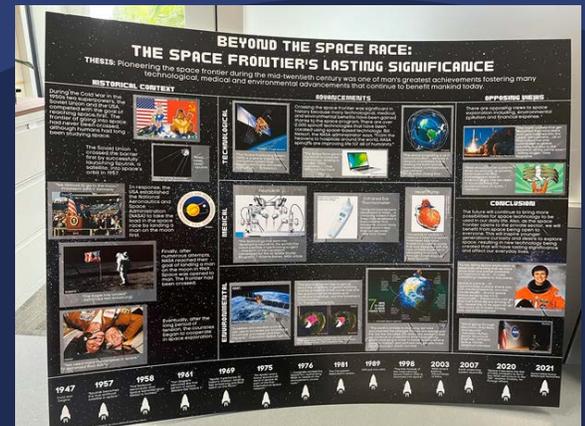
A: (Lucas) "Beyond the Space Race: The Space Frontier's Lasting Significance" I was always interested in space and Poima didn't really care, so we just decided on that. We also chose some advancements from the Space Race, like the infrared thermometer. It was used to determine the temperature of the sun and planets.

Q: What made you participate in NHD this year?

A: AcaciaWood was going to do an NHD club, but there were no teachers available and people answered late. The competition was this month and they responded in February. Because of this, the moms decided to help us.

Q: What were some of your primary sources?

A: The first source was an interview with Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz. He was the first Latino astronaut to join the US Astronaut Program after a space shuttle orbiter had exploded in 1986. He made a company called AdAstra that worked to create a different, cleaner fuel system in replacement of the rockets we use today. It uses something called plasma. It's extremely hot and is made into engine oil plasma propulsion. We had another interview with Salvador Nunez who was a senior structural engineer for NASA, where he began building a habitat to put on the moon and even on Mars!



Q: Was NHD harder or easier than you thought it'd be?

A: (Poima) It was definitely harder than we thought. It's a lot of research but once you're done with that, it's fun putting the poster board together.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

By: Vincent Chiang and Emmanuel Quinones

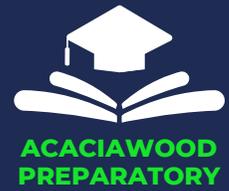
The rumors of Acaciawood's very first boys volleyball team have been confirmed with our team joining the league and competing in their first ever season. The athletes decided to band together in a test of perseverance, determination, and teamwork in this uncharted territory. The team is led by their captain, Vincent Chiang, and its current members are Samuel Quinones, Ben Chow, Cyrus Lee, Emmanuel Quinones, William Chiang, Paul Lee, Sherlock Li, and Issac Villanueva. Speech teacher and boys basketball basketball coach, James Kuan, has also taken up the task of coaching the boys through their first ever volleyball season.



Success is never found without the taste of failure which these boys know too well. Being first time volleyball players, the team's first two games against Savanna High School and Orangewood Academy were met with painful losses. They still managed to make quick progress with their one set win against Tarbut V'Torah on March 22. However, history was made when on March 31, the team won AWP's first ever boys volleyball game in their second match against TVT. With this shining victory, the team's spirit is higher than ever and our athletes have never been more confident in their abilities and potential. We know our eagles will continue to soar and we can't wait to see how their promising future unfolds.

TEACHER TESTIMONIES: MRS. KANGAS

By: Karissa Lim and Silvia Aramburo



Q: How many years have you been teaching at AcaciaWood and what have you taught?

A: I began teaching at AWP in 1997. I started with teaching fifth and sixth grade Social Studies, as well as fifth through eighth grade Language Arts. The school only went from fifth through twelfth grade at that time. I stayed home and didn't teach for three years while my children were young, so I have taught at AWP for twenty-two years.

Q: What is your most rewarding experience of being a teacher?

A: I love being a teacher. I love that every day is full of new wonders and different experiences. I enjoy seeing my students make connections and share their ideas with each other. Teaching is full of creative possibilities.

Q: What skills do teachers need to be successful and what makes teaching worthwhile to you?

A: Teachers need to be resilient and adaptable. Every student is a unique person and you want them all to succeed. Teaching at AWP has been a blessing. When the Lord calls you to serve Him, it takes many shapes and forms. I was able to follow the Lord all these years as a teacher at AWP. Seeing the accomplishments of my former students and their love for the Lord grow make these exhausting days worth it.



Q: Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

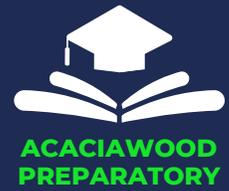
A: I have always loved learning, but I also love art. I started college as an architecture student, but switched to education after my first year. I am grateful that I get to spend my days doing something I love. (Including art too!)

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: In 10 years, I hope to be following the Lord and enjoying Him more than I do today.

ALUMNI ARTICLES: LUKA HSIEH

By: Lianna Alvarez-Sager and Sieun Kim



Q: How long did you study in AWP?

A: I started in AWP from 8th grade and left during 11th grade.

Q: What is your favorite memory at AWP?

A: My favorite memory was playing a really good game of volleyball with my teammates.



Q: If you could experience high school again, what would you do differently?

A: I would take the opportunity to start more clubs, not necessarily academic ones, but extracurricular activities that would make school more interesting. I would also participate in sports such as swimming. I am really jealous to see people at UCLA who swam during high school and are now in swim clubs. They seem to be having a blast at every swim meet (I know because I'm a lifeguard). Also, I think developing a habit for any exercise is really good for you overall.

Q: What influenced you to go to the college of your choice?

A: I first started in Fullerton College because I was going through some personal matters and needed a change in environment. Fullerton was the closest, most economical, and fitting option for me. They had all the classes I needed to transfer to my current major at UCLA. They also had excellent honors and STEM programs for new undergraduates to explore and build their educational paths. My current major at UCLA is psychobiology B.S. which uses biology to explain psychology. You can also call it behavioral neuroscience. I've always been interested in psychology and when I started college, I wanted to be a doctor. Therefore, I chose my major because it fulfilled many prerequisites of medical school. Although I no longer want to be a doctor, I still like my major very much. Now, I am more drawn to the psychological side. In our classes, we talk about many interesting topics like memory, attention, learning new languages... and I'm fascinated by them every day!

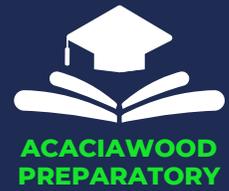
Q: What habits do you recommend to build while in high school?

A: I recommend building the habit of using a planner, because you will have so many things to take care of in college. You will lose track of all your tasks, and it helps you stay organized. I would also suggest having good time management. Nobody is going to tell you when to do homework or when to study in college. You need to figure out what works best for yourself and stick with a consistent schedule. Stay active, no matter how much workload you have. It's always important to make time to exercise, since it's good for your physical and mental health! Read the Bible. Remaining in the word of God will give you peace and wisdom to maneuver through all the chaos in college. He will be the lamp to your feet, light for the way!



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: DANIEL SIMS

By: Daniel Nicasio and Arwen Dy Buco



Q: From your time at AcaciaWood, what are some valuable lessons you have learned?

A: During my years at this school, a valuable lesson that I have learned is to Trust in God and not in myself.

Q: What are your plans and goals after graduation?

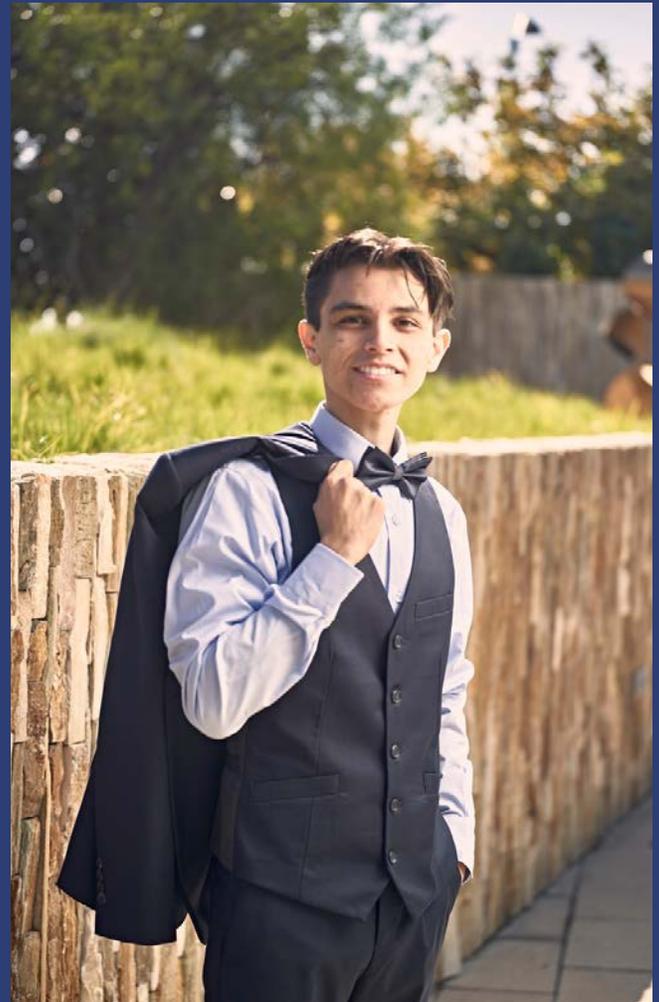
A: I will be attending the University of Miami in Florida where I will be majoring in Finance at the Herbert School of Business.

Q: How have your hobbies helped develop as the person you are today?

A: During high school, I discovered a love for running which has now become my daily hobby. Through running every day, I've developed discipline for a sport that I love and it has earned me 2nd Team All-League Honors as well as the Most Valuable Runner Award for our school's XC team. Running has also opened many other doors for me in my life in regards to health and fitness. I hope to continue this hobby for as long as I can.

Q: How has the Lord shaped you in these last few years/months?

A: During these last few years, the Lord has opened so many doors for me. He has been a guiding hand through my sufferings and blessings in high school. He has been faithful in saving me in all ways through these precious years.



Q: What advice would you give to other students in AcaciaWood?

A: Trust in the Lord and always put forth your best effort.



Thank you for reading the sixth edition of the Eagle Flyer! We hope to keep you updated with school events and help you get to know members of our community.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please contact James Kuan at mrkuan@acaciawood.org. Go Eagles!

Credits:

Editor-in-Chief: Carissa Kuan

Managing Editor: Sarah Bolton

Copy Editor: Arwen Dy Buco

Writers: Carissa Kuan, Sarah Bolton, Arwen Dy Buco, Rebekah Rosario, Camila May, Vincent Chiang, Sieun Kim, Lianna Alvarez-Sager, Alethea Fong, Silvia Aramburo, Anamaria Viana, Emmanuel Quinones, Karissa Lim, Daniel Nicasio

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