



# THE CENTRALIZER

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MaryElizabeth Greeley (278)  
News Editor  
News

## SCIENCE FAIR: YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2018 Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) symposium is a science fair where students from all over Pennsylvania come to present their research topics in the form of a ten minute PowerPoint presentation to several judges and specialized students. Of the 26 Central students who participated in this science fair, more than half qualified for the state competition in May at Penn State Main Campus. Nancy Zhu (278), whose project addressed ecology principles and yogurt fermentation, is new to the science fair this year, and commented that the fair opened her eyes “to the endless possibilities of science” with the great diversity of projects presented at the gathering. There are over 20 different science fair categories represented at PJAS, addressing each branch of STEM and beyond.

After a smashing success at PJAS, the Central crew, like any meticulous researcher, hoped to replicate their results at the George Washington Carver Science Fair, which took place at the Temple Aramark Center in March. This science fair, unlike PJAS, requires students to present their science experiments with a poster board exhibit rather than a PowerPoint, while giving a short speech about their project to a group of judges. Despite having to wait hours for projects to be judged, students amused themselves by reading their own posters multiple times, occasionally catching an annoying typo they made on their Staples-printed cloth poster while listening to the Carver director tell participants to calm down and stay



Students gather at the end of the PJAS States (Penn State Main Campus) fair.

at their boards instead of wandering off to other categories to talk with their classmates. Many a nerd tried to finish their calculus homework, not looking to play around other non-Central students, despite frequent reminders by Ms. Cohen (256), who teaches Honors Research, to try to make friends with presenters from other schools. Annalisa Quinn (279) took this advice to heart and spent her time catching up with old friends. She jokes that she “always plans on doing homework at the fairs, but I only do some because I talk the whole time.”

A week later was the Awards Ceremony for Carver Science Fair at the Academy of Natural Sciences. 21 Central students attended to claim prizes

ranging from honorable mentions to first place. The first round of awards were the “Special” awards which ranged from \$5-Below gift cards to full-ride college scholarships. Central had a record turnout for these special awards, receiving monetary prizes of all types and value. Two Central students, Shehbeel Arif (277) and Prem Modi (280), won Best of Fair, which recognizes the best science project in the entire competition and is the highest achievement one can receive at the Carver science fair. The students who placed first, second, and third qualified for the Delaware Valley Science Fair which took place later in March. The stakes are high at the Delaware Valley Science Fair because participants compete against all the first

place winners in the entire state of Pennsylvania. The projects at this fair demonstrate not only scientific mastery but also privilege in regards to resources outside of school. A majority of the students competing in these science fairs spend hours every week working on their projects both in and outside of the school. Their parents may work in labs, which means immediate access to lab equipment and expertise one otherwise may not be able to acquire in a school setting.

The summer before fair season begins, Central students hope to acquire connections with local labs where they can work. One student, Helen Jiang (277), who did a project about myocardial metabolic changes in diabetic hearts, said that working in a lab allowed her to utilize softwares like TraceFinder or GraphPad that she wouldn’t have had access to otherwise. She notes that “these tools allowed me to better communicate my results and findings to my judges.” However, the judges may not explicitly know that a student has had outside assistance from a local lab and will therefore examine a project based on how it has promoted STEM fields as a whole as well as demonstrated the scientific method that we are taught in school from early on in our lives. To begin the day, Ms. Cohen, the science fair sponsor, equipped her students with a “Del-Val survival pack” filled with food and games to keep themselves occupied for hours while they sat and waited for the judges to finally come around to talk to them. One student, Shehbeel Arif (277), qualified for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) where students represent the U.S. in the world’s largest pre-college science fair.

## DYLAN LEWIS AWARDED BEST ACTRESS FOR ROLE IN GUYS AN DOLLS

Elya Kaplan (277)  
News

On Monday, May 21st, members of Central High School’s Music Department attended the Philadelphia Independence Awards ceremony as one of the schools participating in the city-wide competition. The musicals presented by the 14 participating schools were judged by members of the Board who assessed the acting, vocals, dance, orchestra, sets, and management of each production, to determine which schools and individuals would be presented awards for each category. This year, Central High School put on a production of Frank Loesser’s Guys and Dolls, a musical based on Jo Swerling and Abe Burrow’s book of the same name which takes place in depression-era New York, and follows the lives of gamblers, mission-workers, and Burlesque dancers over the course of a few days. The accents, personalities, costumes, and sets all portrayed the feeling of the time-period, and allowed actors to experience a new genre of music and style of dance, and to expand their repertoire. One such actor is Dylan Lewis (277), the senior who portrayed Miss Adelaide, the leader of the Burlesque dancers – the Hot Box girls – and the fiancé to Nathan Detroit, the man



Dylan Lewis poses with her Best Lead Actress award

behind the city’s underground crap games. On how she felt about the show, Lewis said “In hindsight, I’m really happy that we did Guys and Dolls my senior year, because the show is a classic and playing the role of Miss Adelaide was more exciting and challenging than I initially thought it would be.”

The quality of the production and performance of Guys and Dolls were so great that Central was nominated for

nine separate awards at the Philadelphia Independence Awards, and the Music Department is proud to say that Dylan Lewis won Best Lead Actress out of five nominees. In retrospect, Lewis reflects on the experience, saying: “I’m really grateful to have won the award because I was on the fence about performing in college and this gave me the encouragement I needed to keep doing musical theater.”

In pursuit of further experiences in musical theatre, and at the close of a four-year relationship with the Arts at Central High School, Lewis responds to the introduction of the new teachers and building to the Music Department over the next few years: “I think the new building really helps to show how valuable the performing arts are at Central, and I hope that as the musical theater program continues to grow, the school population will come out to support the shows more and the extra-curricular activity will foster more of a sense of community among its participants.” With this year’s successes, and the upcoming additions to the Music Department, the Arts at Central are only going to flourish and grow; such achievements among the student body encourage others to pursue what they love, and bring attention to the significance and importance of programs in the arts.

## LANCER LEGACY CONTINUES

Grace Del Vecchio (277)  
Sports Editor  
Sports

Although Central has always been renowned for its academics, what truly sets it apart are the well-rounded students that make up the student body. As the members of 277 prepare for the next stage of their education, some look forward to not only continuing their education, but their athletic careers as well.

Captain and center midfielder Raymundo Morales-Ventura is a soccer player taking the field in college. “It’s more than a sport to me, it’s my passion and I will continue to play soccer my entire life,” said Raymundo when I asked him what this chance meant to him. “I’m very excited to have received the chance to keep playing soccer at a varsity level in college. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me and watched me grow not only as a player but as person these last four years. I am looking forward to the next four years and whatever that follows”. Raymundo will be playing Division 3 Soccer at Rosemont.

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# RETIRING TEACHERS SAY STUFF

Ashish Abraham (277)  
Managing Editor  
News

## Mr. Harper

Mr. Harper has been a staple at Central for thirty-one years, spending eleven years as the Math Department Chair and nineteen as the school's basketball coach. He was a member of the 230th class and his son was part of the 259th. Nearly everyone who has ever taken a math course in the school has either had Mr. Harper as a teacher or has gone to him for tutoring in the early hours of the morning. Math is known to be one of the drier subjects yet the "Harper-method" has never failed to make every class captivating. According to him, Central is great because it has a tradition of excellence, the kids actually care about learning and it has a wonderful alumni association. He also loves watching kids grow up throughout their high school career and eventually return to the school after graduating to tell him how great a teacher he was in preparing them for college. Under his leadership the math department accepted new teachers, more honors/AP classes became available, and he has tried to give freshmen a stronger foundation in math. He said it has been a pleasure teaching and coaching in the school.



## Dr. Hall

Dr. Hall has been teaching for more than forty years, beginning her Central career with the 262nd class. She worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania before an invitation from Dr. Pavel compelled her to take a job as an English teacher here. Her daughter Amity (261) and her son Kieran (264) are both Central alumni. Dr. Hall is renowned for her immersive English courses that engage students to learn about literature from all around the world. Though sad about her departure from teaching, she now looks forward to all the freedom retirement provides. She can now focus on writing another book and spending time with her family.



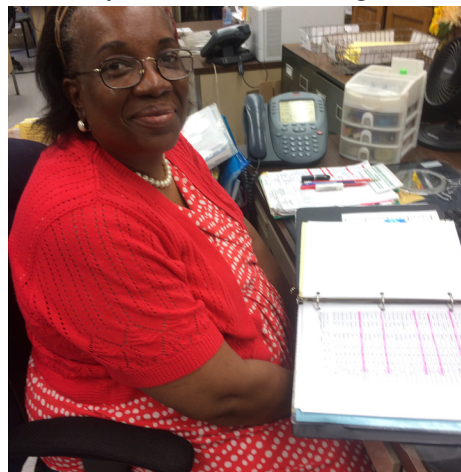
## Ms. MacArthur

Ms. MacArthur started teaching at Central in 2005 when 264 was the senior class. Previous experiences teaching at other high schools had disheartened her, but she felt like her "career was saved" when she was appointed here. She could finally teach important literature, discuss global issues (especially about class and culture) and teach drama. She said she will miss International Day and Earth Day calling them "truly special occasions at Central that give us an identity unique from other high schools." She also said she will never miss waking up at 6:00 a.m. (something the graduating seniors can relate too) and working every Sunday on lesson plans, grading and other prep work. She hopes to pursue her passion for animal rights, promote vegan/vegetarian lifestyles, and to also spend "more time canvassing for the upcoming primary elections in November." Her last message to students is to "never, ever, let fear stop you from trying to do something you want. Fear of not making enough money, fear of being alone, fear of not being smart enough, or talented enough, etc. Banish it from your mind." She has found that the most talented people often don't pursue their dreams because they are afraid they are not good enough, while mediocre minds plunder brazenly on, never questioning their ability to succeed.



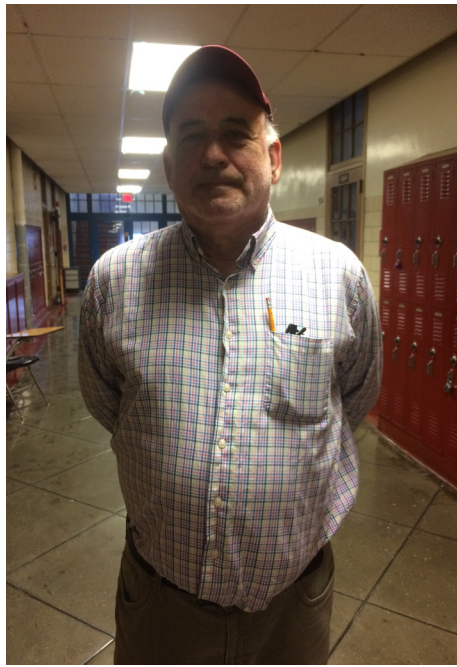
## Ms. Clark

For five years, Ms. Clark has worked in the office of Central High School and helped all of its members in innumerable ways. From overseeing students aids to contacting staff on behalf of administration, Ms. Clark has become a valuable member of the CHS community. She praised the cordial atmosphere and wonderful administrative staff she got to work with in the office and commended students for their hunger to learn and exercise the opportunities available to them. After nineteen years of service in the school district, she is happy to leave on a positive note, saying she "couldn't have asked for anything better." It will be tough for students to see her absent from her desk, but fond memories of Ms. Clark will always remain at Central High.



## Mr. Balbier

In the October of 2007, Mr. Balbier became part of Central's prestigious faculty. A valued member of the Social Studies Department, Mr. Balbier is known for his thrilling World History and AP Psychology courses. He dubbed his time at Central as one of "professional contentment," largely due to the appreciative and energetic students he was able to surround himself with. When asked what he will miss about the school he said the students, his comrades in the Social Studies Department and the professional management that Central has been fortunate to have. He added that he will never ever miss Keystones dubbing them a "waste of instruction time." For those who fear they'll never see Mr. Balbier again, he also said he would like to come back and sub. He looks forward to spending so much time with his wife that "she will divorce me."



## Ms. Campbell

Ms. Campbell has served as a school nurse for thirty years, fourteen of which she worked at Central beginning with the 264th class. Since her children are alumnus, Ms. Campbell knows firsthand what students have to go through on a day-to-day basis, inspiring her to try and "bring out the brighter side" of the kids she meets daily. Her amiable personality has made trips to the nurse's office a lot less dismal than it usually sounds. She has made it her personal duty to be an advocate for students to ensure they remain in good health, both physically and mentally. She maintains the mindset of a computer; processing the new information she receives daily, saving the stuff she needs and deleting the rest. She hopes students follow her example by consistently remembering the important stuff they need to learn in school and forget about all the negativity they come into contact with in order to maintain a good mental state. Along with the students, she will miss many members of the faculty like Ms. Betof and Ms. Scott, both of whom have greatly assisted Ms. Campbell during her time here at Central.



# WHAT ABOUT PEACEFUL PROTEST?

Jamie Razler (277)  
Op-ed editor  
Op-ed

On May 23, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell released a statement in response to a long standing issue in the football league. He announced a policy change that players would no longer be allowed to kneel to protest during the national anthem. However, players can remain in the locker room and are not required to be present on the field while the anthem is being sung. Players who do not comply with this new policy will be met with a fine given to their team by the NFL. Each team may also impose repercussions for players who "do not stand and show respect for the flag and the national anthem."

Kneeling protests during the national anthem began in 2016 when Colin Kaepernick began kneeling to protest racial injustice, which eventually spread across the league and sparked controversy. NFL players began using their platform to identify problems in the country and drawing mass media attention to themselves. Considering the average NFL franchise is worth \$2.5 billion, and that the 2018 Super Bowl reached over 100 million viewers, protesting players reach a large audience and have an immense impact on revenue. Why are players being banned from drawing attention to important issues on such a powerful platform?

Outrage against NFL players kneeling for the national anthem was encouraged by none other than President Donald Trump. He has tweeted several times over the last year criticizing players for "disrespecting our country," calling for suspension of players who kneel, and calling the NFL "weak and out of control."

The question now becomes: what makes kneeling in protest so disrespectful? Players who have kneeled have done so in a quiet, peaceful way. Many people who do not support the protests argue that the flag, the country, and veterans who fought for the flag are being disrespected. However, don't veterans protect the rights the flag represents, one of them being the right to peacefully protest? Forbidding players to protest violates the First Amendment, which states: "Congress shall make no law... prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech."

Many NFL players have earned bad reputations over the years, from Michael Vick orchestrating dog fights, to Ezekiel Elliott receiving a suspension for domestic violence. A different audience labels protesters like Colin Kaepernick and Chris Long similarly, but for protesting the shortcomings of our society and government. Those who disagree with the protests do so because they disagree with the cause of the protests. Had Colin Kaepernick kneeled in protest for a different cause, the conversation would be framed much differently, and this new ban would likely not exist.

Those who say that NFL players should protest in a different way or setting should think about the massive amounts of people the controversy is reaching. Colin Kaepernick started a national movement that everyone is talking about, and inspired other NFL players to stand up against injustice and use their wide platform for good. Banning players from protesting is denying them their constitutional rights, and stripping them of their platform to be seen and make change.

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A member of the first ever Girls Varsity Lacrosse team, Adela Qalliaj has proven herself a force to be reckoned with time and time again. As captain and center midfielder of Central's Girls' Varsity Lacrosse team, she has been key in leading the team to countless victories. Taking her athletic career to a higher level is not only a realized goal but a pinnacle source of motivation, providing her with the drive necessary to improve. "Playing lacrosse at the collegiate level is something I always wanted to do since the age of 10. I never thought I would actually make it." Said Adela, "Shout out to Coach Snyder for teaching me new things about lacrosse and allowing my love for the sport to grow, making me a better player overall". Adela will be attending Florida Southern College in the fall and will be playing Division 2 Women's Lacrosse.



Adela Qalliaj runs for the win.



Azure Lintulahti shoots!

Both a renowned captain and centerback, Azure Lintulahti will no doubt be a great addition to Goucher College's Division 3 Women's Soccer team. Having spent the majority of her life on the soccer field, Azure is excited to be able to continue her career as a soccer player. "I'm in-

credibly grateful to my college for taking a chance on me and giving me a chance to continue to get better at something I love," said Azure. "I'm excited to take part in not only the game itself, but also continue to be surrounded by talented players, and the strong community of a team".



Eamon McCoubrey waits for his catch.

Another Lancer captain that will be taking on the next level is Baseball's starting catcher, Eamon McCoubrey. Eamon is headed to Elizabethtown College to play Division 3 Baseball, "What I'm looking forward to the most in the next four years is just making a lot of friends on the team," commented Eamon. "Baseball is such a team sport, and it creates a lot of great friendships. It means a lot to me to be able to play this game at the next level, and I just want to make this most out of the opportunity".



Lauryn James running in a Spring 2018 race.

As the only member of 277 to commit to a Division 1 university, Lauryn James continues to leave her mark in more ways than one. Lauryn broke many of Central's track records, including the 55 and 60 meter dashes, the 200 meter, 300 meter, and 100 meter sprints, and the 4x100 meter relay. In the fall, she will be attending Charleston Southern University and is ready to continue her success as

a runner and as an athlete, "I'm hoping to find myself during my college experience." said Lauryn, "I want to grow stronger both mentally and physically. Also, by cutting my times down, in order to be the Olympian I always dreamed to be". With the success Lauryn has achieved thus far, my guess is that her dreams are well within reach.

## A YOUNG ARTIST'S DEBUT: "INVEST IN ME"

Nancy Zhu (278)  
Entertainment



Andre Pak's single cover for his song "Invest In Me"

Beyond the walls of Central High, students strive to reach their dreams. For some, that may be organizing a startup or competing in varsity sports, but for aspiring singers like Andre Pak (278), a path to success means composing and performing original songs. On January 25, 2018, Pak released his first music video on YouTube, titled "Invest in Me." The song was an immediate hit with over 3,000 views since its release.

However, the journey has been far from easy. Passionately, Pak explained, "When I was younger, I always enjoyed singing. I think it stemmed from my parents always singing in the car, and I just followed in their footsteps. In fact, I used to sing and dance in my living room, as if I was performing in front of a whole audience." Like many other Little Monsters (members of Lady Gaga's dedicated fanbase), Pak was inspired by Lady Gaga to have confidence in pursuing singing as a career. Pak expressed, "Since 2008, she's influenced me through her work ethic, her message, and the fact that she really pushed herself in order to get to where she is today. It inspires me to do the same."

Picking up music, Pak pursued singing as a form of expression, writing about his personal experiences. Occasionally, a light bulb would flicker and Pak would go right to work with a pen in hand. Since the third grade, he has composed a multitude of songs and until the eighth grade, he never had the confidence to share his content with the world. In the eighth grade, he released two rap mixtapes and started a YouTube channel and podcast. Pak expressed, "I always knew that I wanted to pursue my passion: singing. It was just a matter of how I was going to do it."

Like the genesis of many of his other songs, Pak recalls, "It ['Invest In Me'] kind of created itself, per say. I was having a conversation with a friend. It soon became clear to me that they didn't care about our conversation. I was basically talking to myself at that point, so I hung up. As I descended downstairs to my kitchen, questions flooded my brain. 'Why can't they be invested in me?' I immediately ran up to my room, started some beats, and sang. Everything just magically flowed. I sang upon impulse, allowing my emotions to guide me. I didn't write anything, I just started singing."

The music video was filmed by Pak and his friends (Frankie Li (278), Pichmonyath Peou (278), Amy Shi (278) and Annie Yang (278)), who agreed to be his camera crew. Setting up their camera gear, the team worked hard shooting at a Center

City hotel. Utilizing his videography skills, Pak edited his video and incorporated lyrics to create a unique twist to the traditional music videos online. From capturing shots to editing, the whole process took a week. Unwilling to allow time to hinder him any longer, on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 6:45 pm, Pak anxiously waited at a Broad Street Line subway stop on the way home from school and uploaded "Invest in Me." He explained, "Once the clock hit 6:45 PM, I immediately started sharing the link with my friends and on social media. My friends graciously started to spread it around the interweb too. I was just overwhelmed with happiness that night. I couldn't stop smiling. After a year of keeping it a secret, I felt relieved to finally have my original song released. I think I missed, like, five subways that night."

With the release of "Invest in Me," Pak received an overwhelming amount of support from both friends and fans. However, as with all artists who decide to share their music with the world, people will disagree with the artistry. Pak explains, "I'm grateful to the ones who genuinely enjoy the song and support me. As for the people who don't like "Invest In Me", I appreciate the fact that they listened to my song with an open mind. If you're gonna release something and put yourself out there, you can't expect everyone to like it. Expect some haters and some backlash."

In addition to being a student and aspiring artist, Pak ambitiously pursues his interest in photography and filmmaking. Currently, he is working on an EP that will hopefully be released soon. For fellow aspiring artists, Pak advises, "Always be yourself. Continue to be who you are as a person and don't change. You know what you're capable of and if you want to pursue something, go for it. Don't let anyone stop you from achieving your dreams."

As Pak continues to expand his following, he hopes to release an album and host concerts. He exclaims, "I want to say the biggest thank you to anyone who has supported me. I appreciate all who have taken the time to listen to "Invest In Me" and for those who genuinely enjoy the song, I hope you guys will stick around for more music soon! I just want to take a moment to thank my bestest friends, who have helped and supported me endlessly through this journey. I'm glad that you guys were a part of this experience and I couldn't ask for a better support team."

ASHRAFUL ABID - Drexel  
 ASHISH ABRAHAM - Temple  
 SHANE ABY - Drexel  
 SEYDEL ACUNA - Gwynedd Mercy  
 ADAM ADAM - Temple  
 CASEY ADAMS - Spelman College  
 KENYA AFIBA - Millersville U.  
 CHRISTINE AIS - LaSalle  
 KIM ALACRON - Gwynedd Mercy  
 TASNEEM ALI - Kutztown U.  
 MAURA ALIPRANDO - Pitt  
 FUNKE ALLIYU - Penn State (Main)  
 MANNY ALMONTE - Penn State (Main)  
 ERICA ALVARADO - LaSalle  
 DAVID ANDREWS - Drexel  
 KELLY ANGER - Temple  
 JACOB APELSTIN - Holy Family  
 EMILY ARIAS - Chestnut Hill College  
 SHEHBEEL ARIF - Drexel  
 TONICE ARNOLD - Lincoln U.  
 TIFFANY ATMADJA - Jefferson  
 CLAUDIA AUGUSTIN - West Chester  
 TRISTAN AVES - Temple  
 CASSILDA BAILEY - Undecided  
 LATAVIA BAKER - Kutztown U.  
 ABE BARASH - U. of Maryland  
 ALPHA BARRY - Penn State (Abington)  
 NOELIA BATLLE - LaSalle  
 TAKHMINA BAYKHANOVA - Drexel  
 CHAUNTAE BELL - Temple  
 RRON BELLCSHTA - Temple  
 DARYA BERSHADSKAYA - UPenn  
 RUXANDRA BESCHEA - Drexel  
 NAOMI BETHEL - Hampton U.  
 EVA BILALI - Drexel  
 FREDERICK BINGLEY - Undecided  
 VALERIA BLANDON - Gwynedd Mercy  
 JASHIRA BODDEN - LaSalle  
 BRANDON BOLDEN - Temple  
 MIKAYAH BOOKER - Drexel  
 JALEN BRACY - Howard U.  
 LOLA BRADBURY - CCP  
 REIKEN BRAMI - Drexel  
 LYRATA BRANCHE - CCP  
 TAYLOR BRANDON - Restaurant School  
 JAKE BRANDT - West Chester  
 MICIAH BRICE-FRAZIER - West Chester  
 BRITNEY BRUNACHE - Gettysburg C.  
 VICTOR BUI - Temple  
 KYRA BUONOMO - Undecided  
 SOTIRAQ BURDA - Holy Family  
 TIFFINI BURNS - Temple  
 RALONDA BUTLER - Howard U.  
 KAILA CAFFEY - Tufts University  
 JORDYN CALDWELL - Drexel  
 DIEGO CALERO - Drexel  
 ADRIANNA CAMIOLO - Howard U.  
 DEJA CAMP - Pitt at Johnstown  
 ROBERTO CANNISTRACI - CCP  
 MINHTRINH CAO - UPenn  
 CASSANDRA CAREY - Drexel  
 CHRIS CARSON - U. of Miami  
 CIANNI CARTER - Howard U.  
 LESTER CHACON-POSADA - Drexel  
 KEVIN CHAN - Drexel  
 LEO CHAN - Drexel  
 JHALA CHE - NYU  
 MICHAEL CHEN - Drexel  
 LI CHEN - Jefferson  
 AMY CHEN - Temple  
 CHING CHEN - Drexel  
 ERICA CHEN - Drexel  
 ERICA CHEN - Drexel  
 JACKY CHEN - Drexel  
 JENNIFER CHEN - Drexel  
 JOHNNY CHEN - Gap year  
 JINHUANG CHEN - Drexel  
 LING CHEN - Jefferson  
 NINA CHEN - Temple  
 QUEENIE CHEN - Drexel  
 WENXUAN CHEN - UPenn  
 WILSON CHEN - Drexel  
 JEREMY CHERIAN - Penn State (Main)  
 MOLY CHESTERMAN - Penn State (Abington)  
 RYAN CHIN - Temple

NATASHA CHITY-GUEVARA - UPenn  
 MICHELLE CHIU - Drexel  
 PETER CHONG - Drexel  
 JOSHUA CHUN - Penn State (Abington)  
 CHRIS CHUNG - Penn State (Main)  
 SOPHIA C.L. - Penn State (Main)  
 KYMBLE CLARK - Lafayette College  
 SHANIA CLARK - Clark Atlanta U.  
 ALEXYS CLEMENT - CCP  
 MYA COLEMAN - Spelman College  
 QUINN CONNELLY - Temple  
 ONYX CORCHADO - Drexel  
 CIERRA COTTON - Holy Family  
 EMMET COWEN - Temple  
 GABRIELLA CRUZ - West Chester  
 ELENA CRUZ-ADAMES - UPenn  
 JOSHUA CUNNINGHAM - West Chester  
 AYANA CURTIS - Cheyney U.  
 KAYLA DAGNOSTINO - Penn State (Abington)  
 PHILLIP DALLAM - Penn State (Main)  
 EOIN DALY - Northeastern U.  
 SOLEIL DANCY-TALIAFERRO - Temple  
 ANNIE DANG - Drexel  
 JASON DANIEL - Drexel  
 NATALIE DANIELSON - UMaine  
 ASHLEY DAVILA - LaSalle  
 SEIRAH DAVIS - Rutgers University  
 JAYLAH DAWSON - Howard U.  
 FREDERICK DEAS - U. Of Maryland  
 GRACE DELVECCHIO - DePaul U.  
 ISAIAH DEMPSEY - Penn State (Abington)  
 CLIFFORD DENNIS - Penn State (Abington)  
 DARAJA DESHIELDS - Temple  
 ALEJANDRO DIAZ - CCP  
 SIMONE DICRISIO - Santa Barbara City C.  
 AMBER DILKS - U. of Delaware  
 ALISHA DIPRIMEO - Temple  
 WINNIE DONG - Drexel  
 MARCELA DOW - U. of Delaware  
 JULIUS DUHAN - UPenn  
 AN DUONG - UPenn  
 SANDY DUONG - Drexel  
 ANGELA DURANT - Penn State (Abington)  
 JUSTIN EDWARDS - Hartwick College  
 GABRIELLE EFFENDI - Lehigh U.  
 EMILY EILER - UPenn  
 DENNIS ELDRIDGE - Bryn Athyn C.  
 DESPINA EVANGELOPOULOS - Temple  
 VOLODYMYR FALENDYSH - Temple  
 MOHAMMAD FARES - Temple  
 NICHOLAS FITZSIMMONS - CCP  
 MOLLY FLANAGAN - McGill U.  
 BRAD FLORENT - Temple  
 ALEXIA FLORES - Temple  
 FERNANDO FONSECA - UArts  
 ANDREW FORD - UPenn  
 MYLES FORDHAM-JOHNSON - Cheney U.  
 KENYA FORREST - Temple  
 KEVIN FRIAS - Temple  
 JACOB FRIEDENBERG - CCP  
 BENJAMIN FRISBY - Drexel  
 REILLY FULLER - Georgetown U.  
 JACKSON FUNG - Penn State (Abington)  
 JOHN GABA - Temple  
 ANTHONY GARCIA - Undecided  
 GABRIELLE GARRETT - West Chester  
 CHRISTINA GEORGE - Drexel  
 TATYANA GEORGES - IUP  
 KEVIN GIANG - Jefferson  
 AUDREY GIBSON - West Chester  
 ASYA GILLETTE - East Stroudsburg U.  
 VJOSANA GJELI - Jefferson  
 SERGEY GLUHOV - Undecided  
 LIOR GOLDEN - Temple  
 ANTHONY GONCHARENKO - Drexel  
 AJAH GONZALEZ - CCP  
 ISAAC GORDON - U.C. Boulder  
 MYRA GRANATO - Johns Hopkins  
 KAMILA GREEN - Hampton U.  
 XUYEN HA - Drexel  
 SEAN HACKNEY - Temple  
 AAMARIA HALL - California U. of PA  
 SAMIYAH HALL - U.S. Air Force  
 KARIN HANANEL - UPenn  
 HAYLEY HANSELL - Temple

AMAIYA HARRELL - Drexel  
 SOPHIE HASKELL - Temple  
 DEMITRIA HAYES - Millersville U.  
 JACOB HAYMEN - Temple  
 ISABELLA HEAL - Drexel  
 TIDA HEAN - Temple  
 JOHN HEHMEYER - Purdue U.  
 BASEL HEIBA - St. Joe's  
 EMMA HELSTROM - U. Wisconsin-Madison  
 NIA HENDERSON-LONG - Delaware State U.  
 CHARLES HENRY - U.C. Boulder  
 YOGAN HERNANDEZ - CCP  
 DAVID HIESTER - U. of Texas at Austin  
 NOAH HILDEBRAND - CCP  
 CAMRON HILL - CCP  
 JESS H.P. - Trinity College Dublin-Columbia U.  
 ANNICA HOEUNG - Penn State (Main)  
 JUBILEE HOLLAND - Temple  
 ERIC HONG - Temple  
 MELISSA HOXHA - Drexel  
 BRYAN HUANG - Temple  
 JACOB HUANG - UPenn  
 XINQING HUANG - UPenn  
 LISA HUANG - Case Western Reserve U.  
 JASON HUANG - CCP  
 RYAN HUANG - Drexel  
 SHARON HUANG - Temple  
 STEVEN HUANG - Drexel  
 ERIN HUDSON - Temple  
 JASON HUGHES - Howard U.  
 DESTINY HUMPHREY - Villanova  
 ALEX HUNG - Drexel  
 LUCAS HUYNH - CCP  
 MIYA INGRAM - Virginia State U.  
 SHIKHA ISLAM - CCP  
 ARTUR JAANSON - St. Joe's  
 CALEB JACKSON - Temple  
 LAURYN JAMES - Charleston Southern U.  
 LONNIE JERNIGAN - Penn State (main)  
 KELLI JEWETT - Temple  
 HELEN JIANG - UPenn  
 LOUIS-LU JIANG - Drexel  
 STEVEN JIN - Stony Brook University  
 MARCELINA JODLOWSKA - Temple  
 AALIYAH JOHNSON - American Music-Drama Ac.  
 CARMEN JOHNSON - Albright College  
 DAVID JOHNSON - Temple  
 TEVYE JOHNSON - UPenn  
 JENAYE JOHNSON - UPenn  
 NIGEL JOHNSON - Temple  
 PERSIS JOSE - LaSalle  
 KRISTEN JOSEPH - Temple  
 MOSES JOY - Drexel  
 CHADFORD JUNG - Temple  
 LEANNIE JUSINO - Cedar Crest College  
 ELOISE KADLECEK - Bryn Mawr College  
 GABRIEL KANE-HOWELL - CCP  
 JUSTIN KANG - USciences  
 ANNA KAPKANOVA - Temple  
 ELYA KAPLAN - Gap year  
 KEVIN KARNANI - Drexel  
 MARGARET KARWOSKI - Arcadia U.  
 HLEB KARYMAU - Penn State (Abington)  
 JAMES KEE - Undecided  
 BINTA KEITA - West Chester  
 CELIA KENNY - University of Florida  
 KIMBERLY KHVANG - Penn State (Abington)  
 URIAH KILLINGER - Gap year  
 ASHLEY KIM - Temple  
 FLORINDA KINA - Drexel  
 SIDWEL KING - Undecided  
 TYLAYA KINT - Undecided  
 CLEO KNIGHT - Pitt  
 ALEX KOUKARAS - Temple  
 MARY KULESA - Drexel  
 JUSTIN KURUVILLA - Temple  
 HARRISON LABRUM - Temple  
 SABRINA LAI - Temple  
 JESSICA LAI - Drexel  
 ANTHONY LAM - Drexel  
 BRIAN LAMAJ - Drexel  
 KWAND LANG - Clark Atlanta U.  
 LOUISE LANZETTA - Pitt  
 MICHAEL LAO - Pitt  
 DYMEAR LAWS - LaSalle

MAKALAH LAWTON - Howard U.  
 AMY LE - Drexel  
 BRIAN LE - Temple  
 LILIANA LE - Drexel  
 TRAN LE - Temple  
 VINH LE - LaSalle  
 SAMMY LEBRON - Wabash College  
 SIVHGECHEE LEE - Penn State (Main)  
 LAILA LEE - Temple  
 ZACHARY LEE - Undecided  
 ASHER LENTZ - Temple  
 DYLAN LEWIS - Brown U.  
 JIONGHENG LI - Drexel  
 BENSON LI - Temple  
 XINGYING LI - Drexel  
 RICHARD LI - Drexel  
 JESSE LIM - Drexel  
 JINGWEN LIN - Temple  
 ALICE LIN - Drexel  
 BENSON LIN - CCP  
 JESSICA LIN - Penn State (Abington)  
 AMY LIN - Temple  
 AZURE LINTULAHTI - Goucher College  
 FEI LIU - UPenn  
 HU LIU - UPenn  
 SUNDY LIU - Drexel  
 SUKI LIU - Drexel  
 XIANG LIU - Drexel  
 CHEYENNE LIVINGSTON - Cornell  
 ERIC LO - Drexel  
 SIERRA LOCKHART - Cedar Crest College  
 GIA LOMIDZE - Drexel  
 KYLA LONG - Undecided  
 CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ-LEIVA - CCP  
 SEBASTIAN LOREDO - George Washington U.  
 EMILY LORENC - Temple  
 ALISA LOZANO - Jefferson  
 BETTY LU - Drexel  
 SHERRY LU - Drexel  
 CATHERINE LUCEY-WARNER - Pitt  
 JENNIFER MACH - Temple  
 PETER MACOLINO - Wheaton College  
 GRACE MAK - Penn State (Main)  
 ZIRWA MALIK - Drexel  
 MUSTAFA MALIK - Jefferson  
 LANA MAMBULA - UPenn  
 CHRISTIAN MANALAC - Temple  
 TALON MANNINGS - American Music-Drama Ac.  
 ALEXEI MANNINO - Penn State (Abington)  
 HANNAH MARION - UC Boulder  
 KIEARA MARTIN - Drexel  
 JENNIFER MARTINEZ - Temple  
 LUIS MARTINEZ - LaSalle  
 KAMILA MATCHANOVA - Temple  
 JINCY MATHEW - The Kings College  
 SHARONE MATHEW - Drexel  
 ROHAN MATHEW - Drexel  
 ALANIS MATTIA - Temple  
 JOEL MATTOS - LaSalle  
 ANTHONY MAZZOCCA - Drexel  
 PHILIP MCCANN - Undecided  
 EAMON MCCOUBREY - Elizabethtown C.  
 HENRY MCDEVITT - UPenn  
 SEAN MCDONNELL - Widener U.  
 AUDREY MCDOWELL - UPenn  
 LIAM MCGONIGAL - CCP  
 SHILOH MCLEOD - Howard U.  
 SREYNUON MEN - Drexel  
 RAWYN MERCADO - U. of Arizona  
 RAINA MILLS - Kettering University  
 SILVI MINGA - UPenn  
 AHMAD MITCHELL - CCP  
 AMIRAH MITCHELL - Temple  
 ERGISA MLOVA - Temple  
 SHIMAH MOHAMMED - Temple  
 JENNIFER MOLLA - Temple  
 ALISHA MOMENT - Penn State (Main)  
 STACIA MONIAGA - Temple  
 RASHEEDA MONTGOMERY - Shippensburg U.  
 RASHONDA MONTGOMERY - Wilkes U.  
 RAYMUNDO MORALES-VENTURA - Rosemont C.  
 IMANI MURDOCK-LAWS - Indiana U. of PA  
 WAKEER MURRAY - Morehouse C.  
 DEJAH MURRAY - Savannah C. of Art and Design  
 GLORIA NAVARRETO - Drexel

BINTOU NDIAYE - Drexel  
 TRACY NG - Drexel  
 NHI NGUYEN - UPenn  
 CHARISMA NGUYEN - LaSalle  
 HIEU NGUYEN - Drexel  
 ALAIN NGUYEN - Drexel  
 BRANDON NGUYEN - U.S. Military  
 BRIAN NGUYEN - Penn State (Main)  
 BRYAN NGUYEN - UPenn  
 CHRISTY NGUYEN - Temple  
 CINDY NGUYEN - Undecided  
 JASON NGUYEN - Drexel  
 KIMBERLY NGUYEN - Drexel  
 MAI-VY NGYEN - Drexel  
 JIMMY NI - Drexel  
 NEIKO NICHOLS - Lincoln Tech  
 GEORGE NIEVES - Temple  
 PETIA NIMLEY - Dickinson College  
 RICHARD NINNESS - Temple  
 VANESSA NJOO - Jefferson  
 GIFTLORD NOZIL - Temple  
 DAHNA OAKMAN - Columbus C.of Art and Design  
 AHMIR OLIVER - Lincoln U.  
 CHIKE ONUCHUKWU - Drexel  
 OLUWATOYIN OPENIBO - IL Institute of Tech.  
 KAIANA OQUENDO - Penn State (Main)  
 UMIR ORTIZ - East Stroudsburg U.  
 RACHEL ORTIZE-WYNNE - Holy Family  
 JASON OSWALD - CCP  
 DARYNA OSYPOVYCH - CCP  
 JOHANN OTERO AVELLANEDA - Temple  
 DANIELLE OXENDINE - Lycoming C.  
 JOANA PAJO - Jefferson  
 EDWARD PARK - UPenn  
 THOMAS PARKER - Drexel  
 KARISHMA PATEL - Drexel  
 JAQUIRA PATRICK - Hampton U.  
 ROYDEN PEARSON - Undecided  
 TYLER PEN - CCP  
 SALVATORE PERGOLESE - U.S. Army  
 RAFIG PERKINS - Temple  
 AQUIELLE PERSON - Brown U.  
 JACOB PFEIFFER - Syracuse U.  
 XAVIER PFISTER - Temple  
 ANTHONY PHAM - Drexel  
 THAO PHU - Temple  
 LENA POPKIN - Tufts University  
 GREGORY PUGH - Howard U.  
 JANA PUGSLEY - UPenn  
 JACOB PULUKCHU - Temple  
 ADELA QALLIAJ - Florida Southern College  
 ZHIYAN QIU - UPenn  
 DEWAN RAHMAN - Holy Family  
 MARTIS RAVENELL - Colorado School of Mines  
 AMAYA RAWLS - Penn State (Main)  
 JAMIE RAZLER - Temple  
 JACQUELINE REICHNER - Jefferson  
 RUFRANSHELL REYES - Drexel  
 EMILY RICARDO - Temple  
 KATE-LYNN RICE - Binghamton U.  
 ASHLEY RIDDICK - Temple  
 ASHLEY RIVERA - Gap year  
 SANIYAH ROBINSON - CCP  
 KEVIN ROBLES - Penn State (Main)  
 BRITNIE RODRIGUEZ - Holy Family  
 JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ - U.S. Air Force  
 SARENNA ROEUNG - Drexel  
 ANTHONY ROMAN - American Music-Drama Ac.  
 NICHOLAS ROMANO - Temple  
 CARLOS ROSARIO - CCP  
 KENDALL ROSEBORO - UPenn  
 ELIJAH ROWE - Drexel  
 SHEBA ROY - USciences  
 SHARON SAJI - Gwynedd Mercy  
 THOMAS SAJU - Arcadia U.  
 SHERIDAN SALAZAR - CCP  
 SHAWN SALOMON - Chesnut Hill C.  
 AMY SAM - LaSalle  
 VINICIUS SANTOS - Del Val  
 SERENA SCHWARTZ - UPenn  
 BENJAMIN SEI - UPenn  
 ELAINE SEI - Drexel  
 ESSA SELLERS - Gap year  
 ALEX SEN - Undecided  
 SHEGO SHAHAJ - Temple

SHAINA SHAKEEL - Drexel  
 ANTHONY SHEOCHARAN - Penn State (Main)  
 STEVEN SHI - Drexel  
 JOSHUA SHIN - Temple  
 SAMUEL SHON - Temple  
 ANTONELA SHORE - Temple  
 SPENCER SHORE - U. of Delaware  
 NAJAH SIDDIQ - Temple  
 ANDREW SIEN - Temple  
 JASKARAN SINGH - Undecided  
 ASAYA SMITH - Spelman College  
 AYANNA SNEAD - Howard U.  
 GREYSON SOBEL - Loyola U. New Orleans  
 JOSHUA SOLOMON - LaSalle  
 MIRIAM SOLOWEY - Penn State (Main)  
 JACOB SOULAS - Pitt  
 BASHEER STEED - Kutstown  
 QUINTON STEWART - LaSalle  
 OYIN-IGAN STOVALL - Gap year  
 MADELYN STROHM - UPenn  
 SOJEL SUNNY - Temple  
 OMAR SWIDAN - UPenn  
 SKYE SYTSMA - Temple  
 LU-YAN TAN - Drexel  
 GABRIELLE TANDEAN - Temple  
 JACK TANG - Temple  
 KATHRYN TAYLOR - East Stroudsburg  
 KHAOULA TELHAOUI - Jefferson  
 DEANA THAM - Temple  
 DEONNA THERON - CCP  
 HUYEN THI-TRAN - CCP  
 BRANDON THIEU - Penn State (Main)  
 MONET THIGPEN - Jefferson  
 JOHN THOMAS - Temple  
 AARON THOMAS - Temple  
 JALEN THOMAS - West Chester  
 SHANAN THOMAS - Temple  
 MALEAH THOMAS-THORNTON - Howard U.  
 CATHERINE THOMER - Drexel  
 RAYMOND THOMPSON - West Chester  
 KIRAN THOTTAPILLY - Temple  
 JOHNNY TING - Drexel  
 TATIANA TORRES - Drexel  
 MELANIE TORRES - Brigham Young U.  
 ANNE TRAN - Drexel  
 VICTORIA TRAN - Drexel  
 SERINA TRAN - U. of California San Diego  
 CHRISTY TRAN - Drexel  
 AN TRAN - Drexel  
 TRACY TRAN - CCP  
 TRINH TRAN - Drexel  
 SAMMY TRAN - Drexel  
 ONDRES TRICE-KITCHENS - Mansfield U.  
 TAFFY TRINH - Jefferson  
 WALTER TRUXELL - DelVal  
 SARAH TSE - LaSalle  
 AUBRE TYLER-STEPHENS - Gap year  
 AZARYA UMBOH - CCP  
 NICOLE UMEWENI - Temple  
 ALICE VAH - West Chester  
 CHANNELY VALVERDE-TORRES - Penn State (Main)  
 ALKA VARGHESE - Drexel  
 AMY VARGHESE - Drexel  
 CYNTHIA VARGHESE - Jefferson  
 MATHEW VARUGHESE - Temple  
 PHILLIP VASSERMAN - Drexel  
 MIRA VAYSBURD - UMass Amherst  
 MALEEK VIEW - West Chester  
 JOVAAN VOLCY - Hampton U.  
 EMILY VY - Undecided  
 JASMINE WALKER - Penn State (Abington)  
 HUILIN WANG - Gap year  
 SOLYIMAN WEDEE - Undecided  
 XUETING WEI - UPenn  
 SPENCER WEISS - Temple  
 CHRISTINA WELLS - USciences  
 CIANI WELLS - Undecided  
 SOOSUNG WHANG - Penn State (Abington)  
 GABRIELLE WIDJAJA - Temple  
 IVAN WIDJAJA - Drexel  
 ALEXANDER WIESNER - Temple  
 KADEN WILKINSON - Jefferson  
 TAYLOR WILLIAMS - Bloomsburg U.  
 CHRISTINA WILLIAMS - Clark Atlanta U.  
 KAYLAH WILLIAMS - U.S. Army

MICHAEL WILLIAMS - CCP  
 RICHARD WU - Drexel  
 SHARON XIA - Drexel  
 KEVIN XIE - Temple  
 WENJIE XIN - Penn State (Abington)  
 JASON YAN - UPenn  
 VINCENT YANG - Princeton U.  
 SANDY YANG - Drexel  
 YI YANG - Drexel  
 ZHILIN YE - UPenn  
 JASMINE YEDRA - Penn State (Main)  
 ALICE YIP - Drexel  
 DEVIN YONG - CCP  
 JACKSON YU - Penn State (Abington)  
 JACY YU - Drexel  
 SHERNA YUAN - Drexel  
 ZAID ZAHROUN - Temple  
 SHAHEEDUZ ZAMAN - Drexel  
 NATHAN ZEYL - West Chester  
 ENWEI ZHANG - Drexel  
 SONIA ZHANG - Drexel  
 JUNHAO ZHANG - UPenn  
 LEON ZHANG - UPenn  
 HAO-KUN ZHANG - Temple  
 CHERYL ZHAO - Undecided  
 KEVIN ZHAO - Drexel  
 OKSANA ZHAROVSKY - Loyola U. Chicago  
 SIQI ZHENG - Drexel  
 JIANWEI ZHENG - Temple  
 VIWING ZHENG - Drexel  
 ANDREW ZHENG - Drexel  
 SELINDA ZHENG - Drexel  
 KAIFENG ZHOU - Drexel  
 LUCY ZHU - UPenn  
 JENNIFER ZHU - Temple

## COLLEGE DESTINATIONS QUICK FACTS

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<i>Temple</i> .....	<i>105</i>
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# FILTERING WATER AND BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

Jenny Dong (278)  
Entertainment Editor  
News

The journey began in October, when freshman biology teacher, Mr. Campbell, traveled to various classrooms introducing the Amal Safed High School Entrepreneurship and Leadership Joint Project. In this program, students across the globe collaborate to solve a problem faced world wide. Students who have taken part in this program have developed prototypes and created apps as resolutions for certain global issues. The program is funded and supported by the science department and the alumni, and with their support the program is able to dedicate time, energy, and resources to the students and their ideas. Through this, students can create something with potential to truly help others in the world. The Amal program also incorporates and promotes international communication and collaboration. A group of Central students work with students in Israel to discover and create a solution for a real world problem of their choosing.

Did you know that “844 million people do not have access to safe water?” Or that “2.3 billion people live without access to improved sanitation?” These horrid facts inspired the Amal group of students at Central to focus on the issue of access to clean drinking water. Water is essential for the maintenance of bodily functions; it is essential for life. Moreover, this issue is quite personal to both counterparts due to the fact that it is a problem in Israel and the U.S (Flint, Michigan). Together, the students investigated several channels of ideas to develop a solution possible for both countries, and

hopefully many others.

For the past few months, through the mist of assignments, tests, and studying, seven Central students dedicated their time to coming to school early. They walked down the Olney hill and up the four flights of Central stairs to Mr. Campbell’s room to explore various ideas on how to make clean drinking water more accessible. Their goal was to find a way to manufacture a cost efficient product that would solve the water crisis. Therefore, they looked into several water filters, and how they could build them. The students then turned to their Israeli counterparts and began brainstorming ideas on how to further proceed with the water filter. The Israeli students suggested using herbs and natural materials as a filter for water; thereby, we discovered that mushrooms could act as a filter.

The Central students worked through many models and sand and mushroom ratios before finally coming to

a final product design. The filter essentially consists of three stages. The first stage begins with a cup with one hole in the bottom. In the cup is a taped coffee filter and then alternating layers of sand and mushrooms. This cup is then duct taped together to another cup with three holes in the bottom. The three holed cup has the same contents as the first cup. Afterwards, the stacked cups are taped to a final cup (also containing sand and mushrooms) with five holes. Next, with the help of more duct tape, the stacked cups are adhered to a funnel and then to a pitcher. To run the experiments, the students ran water from Central’s sinks through the top cup, and the water would flow through the three layer filter into the pitcher. Results were obtained by using test strips that identify heavy metals in water. The water before the experiment was at 1000 ppm. After running the water through the filter, the number decreased to 200 ppm. This was great news and proved that the filter

effectively reduced the amount of heavy metals in the water. However, the students were now presented with new problems. The filtered water was tinted from the mushroom and did not have the most pleasant scent or taste.

When the Israeli counterparts came to visit they explained that they have conducted multiple experiments successfully filtering out copper using parsley. Together, the students created a filter that combined mushroom and parsley. And from this, the best results so far were achieved. Concentration of heavy metals in Central’s tap water dropped down to 20-50 ppm. Furthermore, parsley helped to combat the taste, smell, and discoloration of the filtered water. The next steps moving forward include finding ways to further reduce the smell and taste of the water and creating a more professional prototype of the filter. This program has given the students an opportunity where they are the ones who are in charge and taking action and making a difference in something that they are passionate about. Students determine what problem they would like to solve, and the direction the program takes is up to them. Factoring in the supportive encouragement and resources, one can only imagine how far they can go and their unbounded potential. There has been much progress, but there is much more to go!

An amazing aspect of the Amal Safed High School Entrepreneurship and Leadership Joint Project is that students are able to visit the country of their counterparts. During the week of April 22nd, Central had the honor of hosting their eight Israeli peer collaborators, and during the week of May 27th, the Central students will be visiting Israel.

Central students work with their Israeli peers to test their hypotheses.



## A QUESTION OF RIGHT AND WRONG : ISRAELI FUNDED PROGRAMS

Yasmine Mezoury (278)  
Op-Ed

This school year, Central High School has partnered with Amal Safed School in Israel in an entrepreneurial program in which the two school groups must identify a problem that both of their communities face, and subsequently solve the problem using scientific methods and techniques. The problem that both sets of students identified is the presence of heavy metals in water. Most water filters cannot filter out heavy metals, and those that do are too expensive to help those that are truly in need, so the two groups created a filter using easily accessible objects such as mushrooms, parsley, and small containers in order to filter out the heavy metals in water. The purpose of using such inexpensive products is to allow those who are economically disadvantaged to have equal access to clean water.

Over the course of this program, of which I am involved, students maintained meetings through Skype, with the final stages of the project happening when the Israeli students visited Central on the week of April 22nd and when the American students visited their Israeli counterparts on the week of May 27th, combining the two projects together to create a whole. I, however, felt unable to attend the trip to Israel because of a conflict with political beliefs, so thus comes the question: do programs like this serve as a source of propagandistic fodder for the Israeli government? As an individual who strongly disapproves of the Israeli government’s policy, is support of, let alone participation in, such a program morally

unacceptable or objectionable?

Though all of the previous statements are true in the context of my own political beliefs, can one separate the positive implications of participating in programs like this from the negative aspects, or is the death and destruction completely inseparable? Abigail Leedy (278), a participant of the program, reflects, “I think the actual process of doing the project with the Israeli students... was really amazing and definitely helped me to think about working with people who I disagree with politically in a different way. I also think that, as someone who

is very “pro-Palestine,” speaking with the students about why they feel differently helped me to see the situation in a more nuanced way...I feel very strongly, especially in light of the recent events (the killing of unarmed protesters in Gaza) that the state of Israel is both violent and oppressive. I feel very conflicted about going to the Israel proper as I feel that is in a way supporting the actions of the state. I am excited to explore a new culture and spend time with my Israeli friends, but...I do not think the program has changed my political views regarding Israel. If anything, I have become more pro-Pales-

tine than before, as my trip inspired me to do more in-depth research on the history of the conflict, which led me to feel even more strongly about my original position. Again, though, I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to learn and explore and meet amazing new people...broadening my world view.”

Ultimately, the program promotes getting along with people of different ethnic and political backgrounds and allows room for mental growth and open-mindedness. Though the negative aspects of the program do outweigh the positive, supporting the Israeli state in a way to allow more leniency for pointless murder, it is important to use these negative implications and transform them into positive experiences.

Through my own experience in the program, I was able to exchange my own beliefs and learn about others’ beliefs, and through the process of discussing political beliefs, I discovered that three of the Israeli students and staff visiting are of Moroccan descent, as I am, showing that we are more the same than different, bringing a positive aspect into the whole experience. Programs like this are hard to qualify as distinctly positive or negative, but as Abigail Leedy states, “...the project has taught me that sometimes you can separate people from their politics and often you can separate people from their state, so even though I disagree with the Israeli politically I’ve learned that doesn’t mean we can’t be friends or that I can’t appreciate seeing their lives and their homes.”



Lancers and their new friends at the Franklin Institute

# WHERE'S SPRING?

Kejsi Ruka (278)  
News

“April showers bring May flowers” is a familiar phrase when referring to the awakening of the spring season. The saying represents a symbol of hope, displaying how even frequent, dreary rain showers can give rise to beautiful, radiant flowers. The phrase also has an obvious, literal meaning implying that April is typically a month of transitioning weather from the winter, with chilly mornings and warmer days, and May is the true fulfillment of the spring season. However, when looking at this year’s spring season, this pattern seems almost non-existent.

The first day of spring, March 20th, marked the fourth nor’easter for 2018 alone. Within three weeks, four nor’easters pummeled the East Coast, bringing a miserable combination of snow, sleet, and powerful winds on a day that represents a shift or a step away from the bitter winter. Nor’easters are common storms for the East Coast throughout the winter, occurring when the air temperature over the coast is colder than the air over the ocean. Despite the fact that these storms cause damage, nor’easters are necessary for redistributing heat across the globe by maintaining mild temperatures and preventing some areas from becoming hotter or colder than they typically are. Cold air that comes from the arctic gets pushed further south while warm tropic air

is pulled to the north, the end result being that these two different air temperatures mingle. However, snowstorms in a large abundance are alarming and concerning for many people, especially with the storms going into the spring season.

Flashing forward to May, the difference in weather is astonishing compared to the freezing snow days of March and April. Temperatures have gone up as high as 90 degrees, resembling the scorching temperatures of a mid-July day, while dropping to 50 degrees within the next day. This unpredictability in spring weather is not uncommon, however, and typically a common trait of the season. The transition from winter to spring is not an easy one, and it takes some time for the weather to stabilize into consistently warm weather. When it comes around to May, however, the weather typically resembles the summer more with each passing day. Unfortunately, May of 2018 has especially seen an unstable forecast, mainly with unbearably hot days, raising an important question: where’s spring? Students at Central are also concerned about this unpredictability, seeing as it creates an obstacle in truly enjoying the end of a long winter. Harsh Jhaveri (278) states his opinion, “I personally am annoyed. I prefer the cold, but when it is 90 degrees one day and 50 the next, it’s really not fun. You cannot plan anything because of this weather. I just want the seasons to be how they are meant to be, not this guessing game that I have to play.” The frustration is common

among many Central students, with Kayla Lopez (278) simply saying, “I hate it. It’s either raining or 95 degrees. There’s no middle ground.” The extensive winter along with the abrupt start of summer weather has left a small window for the spring to peek through. The evidence of this is prevalent when referring back to the phrase, “April showers bring May flowers.” Frosty weather prevented many flower buds from blooming, but the recent warmer weather has seen a wide range of blossoming. Daffodils, cherry blossoms, and magnolias are all vibrant flowers characteristic to the spring, yet will experience short-lived and condensed lifespans, seeing as summer flowers are already starting to bloom.

That aspect alone may not seem too consequential—until looking at the grand scheme of things. The “Save the Bees” campaign has been striving to prevent the bee population from going extinct. A bee extinction would have deadly consequences to humankind due to the fact that bees pollinate nearly 80% of all flowering plants on Earth. While some advances are being made to aid bees and alleviate the power of pesticides and lack of pollen, the unpredictable weather alone is enough to quickly kill off bees. A prolonged winter means that food storage in the form of nectar and honey reaches low levels so that bees have poor nutrition. With poor nutrition comes the susceptibility to disease and inability for bees to properly collect pollen once spring comes around. Now that winters and summers are becoming longer, the window for bees pollinating spring plants is slowly dimin-

ishing, and jeopardizing not only the lives of these insects, but also the crops we eat. From this arises the curiosity about what exactly the cause for this extreme weather shift is, and the answer comes in one uncertain possibility.

A recent study published by Nature Communications, a science journal, has linked the increasing frequency of cold winter weather to “warm arctic episodes.” Essentially, the theory predicts that as the Arctic becomes warmer and loses its polar caps, the more unpredictable winter weather becomes, especially for the East and West coasts in America. Ultimately, this leads back to the idea of climate change, a topic of controversy for some, though the effects are resembling the turn of events in a apocalyptic science-fiction novel. In the past year, the entire globe has felt the consequences of ignoring the environmental peril. From heat waves and forest fires in the western states and Australia, to the devastating floods of Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, it is clear that these disasters are not a coincidence. The evidence begins with smaller implications such as a prolonged winter or an unpredictable spring and can extend all the way to deadly hurricanes such as Harvey and Irma that have killed and displaced many hundreds of people. As journalist Bill McKibben of The Guardian said, “Stop talking about the threat of climate change. It’s here; it’s happening.” At this point in time, human activity has made climate change not only possible, but inevitable.

# ROBOLANCERS’ JOURNEY TO WORLDS

Nancy Zhu (278)  
News

“Wooo!!! Go Robolancers Team 321!” Ecstatic cheers fill the stadium at the 2018 For Inspiration & Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Global Championship. After six weeks of assembling and mechanizing metal parts into a moving robot, the journey to the world championship would still be a long road ahead. Undeterred, the Robolancers diligently conquered the challenges presented to them at regional competitions. Continuing down the trail to worlds, the Robolancers dominated at the 2018 District FIRST MAR championship, taking home the Chairman’s Award, a prestigious honor to the team that embodies the purpose and mission of FIRST. The next stop was Detroit, Michigan, where the world championship would gather hundreds of passionate students from across the globe.

The annual STEM Super Bowl event, hosted at Ford Field and the Cobo Center in Detroit, welcomes an average of 15,000 students and 640 robots every year. 700 teams competed from April 25 to April 28 in multiple events including FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC). The competitions were free to attend yet still generated over \$30 million in educational funds. While the exhilarating, heart-pounding competition brings the 700 teams to Detroit, their love for STEM elevates the event to one where future innovators and scientists collaborate. The venue was prepared for all, setting up arcade games at Beacon Park and lining up food trucks along the Cobo Center. The Robolancers’ trip from Central started with a nine hour bus ride. Upon arrival, the team unpacked and set up for

the ensuing event. Students assembled their station equipment with mechanized robot parts, ready to fix their robot and share cool memes during down time. The showdown began as customized robots clashed to complete their set tasks. Drivers deliberated their game plan and the race commenced.

Although the Robolancers Team 321 did not take home a prize, the members of the team took home something more valuable: an unforgettable experience with friends. Raina Mills (277) expressed, “For me personally, it was great. This was my third time going to worlds in the four years I was on the team. While we did not do that great in competition, it was a lot of fun, especially being on drive team. There was always so much to see and do. It was especially great, since I was able to see the world championship in Detroit once before I graduate.” Emily Vu (278) added, “I liked the event a lot. It taught me how to enhance my writing and public speaking skills.”

Joanne Chu (278) exclaimed, “This year has been a great year for both the team and for me personally. This is my second year on the team, and I have learned a lot. I was extremely happy when they announced that we won the Chairman’s Award and were going to worlds. It felt incredible and I was one of the people who ran to get the medals and everything. Even though I decided not to go to Detroit, I was excited for my teammates. It was a great season and I hope next year’s season will be even better.” Robotics season may be over, but the Robolancers have only started their journey to worlds next year. The Robolancers may face another fresh start, but their gears are more than ready to roll for another amazing year of events!



(Above) Several snapshots from the Robotics’ trip to the Global Championship

# A SYMPHONIC SENIOR SENDOFF

Miriam Solowey (277)  
Co-Editor-in-Chief  
Entertainment

Flutes! Violas! Trumpets! The music department, ready for their close-up, dazzled audience members with their technique, tenacity, and passion at the Spring Concert on Thursday, May 24, 2018.

The road to the dazzling musical showcase was a lengthy one, filled with uphill stretches and the occasional twist and turn. Students rehearsed their pieces before school, after school, during lunch, and for countless hours at home on their own. For many musicians, the jam-packed month of May not only featured heavy duty orchestra-practicing, but also Key-stones and AP and IB testing. The fact that many in the music department managed not only to overcome a stressful month of test taking, but also to put together a stunning concert was a testament to their mind-boggling talent and Olympic-level time management skills.

The concert featured the vocal and musical talents of the choir, jazz band, string orchestra, and full orchestra. The fabulous Lucy Zhu (277) states, "My favorite moments are always the moments before the concert begin. Everyone is getting dressed and taking pictures. It was

especially one of my favorites this year because all the seniors came together and took one big family photo."

The high bar set by the concert's fun-filled beginning was surpassed by a magnificent music-filled finish. The finale included performances by teachers and a collaboration between the music and art department. During the collaboration the full orchestra and the choir played "Enjoy the Silence" while a video—created by the art department and featuring performances by teachers and a guest appearance by President McKenna—played in the background. As Xueting Wei (277), the concert mistress, describes, "My favorite performance was the combined orchestra, choir, and art department performance for Enjoy the Silence, it showcased everyone and I thought the remake of the music video with central staff members was very clever. It also lightened the mood and brought laughter to the concert." This year the big reveal of art department's video was especially momentous because, unlike previous years, members of the orchestra were not given a sneak preview of the video prior to the concert. As Ruxandra Beschea (277), a violin player, reminisces, "I missed so many cues because I kept looking over to see it [the video] and you could hear the audience members laughing."

For members of 277, the Spring Concert held special meaning, as it marked their last musical performance at Central as students. In fact, the next performance on the Music Department's agenda will occur at graduation in the Kimmel Center. As concert mistress, Xueting Wei held an invaluable leadership position in orchestra. She not only oversaw the first violin section of the string orchestra but also represented the music department in Central and beyond, as a member of the string quartet. For Xueting the end of the spectacular Spring Concert came with the bitter-sweet realization that it would be her last. As Xueting explains, "The fact that it was my last spring concert at central didn't sink in until after the concert. I just felt proud and accomplished that everyone did their best and pulled

through with the hectic scheduling this year. Of course, I also feel sad that it was the last Spring Concert in central I will be a part of (and I will definitely miss seeing everyone's tired faces early in the morning for rehearsals), but I'm excited to come back next year as an audience member to support the music department."

And Xueting is not alone. The Spring Concert of one's senior year has the capacity to turn even the most stoic of students into a misty-eyed marshmallow. Ruxandra expresses, "You know how after a party when things die down and you're left alone with your thoughts and just think...where did all that time go?" Ruxandra continues, "I could tell we were all trying to capture as many moments from the night as we could because it was hard to let go of them."



Orchestra players pose happily for their last concert.

# A LOOK BACK AT CENTRAL-THON

Despina Evangelopoulos (277)  
Managing Editor  
News

As 277 leaves Central High School, their legacy does not. It all started in their sophomore year when a team of students decided to spearhead a task no one in Central's history has tried before. Creating a dance-a-thon was merely an idea at the time, which has now sprouted into an annual fundraiser for the children at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Central-THON is a dance-a-thon that raises money for CHOP. With a DJ, food, and fun activities, every year the event has gotten bigger and bigger, with something new to add each time. THON's first event in 2016 was simple; it included some balloons, a DJ, face painting, a raffle, and food. Most importantly, the most worthwhile part of THON was having a family from CHOP visit and tell participants their story. Hearing that family's story was inspiring and brought many people to tears and reminded them why THON was started, to benefit the kids. Emily Eiler (277), a Central-THON

organizer since the beginning explained, "Central-THON is more than just a school event; it has allowed me to have an impact on my community and the lives of many children. I am so passionate about this cause because kids deserve a childhood no matter their circumstances."

The second THON in 2017 added 277's DJ Illmatiq, a Dunkin Donuts truck, and news coverage from Fox News. A representative from CHOP came and spoke to the dancers about her time there, and yet again, everyone was moved. The third annual THON, which took place this May, and besides the past add-ons, included a handmade photo booth, pie-throwing at teachers, an intense game of musical chairs, and students' stories about their experiences at CHOP. Sasha Hochman (278) said, "When THON ended this year, it was so meaningful to look at all of the responses to the 'Why We Dance' banner. The two most frequent answers were 'for the kids' and 'for the Central community'. Next year, I am looking forward to leading an event that serves others while at the

same time getting to have a blast dancing, laughing, and even throwing pies." When asked about how he feels about THON and seeing the people who started the event walk out the big red doors, Central-THON sponsor Dr. Drago said, "It's sad, bittersweet, but onward and upward. Time to conquer the next mountain. The only plan for THON was to serve others, and that's what I feel like we have done each year." Jessica Hobbs-Pifer (277) on this topic added, "THON was a really great opportunity to help so many kids and families, and I am grateful that I was able to help found that within the Central community. Moving forward, I think we found a strong group of motivated individuals who can help maintain what we have built. While I feel like I have much more I could give to THON still, my hope moving forward is that all future organizers of THON do better than we did. I hope that Central takes this opportunity to do good and runs with it, because I know THON can evolve into something even more incredible."

Central-THON will forever be remembered as a piece of 277's legacy, but 277 will not be the end of this annual

fundraiser. It is now time for 278 and the following classes to take over and continue to make Central-THON a tradition for many years to come. Abigail Leedy (278), an event organizer for the upcoming year commented, "I think next year I want to work on putting more emphasis on fundraising for raffle donations and adding more activities to THON to make it more inviting to a wider variety of students. I am also super excited that our fundraising efforts will benefit CHOP's partner hospital in the Dominican Republic! I think it's great that we are able to send our money where it will have the biggest possible impact, and do our best to help kids in different parts of the world."

THON's slogan is after all, "Kids Helping Kids be Kids." We dance and raise money so that kids in the hospital can have the closest thing to a healthy and happy childhood. No child should have to worry about their next chemotherapy session, and that is why we dance. Next year, THON will go global and plans to partner with hospitals in Botswana and the Dominican Republic. If you would like to get involved with Central-THON, please see Dr. Drago.



Students pose and take pictures by the newest (diy) THON photobooth.

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