



Cover photo:



On May 1, College Decision Day, the Class of 2020 came together via Zoom for the annual College Sweatshirt photo. While the students were unable to stand together arm-in-arm, their excitement for themselves and their classmates was undiminished. Although they had a senior year like no other, the students showed remarkable flexibility as they embraced new versions of old and cherished graduation traditions. We are so proud of the resilient adults they have become, and we wish them well in their bright futures ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

Aline Abrahamian, Daisy Achiriloaie, Max Angard, Beatriz Araiza, Leila Assil, Eleya Avery-Ault, Margaux Bauerlein, Colin Beazley, Fiona Bernet, Deja Bickers, Connor Blake (Not pictured), Hayley Blonstein (Not pictured), Stella Campbell, Niko Candido, Henry Christensen, Sophia Clayman, Camryn Cotter, Oliver Davidorf, Lily Dettmann, Sela Diab, Sarah J. Donovan, Jacob Dulberg, Karis Eilenberg, Nicole Emi, Eric Evans, Jingrui Fang, Bailey Feinberg, Kendall Fisher (Not pictured), Kelsy Fogerty, Alyssa Frederick, Riley Glickman, Malia Goldman, Nick Goodman, Dani Granaroli, Sarah Griffin, Lorenzo Guerrero, Eric Gunnarsson, Ryan Gurewitz, Darian Gurvitz, Cherry He (Not pictured), Alexis Hernandez, Amanda Hogan, Jenny Huang, Trevor Hylen, Marcus Intal, Waynelle Ize-Iyamu, Alex Jacobs, Zain Jandial, Theo Katkov, Keila Kazanjian, Edan Klier, Devon Knopp, Sarah Konopaske, Noah Kramer, Eli Kreshek, Daniel Kuelbs, Katherine Lin, Jackson Little, Lucas Liu, Grace Lord-Alge, David Luner, KaiLan Mackey, Tahj Maheswaran, Matthew Marasli, Jennifer Marcus, Thomas Matthew, Grace Mazzolini, Joshua Miller, Jordan Moore, Kailand Morris, Jordan Nadolenco, Evin Nesburn, Lilly Nevo, Deven Nicotero, Roy Numa, Vanessa Ogbu, Janah Omordia, Ronnie Orosky, Isabel Ortiz, Zoe Plotkin, Charley Pollard, Morgan Ratzan-Wank, Andrew Reyes, Lucia Reynolds, Marie Riddle, Stephany Salazar, Julian Samek, Justin Samovar, Mia Sawicki, Chase Schetter, Elizabeth Scott, Kaela Selesnick, Sammy Shang, Brach Shubin, Harel Spivak, Tariq Stack, Abigail Sudit, Aidan Suski, Peter Sussman, Amanda Swartz, Ahoora Tamizifar (Not pictured), Rashaun Tandon, Chelsea Taura, Eli Tenefrancia, Lauren Tepper, Joseph Terenzio, Kessa Thurman, Karolyn Topacio, Deja Tribbitt, Konrad Ulich, Emily Wallack, Ilia Wayans, Max Wolff, Cameron Wycoff, Yiyang Yan, Eddy Yang, Mohammed Yusufali, Ariana Zadeh, Lauren Zakari, Sean Zhang, Jayson Zwahlen

VIEWPOINT ON THE WEB











In January 2020, we asked some of the members of the Student Council to be photographed for an advertisement in Ventura Blvd magazine. It was a beautiful winter day in Calabasas, and we met them under the trees by the Love of Learning Wall. A few minutes later, some of their friends came by and they joined the photo shoot. While the photo looks staged – because it was – it is also a genuine gathering of friends enjoying being together. We look forward to returning to the days of spontaneous, care-free gatherings.

From left to right around the table: Sela Diab '20, Waynelle Ize-Iyamu '20, Keila Kazanjian '20, Aidan Suski '20, Tahj Maheswaran '20, Lauren Tepper '20, Kishant Mohan '22, Ofek Levy '23, Eddy Yang '20, Abigail Sudit '20



John Heubusch

Creative Director and Photography: Bill Youngblood

Art Direction and Design: Dog Ear Design

Additional Photography: Stuart Beattie, Christo Dimassis, Gregg Kessler, Verity Paton

Head of School: Mark McKee

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Viewpoint School 23620 Mulholland Highway Calabasas, CA 91302-2060 www.viewpoint.org





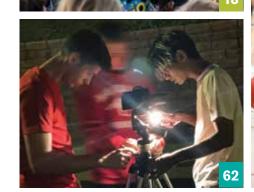




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This Is Our Viewpoint

By Monica Case '90, Editor

recently read a New York Times article about the struggle of museums to mount dynamic exhibitions without the ability to borrow artwork from other arts institutions. When trying to come up with a compelling new show for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, their museum director Gary Tinterow asked, "What can we cook with what's already in the kitchen?" This is one of the seminal questions of our improvisational COVID-19 times, and in the case of this issue of Viewpoint magazine, happily the answer was "quite a bit." To our good fortune, the editorial cupboard was full before we left campus in March. What you see here are stories from both pre-pandemic times and life as we know it today, that invite the reader to meet many members of our community – faculty, students, parents, alumni – and learn about how the School lives it values – both on campus and off.

When initially developing the content for this issue, we thought it would be nice to introduce Don Anderson, our relatively new Director of Campus Safety. None of us had any inkling that the scope of his job would come to include protecting the community from a pandemic as Chair of the COVID-19 Task Force. Since March, a team of 32 administrators, faculty, staff, trustees, and medical advisors have worked tirelessly to ensure that our community is safe and that our teachers have all of the resources they need to teach our students wherever they may be.

Back in January, we also were excited to share the many events, programs, and projects that relate to diversity, inclusivity, and greater selfawareness and acceptance. The stories range from a heart-warming article about Second Graders presenting their own "I Have a Dream" speeches to their classmates to the vast number of Diversity Day activities led by the Middle and Upper Schoolers. We also felt it was important to highlight the work being done to support our neurodiverse students at every stage of their academic development. We want all of our students to feel supported, understood, and that they have a home here at Viewpoint.

We were fortunate to welcome alumna Sabrina Schoneberg '09, a counselor at USC, to speak with Director of College Counseling Rhody Davis about mental health and how to successfully make the transition from high school to college. Although this conversation took place before the outbreak of the pandemic and the inevitable changes to life on college campuses, we felt that her advice was still worth sharing.

Essential to the fabric of our school community are our parents. In pre-COVID times, there were opportunities throughout the year to get together and to share experiences. While gathering is now more challenging, our parents have found creative ways to come together and build community. One example of this is the Parent Partnership for Diversity and Inclusivity (PPDI) and their Affinity Groups and regular events for parents. We have included brief biographies of the PPDI leadership, so you can get to know them; and we encourage our families to reach out to them and get involved.

On the theme of community, this issue of Viewpoint is also our 2019-20 Annual Report. We are excited to share the success of our first virtual Benefit, Viewpoint at Home. While it was an unexpected departure from our usual in-person galas, it also was one of our most successful events – not only in dollars raised for the Viewpoint Community Fund, but as an amazing moment for our community to come together to support our families impacted by the pandemic.

We would like to thank our entire community for the support you have shown the School and one another during this most unusual and challenging time. As ever, I am proud that THIS IS OUR VIEWPOINT.

MISSION STATEMENT

Viewpoint School is a welcoming, vibrant, and collaborative community that offers a challenging and enriched college preparatory education in a nurturing environment for students in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. The School embraces students and families from diverse cultures of the world and teaches the history and wisdom of these traditions.

Viewpoint inspires a love of learning and develops those qualities which provide strength and direction for a lifetime. The School promotes among its students respect, integrity, responsibility, and optimism.

The School celebrates its love of country by commemorating our nation's holidays and honoring its finest traditions. Viewpoint affirms in its assemblies and programs the ethical principles inherent in all religions.

Viewpoint's students learn the importance of service to others and to the greater community with the expectation that this introduction becomes a lifelong commitment.

Viewpoint recognizes the uniqueness of each child and is committed to the preservation and development of that individuality.

VIEWPOINT MAGAZINE





In Times of Uncertainty, Root In Values

Dear Viewpoint Community,

ow are we impacted by uncertainty and change? This double issue of *Viewpoint* magazine captures a double view of life at Viewpoint — before and after the pandemic upended our world and our daily lives, including education at Viewpoint and around the world. As I write this in November, we have completed eight full months of staying at home, planning and replanning, and reimagining and rescheduling every aspect of school life as we know it. How are we doing it?

In a recent podcast interview, Professor Laurie Santos — who teaches the most popular course at Yale, a course on happiness and positive psychology that you can take online — was explaining the science behind the toll that uncertainty takes on humans. Our sympathetic nervous system — the "fight or flight" system that is meant to provide the stress hormones that prompt fast action in times of danger — can be continually activated, in ways we are not meant to experience. The resulting stress has debilitating effects, but Santos reminds us we do have sources of control — social connections, gratitude, exercise and sleep, even taking a deep breath, are all practices that help restore balance to our parasympathetic (or "rest and digest") nervous system.

In navigating the pandemic, much about these times has stressed all of our systems, putting us in "fight or flight" repeatedly as we have rescheduled and rebuilt the countless details of the school year multiple times. Following a three-day "flip" into remote learning and a spring that culminated in celebrating the Class of 2020, we spent the summer planning for four different scenarios — and this fall, we found that we needed to revise all these plans to create more. All of these plans were designed to provide the stability and certainty that we need to provide excellence in education — and that our brains crave. As Santos reminds us, uncertainty not only makes decision making harder and more complex — it also affects our very being as humans in community.

One source of stability and certainty has been our values. While the conditions, health orders and guidance, and challenges have constantly changed, our values have been a critical source of constancy in guiding the countless decisions — from how and when we can get students learning in person to how we address financial impacts of the pandemic on our operating budget, our dedicated team of educators, and our families.

Viewpoint is rich in values. Children in Primary and Lower School learn nine character traits, from Friendship to Responsbiility, as so foundational to their learning and personal development that our Upper School college counselors have built programs around them. Our current mission statement lists no fewer than 15 values, each of which is important to our education,

from love of learning to love of country, integrity to optimism. Our values are the constellation of stars that we can use to navigate — fixed beacons in the sky that are there all the time and that are even brighter and more visible in the dark.

On our COVID-19 website, we identify core values for our coronavirus response — Safety, Responsibility, Community, and Science — which have guided our decisions and established our priorities. Five priorities flow from these values — and from these priorities have followed myriad decisions, some of which have had to change and change again. While our students, teachers, and families may not know what the next week, month, or semester would bring — stressing the nervous system to be sure — we have truly taken strength, confidence, and direction from our values. In our values we have found belonging — and in that belonging, safety and purpose.

One of my favorite Viewpoint values is *optimism*, and I hope we find the flame of optimism alive in these times and in these pages. History tells us that times of crisis can forge bonds of strength among us and grow resilience within us. What might these times mean for this generation of students? Like the deep roots of the hundreds of oak trees in our canyons, that provide nourishment and stability and strength for the canopies that reach to the skies, our rootedness in our values can be a source of resilience that will endure beyond the pandemic.

Viewpoint's robust values are a critical way we deliver on our promise for our students — that they will be prepared for a future of accelerating change. Our values give students a foundation for confidence amidst change, a source of connection across our diverse community, and a vision of the future for them and our community. Truly, our values take meaning only as they take shape in our lives, as students and teachers embody the connection to one another, and that connection is essential to their preparation. Viewpoint's Latin motto highlights two values as sources of optimism and strength — faith and love — which you can see in the stories of these times, and which guide our students AND our school, no matter what comes next.

Fide et amore.

Mal g. Mike

Mark J. McKee Head of School





With Don Anderson / Chair of COVID-19 Task Force /

Interview by Monica Case '90, Associate Director of Communications

I spoke with Don Anderson on July 30, a few weeks into the Summer at Viewpoint programs, to learn about how the School had implemented safety protocols, what lessons were learned from the in-person Graduation, and how those lessons were being applied at camp and adapted for the eventual return of students to campus.

THE TASK FORCE

MONICA: Let's begin with the COVID-19 Task Force. How many people are on it, who's on it, how often do you meet?

DON: I am the Chair of the COVID-19 Task Force. We meet weekly. It started out with five of us: Mark McKee, key senior admin folks, and our professional medical advisors, Dr. Tanya Altmann and Dr. Will Go. It's now expanded to 32 people. Our COVID protocols and the impact footprint of the pandemic expanded through every department, so now we have a representative from nearly all of them. We are guided by public health guidelines, which seem to always be changing, as well as our own medical professionals, so we have to be pretty agile. We have formed an executive committee within the Task Force, which has helped to structure and to streamline our decision making.

MONICA: So how are you spending your days?

DON: It is everything COVID. Right now, I am trying to balance campus safety with Viewpoint COVID-19 Task Force safety protocols and implementations, which go hand-in-hand. There are many items that I still need to manage, which includes emergency preparedness, crisis management, and keeping my officers trained up. I also am working on a new lockdown plan and evacuation plan.

MONICA: With social distancing, do all of those plans now have to be reevaluated?

DON: We already have reevaluated the drills. We will conduct micro drills, which means more drills at lower scale, so we do not have the large crowds in our assembly points. Drills still have to happen. Emergencies are going to continue to occur, so we have to have good muscle memory for all faculty and staff to ensure their safety.

MONICA: And, of course, fire season is coming this fall.

DON: Life goes on regardless of the pandemic, so we have to be able to make decisions and be adaptive. We do not want to neglect any other safety issue because our time is taken up with configuring school, creating schedules, contact tracing, and certifying some of our staff to be contact tracers.

MONICA: What is involved in that?

DON: If there is an exposure of a positive case or if somebody comes up positive, we need to determine if a significant exposure took place and if the criteria for exposure was met. Then we conduct a basic investigation through interviews, looking at the cameras, and determine if there were other exposures with the person that are positive. The good thing about Viewpoint is we do such a good job with our current protocols. Everyone here operates under the assumption that everybody's positive. We never meet the criteria of a significant exposure, because we are never unmasked. We are never within six feet for more than 15 minutes, and that's the criteria for an exposure.

GRADUATION AS PREPARATION FOR SUMMER AT VIEWPOINT AND THE RETURN TO CAMPUS

MONICA: How have things gone with camp?

DON: Camp has been very successful, and the way we rolled it out really was optimal. It started with Graduation, and how we planned for that in components, phases, and sections: getting everybody trained, getting the students trained, and then executing it under the full guidelines, even above and beyond the guidelines of State and Public Health. Once that was tested, we saw what our capabilities were in the execution process. We solved what we needed to improve on, and the evolution of that was our Summer Plan.

MONICA: So, could you tell me about some of the steps that were taken for Graduation? Mark McKee was deeply committed to finding a safe way to have an in-person graduation for the Class of 2020.

DON: After working closely with Dr. Go and Dr. Altmann and the Task Force to develop a plan, we were confident that we could have an inperson graduation without exposing anyone. The precautions we put in place were above and beyond public health requirements. All of the



students, and anyone coming to campus, were tested before Graduation day. We created a safe zone, a perimeter so to speak, between the students upon their arrival. They were completely controlled and directed from the time they came in the gate, where they were health screened. We created a map of their route

of travel, so they would come in through the back gate and park in designated parking areas. We staggered this so each car was at least six car lengths apart. We then directed them up to the field where they would check in and receive their seating assignment. The students' movement from the time they came in to when they were seated, all the way to standing up in the rows, to their names called was controlled very precisely. The field was configured with the chairs 10 feet apart. Our plan was presented to both LA County and Ventura County public health officials. Both were very impressed with it, so we all felt very good about going forward.

Camp is the next scale up from Graduation, and then the next scale up will be an actual soft opening of school in the fall. Really, you could not ask for a better way to roll this out. To open for Summer at Viewpoint, we had to reconfigure classrooms, which we did not obviously have to do for Graduation. The biggest challenge was with the young ones, keeping them social distanced. We thought that wearing the mask was going to be the biggest problem, but it has actually been very successful. The proactive discipline of our counselors-in-training, our faculty, and campus safety has made all the difference. There is also health screening at all the gates. There are so many measures that we have added on top of security.





Tanya Altmann -MD, FAAP



Will Go — MD, PhD

ZOOM CALLS WITH THE DOCTORS

The first "Zoom Call with the Doctors" — Viewpoint parents Will Go, MD, PhD and Tanya Altmann, MD, FAAP — was on the evening of March 13, 2020, following a lunchtime Q&A they held with the students that day, the last day we were on campus. It was the start of the pandemic and everyone had so many questions and so little understanding of this new virus beginning to spread across the world. Will and Tanya stepped in to provide desperately needed information and expertise to our community. Since then, in additional to their regular Zoom meetings for our families, Will and Tanya, as members of the COVID-19 Task Force, have continued to provide critical guidance to the School regarding safety protocols for Graduation, Summer at Viewpoint, and the three plans for the re-opening of school this fall.

We are so fortunate to have these two exceptional physicians to help the School navigate this unprecedented moment in public health. Dr. Altmann is a parent to Avrick '24, Collen '26, and Maxton '33, and a UCLAtrained pediatrician and Founder of Calabasas Pediatrics. She is also Viewpoint's Consulting Physician, and a best-selling author, network television parenting expert, and entertainment industry and child product industry consultant. Dr, Altmann is an official media spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics, and an Assistant Clinical Professor at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Dr. Go is a parent to Aiden Wong Go '27 and Alyssa Wong Go '29 and a new member of Viewpoint's Board of Trustees. He is the Senior Vice President of Development of A2 Biotherapeutics, and a member of their COVID-19 Task Force. He is a hematologist/oncologist focused on cell immunity for cancer. He continues to be a biotech clinical development leader, with previous senior positions at Gilead, Kite, and Amgen. He received his MD and PhD at UC San Diego, with a focus on T cell immunology.

Many thanks to both of them for their time and enduring commitment to Viewpoint, as well as their dedication to keeping our community safe and informed.









SUMMER CAMP

"We realized with baseline testing, hand hygiene, masking, and all of the other safety protocols in place, that it would be possible to run a safe camp that was still a fun experience for the kids who want to be on campus."

- TANYA ALTMANN, MD, FAAP

"I was surprised about how much of a connection we could make with the kids; we could still see so much of their faces. They are so expressive with their eyes. I thought it would be strange to them that they couldn't be next to their buddies, but they understood."

- BREYANA GREATS, CAMP COUNSELOR

"What surprised me the most was that it still feels the same. It's still fun, the only difference is that we have to wear a mask and social distance and wash our hands a lot. I kind of like it, because it makes me feel safer. I feel safe coming back to school in the fall because I've seen the rules at camp and I think it will be the same."

- LUKE JEN '29, CAMPER





MONICA: What does that screening involve?

DON: No one comes on campus without having negative results from a recent COVID test. There also is an online health questionnaire that they must answer, and we do a touchless temperature check.

MONICA: So, everyone who comes on campus is checked every day?

DON: Every day. There is no way in without being checked.

MONICA: That is great. Although how is that going to work when there are lots of kids on campus?

DON: Carpools are going to be staggered, so there will be less density. And we are not starting at 100%. We are starting remote, but when we go to a hybrid schedule, it will be 50%, so it will be very manageable.

MONICA: Right. And so how many kids are at camp now?

DON: There have been about 200 over the course of the summer, but no more than 110 at any one time. Today was the summer Halloween extravaganza, so they are all dressed up. You can see the kids walking around with their arms in front of them and behind them too. It is now muscle memory for them. In the beginning, we had to constantly remind them, but that just shows that once you train an individual to do something, it becomes muscle memory.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY **NEEDS TO KNOW**

MONICA: We have an extensive COVID-19 section on our website with lots of detail about plans and protocols, but what would you really like our community to know?

DON: We want them to know that the approach that we are taking as we tackle COVID-19 — and our philosophy as an organization — is that we are following everything that is based on scientific evidence. Along with the public health guidelines, we have our health professionals, who help us to see how the information fits into the Viewpoint community. This is happening 24/7. We are constantly on the phone.

Viewpoint's Website has a dedicated COVID-19 preparedness section that is continuoulsy updated





One thing that is so impressive to me is how responsive our doctors are. I am not even done with my text, and Will Go already is calling me back. Same with Tanya Altmann. We also want our community to know that we are following all of the public health guidelines, we have created scenarios for each opening, which could be 100%, 50/50, or all remote. I've listened to webinars for the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) with many schools across the country, and to me, we are so much further ahead with the response of our Task Force.

MONICA: Really?

DON: Yes, So, with Mark as our leader, and our doctors, and all the other stakeholders who are involved with the Task Force constantly thinking of solutions and getting so far ahead in preparation, we are able to move on a dime - if it is remote, if it is 50/50, if it is some sort of hybrid. And again, it is all based on science and it is all within the guidelines, actually above and beyond the guidelines. One thing that has been consistent with us is we have been doing more, requiring even more. Testing is not even a public health requirement to be able to have people on campus. And then we are doing baseline testing to constantly monitor the background rate of the virus within our community, which is virtually zero. This is another accomplishment and speaks to our protocols we are employing each and every day.

MONICA: That's great.

DON: It is really rewarding when you actually see it is working. When you see what is happening around Los Angeles, even in Calabasas for that matter, and then you see our little community here, and how protective we are and how we are monitoring it carefully to see where we are so if we do need to make a shift based on our background rate of the virus, that's what's going to dictate our course of action.

MONICA: Well, I think that will all be very reassuring to our families, certainly is reassuring to listen to you.

DON: And we cannot forget the Operations staff. Everything that Lara Conklin (Director of Support Services) and her team is doing is monumental, working 24/7, finding solutions for de-densifying the School, but yet offering up the same high-level education that Viewpoint is known for.

MONICA: Yes, she and her team are amazing.

DON: And in this environment, they are figuring how to do it – all the way down to measuring inches apart in every classroom. They are looking at the HVAC system to guarantee that the air turnover is above and beyond fresh; the whole room is going to get turned over with fresh air within an hour. All the disinfecting that we are doing constantly, making sure it is the best product that's out there. They are using nanotechnology stickers that go on the door handles that clean themselves. And there is no downtime, everybody is working constantly to keep moving forward, because if you stop for a second, it is just so fluid, you are already behind.

MONICA: That must be a lot to go home to at the end of the day.

DON: You know what? It would be if we did not have this team assembled. But the support and backup, it rivals any other team that I have worked for, even in the tactical world. They have your back, constantly. And they are constantly reminding you if you have an action item that needs to be done, because it will hold the chain up if it is not getting done.

MONICA: Is there anything else you would like to add?

DON: This is a great team. Everybody is on the same page. One thing is for certain, it requires a collaboration from all departments. And of course, the communication from Mark – giving us the ability to operate and the authority to make decisions. There is no bureaucracy, which again, that can destroy any kind of forward movement during a mission, and there is none of that.

MONICA: Fantastic. I do want to ask you, do the kids at camp look like they are having fun?

DON: They are having a blast, an absolute blast. When we were locked down, it affected so many people. And you can see the joy of not only the students, but also the faculty and staff who light up as well, and the constant cheers and comments that come. It is so great to see kids back on campus. It is like the campus is alive again. Everybody I have spoken to has expressed that it is such a good thing to have them back, and everybody is having a blast.

TEACHING THE TEACHERS

Professional Development through Education Technology Support and the Remote Learning Fellows Program

By Anneke Emerson, Chief Innovation Officer

Everyone in the Viewpoint School community has relied on remote teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unexpected circumstances, and the pressure they place on individuals as well as on the institution, help to reveal strengths as well as opportunities. We at Viewpoint continue to learn a great deal as we navigate the historic challenges the COVID-19 crisis presents.

Even though Zoom has its limitations, from the start of the pandemic, it allowed teachers and administrators to come together quickly to solve problems. In some ways, the video conferences offered an easier way to gather larger and more diverse stakeholder groups, within and across departments and divisions, than we experienced face to face. Some meetings addressed strategies, and some focused on the nuts and bolts of distance learning. The cross-fertilization of ideas, tools, and strategies has been highly useful in boosting teachers' camaraderie and confidence amid these new instructional challenges.

Just as not all of our students learn in the same way or at the same pace, neither do our faculty and staff. The plethora of new remote learning tools has been daunting to keep up with, much less master, in such a compressed time frame. The administration saw an opportunity to provide increased faculty support by creating a Remote Learning Fellows program, training a cohort of teachers in all divisions to support colleagues through spring and fall 2020. We selected 21 teachers representing every grade level and department in the school.

REMOTE LEARNING FELLOWS

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of online and blended pedagogies and processes, such as online collaboration, screencasting, "flipped" learning, and digital assessment.
- Participate in their own ongoing professional growth through webinars, courses, readings, and/or trainings.
- Have access to an instructional coach who will guide ongoing learning.
- And make themselves available to support their Viewpoint colleagues in both structured and informal ways, serving as peer coaches/mentors to others.

The Remote Learning Fellows program already has supported a rapid and significant shift, strengthening skills and confidence in our faculty's ability to translate best instructional practices to the different modalities of both synchronous and asynchronous remote learning. Remote Learning Fellows have hosted office hours to

field faculty questions; led online seminars on software, pedagogy, and a variety of tools; and coached faculty one-on-one, in addition to other duties. Examples of online seminar topics conducted by teachers include "Maximizing Engagement in Synchronous Lessons" and "Designing Interactive Presentations." Their work, which began this summer, will continue throughout the first semester of the new school year.

The Remote Learning Fellows have been building a framework of best practices in online and remote learning, categorizing tools and technologies that support six teaching methodologies of ongoing significance to the community: synchronous instruction, asynchronous instruction, differentiated instruction, assessment, feedback, and well-being. Additionally, Viewpoint supported a number of iGrants, or summer projects designed by teachers to work on innovative curricular ideas for the 2020-21 school year.

While this spring was challenging in many ways, Viewpoint's response to these challenges has put the school in a strong position going forward, whatever scenario may play out in an uncertain future.

Bill Brendle, Upper School Music

In Digital Music, students worked remotely on songwriting, beat making, podcasting, mixing, and instrumental lessons. In vocal ensembles, classes learned microphone techniques for maximizing sound quality for recordings. Those techniques contributed to these virtual performance videos:

- The Contemporary Vocal Ensemble's "How Sweet It Is To Be Loved By You" (John Yang '22 soloist)
- The Contemporary Vocal Ensemble's "Midnight Train To Georgia" (Jordan Moore '20 soloist)
- Viewpoint Vocal Jazz Ensemble's "La Costa"

Julie Clark, Middle School Social Studies

Students in Middle School Social Studies learned about Joan of Arc in an independent lesson on the Nearpod, a student engagement platform that combines dynamic media with engaging assessments

to check for understanding. The lesson included "draw-it" activities, allowing students to interact with paintings of Joan of Arc.

Also, history students learning about WWII contributed content to a collaborative Google Map, adding summaries, images, and videos about battles onto the virtual map points.

Cherie Boss, Middle School English

Students shared their writing in Google Classroom and received feedback using Kaizena. "This add-on allowed me to highlight text within a student document and record my own voice with instructions, helpful hints, or questions. Kaizena gave me the ability to connect with my students by giving authentic feedback which was meaningful to them. As a result, I began to see my students were writing and revising like I had never witnessed before." Students also recorded themselves reading their work on Flipgrid, a tool that lets classmates give meaningful feedback to one another.

Nell Yates, Upper School Ceramics

Remote learning for a deeply hands-on class like ceramics involves a lot of creativity and flexibility. Depending on their preferences and their access to materials at home, students could choose from 50 projects, working with an array of tools, such as paper, found objects, or even computer-generated forms. "I wanted them to feel safe to either pick up clay from school on a monthly basis and keep working with the medium they love, or find value in crafting an origami sculpture or a salt dough project that could influence their work if they were back into the studio with me in the fall."

Mandy Bahnuik, Upper School Dance

A dance company called CLI Studios offered an excellent partnership during this unexpected time. Founded by dancers and dance teachers, CLI Studio's goal is to use technology to give the users unparalleled access to many of the top choreographers in the country. This gave Viewpoint students a wide variety of different styles and types of classes remotely. Dance students also spent remote learning time learning about the importance of keeping active and fit; participating in a Broadway speaker series; creating "mashup" videos of performances; and choreographing projects to teach one another online.

Dan O'Reilly-Rowe, Middle and Upper School Film

When the Film program found the challenge of watching and analyzing motion pictures together online more challenging than they had anticipated, they got innovative.

"The technological challenge of providing a high-quality video stream to students that could be viewed live by everyone simultaneously and paused for discussion was more difficult than it originally appeared. An interesting solution has come in the form of leveraging tools commonly used by video game streamers to create an online screening room." Students also participated in rapid filmmaking challenges remotely and had the benefit of access to Adobe tools that they could use for editing.





Top (from left to right): Derek '26 and Lisa Kessler Bottom: Lucas '27 and Ethan '24 Argano-Rush, Michael Custance, Lance Argano-Rush

PPE

COMMUNITY EFFORT

Viewpoint Teachers and Families Initiated Community-Wide Effort to 3D Print PPE

In April, technology teachers Alison Steelberg Corneau '97 and Lisa Kessler were featured on KTLA in a story about the Viewpoint community's response to the COVID-19 crisis. They highlighted how teachers, students, and their families gathered their own resources to help produce much-needed PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). In the first two weeks of production, the Corneau, Kessler, Didden, and Argano-Rush faculty families all 3D printed face masks, and face shield pieces fabricated on Viewpoint's Lulzbot 3D printers. Then non-faculty students and their families also heated up their printers to help the cause. By the end of April, they had fabricated and distributed hundreds of face masks, face shields, and ear guards to hospitals and healthcare facilities across Los Angeles. Some were shipped as far as Northern California and New York City to meet the most urgent need at that time.



TALKING MASKS

Isabella Appell '21 has a longstanding interest in helping the hearing impaired. A few years ago, she taught herself American Sign Language and has raised money for The Hearing Aid Project, which provides hearing aids to those who cannot afford them. Isabella also was aware that many people with a hearing impairment rely upon reading lips to communicate, so she decided to make her own masks with clear vinyl panels to make reading lips possible.

Isabella set up a website (www.talking-masks.com) to make the masks available with a donation to The Hearing Aid Project. Since April 2020, Isabella has made over 500 masks and raised over \$9,000 through her website. Her Talking Masks also caught the attention of the local media, including interviews with CNN, CNN International, CBS LA, and NBC News. On September 28, Isabella appeared on the *Drew Barrymore Show* to discuss Talking Masks, and was presented with a \$5,000 donation to the Hearing Aid Project.

Congratulations, Isabella, on the continuing success of Talking Masks!

TEACHERS / CONTINUED

Pat Neville, Middle School Math

Students used a tremendously successful rotation model for learning math:

- Day 1: learn new content
- Day 2: play online games that reinforce concepts
- Day 3: work on individual instruction via Zoom breakout rooms

Students used Google docs to log their time and track their work. Rather than relying on formal assessments like tests and quizzes, the student work logs, game results, partner work, and short conferences in breakout rooms served as excellent assessment opportunities.

Kelly Samuels, Middle School Science

In science, labs went (partially) digital! The Seventh Graders used a disease transmission simulation to see the impact of social mixing, social distancing, and vaccination rates on the transmission of various fictitious diseases. Additionally, they were tasked with altering the disease parameters to simulate COVID-19 in order to uncover the most important factors in slowing the spread of the virus. In Eighth Grade Introduction to Physical Science, classes spent several weeks using PhET's online circuit board to explore the role of electrical components like lamps, resistors, and switches in manipulating electrons to do our bidding. The unit ended with an experiment related to Ohm's law and home energy audits.

Lacey Thompson, Kindergarten

Thanks to Seesaw, Kindergarten continued to start the day with a Morning Message, and with the help of Zoom, they held their Morning Meetings and their reading groups and reading sessions. In order to give families the flexibility to meet their different needs, teachers sent emails on Sunday with announcements and links to assignments for the week. On Seesaw, they shared a daily reading activity and math activity.

Marian Williams, Lower School Science

Students in Grades Three-Five received science care packages in the mail. They used the materials for hands-on experiences during Zoom and asynchronous lessons. Students also attended a virtual field trip to the Nature of Wildworks. "I went to the site and the kids Zoomed in! I actually walked in a mountain lion cage..." Fifth Graders who look forward to the annual Astrocamp rite-of-passage event every year had the opportunity to participate in two virtual classes with the gracious team at Astrocamp.

Lara Didden, Middle School Coding

What happens when Viewpoint Middle School electives go remote? A Microbit arrives at your door.

"The Invent elective was designed to explore coding and physical computing. This spring, the students were able to apply their coding skills to programming a Microbit. We created temperature sensors and collected data, coded games with LED lights, and used the Microbit as a controller for games coded in Scratch. Writing programs to control things in the physical world provides instant feedback for students as they learn the logic of coding.



BRINGING IN AN EXPERT

Introducing Gayle Cole, Director of Distance Learning

What is your role at Viewpoint?

I am the Director of Distance Learning, a position designed to support Viewpoint educators in continuing to deliver the highest quality program when any or all students learn remotely. Even though this is a new position, it grew organically from my previous work consulting at Viewpoint, including professional development I co-facilitated with Anneke Emerson starting in 2018.

What is your background that prepared you for this role?

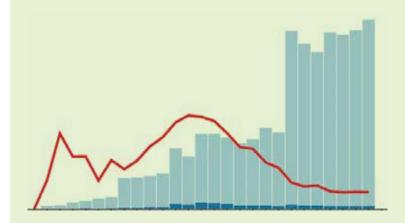
I have worked in several schools and nonprofits, holding such roles as technology integration specialist, professional development coach, teacher, and administrator. I have an MS in Educational Technology, and I completed the Johns Hopkins graduate certificate program in School Administration co-sponsored by ISTE, the International Society for Technology in Education.

Can you give examples of some of your projects or initiatives?

For parents, I give presentations, answer tech support questions, and maintain a Distance Learning web page. For teachers, I offer coaching and training, maintain a blog of distance learning strategies, and find resources that meet their needs. Overall, I have been especially glad to partner on wellness initiatives for the community, including addressing social and emotional learning. Distance learning does not always mean using screens! In Lower School, I worked with the Technology and Innovation team on a creative project for students to design and build creatures for a virtual zoo. In the Upper School, I co-teach an English elective on podcasting and storytelling.

Why Viewpoint?

Viewpoint has an incredible team, and there is nothing more satisfying to me than collaborating with dedicated, caring professionals who nurture young people and have a vision for cultivating well-rounded learners and leaders.



FROM PLANETS TO COVID WATCH:

Alumna helps the government with COVID-19 data and epidemiology*



Anjali Tripathi '05 is a scientist committed to public service.

By day, the former White House advisor works at NASA JPL on climate change. By night, she's part of the team that delivers LA's daily COVID case counts.

When COVID-19 hit, Anjali switched from planet hunting to mapping COVID-19 cases. After finding inconsistencies in the data, she joined the LA County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 data and epidemiology team. She said, "I've never gotten emotional over data before." When Anjali first saw disparities in the data, public conversation didn't involve equity. Since April, she has been expanding the statistics the County releases. Her website, COVID Watch, http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ docs/COVIDWatch.pdf, makes new data available, including how COVID-19 stacks up to other illnesses and what to expect as flu season worsens. Anjali hopes that by improving data transparency and communicating it clearly, outcomes will improve for all.

*The branch of medicine that deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.



THIS IS OUR **VIEWPOINT**

IT IS IN THE MISSION...

he last line of our current mission statement reads as such: "Viewpoint recognizes the uniqueness of each child and is committed to the preservation and development of that individuality." This year has provided many opportunities to do just that.

In the midst of a global pandemic, with so much uncertainty in the world, Viewpoint spent the summer training to support the mission of inclusion. This professional development began when seniors spent two days working with Dr. Derrick Gay. Dr. Gay, with over 23 years working as a Diversity and Inclusion Strategist, consults with organizations, both domestically and abroad.

Our Primary and Lower School educators partnered with the administrators, and the Lead Teachers in both divisions, to learn more about Pollyanna's Racial Literacy Curriculum and the ways that it might support our outstanding social studies curriculum. This effort was supported through Viewpoint's iGrant Program around diversity, led by Third Grade Lead Teacher **Salah Farrag**, Second Grade Lead Teacher **Jasmine Novick**, and Primary and Lower School Diversity Coordinator and Library Teacher **Mayanthi Imbuldeniya Jayaratna '99**.

Here is the crux of the plan that they developed:

In recent years, Viewpoint School has made great strides in incorporating educational psychology into faculty teaching practices. As educators, it is vital that we understand how to optimize learning and motivation to achieve the best learning outcomes possible for our students. We can promote this goal by creating learning environments where students and faculty have a sense of safety and acceptance, therefore empowering them to truly "find their voice, give their best, and go beyond."

To this end, the goal of this Diversity and Inclusion iGrant was to design a curriculum that would enable each individual to see themselves represented in the School's programming and to gain perspective on and learn from the experiences of others.

This iGrant takes the approach of "Windows and Mirrors," which is the idea that each individual should be able to see themselves reflected in the organization (mirrors), while also acquiring a view of others' perspectives (windows). The K-5 Diversity and Inclusion curriculum fosters this notion by guiding students through discovery of each aspect of their individual identity and enabling them to understand their similarities and differences with others. This serves to both celebrate individual student identities while respecting the identities of others, promoting students' self-worth and empathy. Students are then better able to understand and identify instances of unfairness around them and are empowered to act for positive social change by standing up for both themselves and others.

Just before classes began this fall, the full DEI team conducted a Diversity 101 training for Primary and Lower School educators. There was a special emphasis on age appropriate resources and skills that would take into account the development of the students. It is essential that Viewpoint continues to be sensitive to the multiple levels of understanding around issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Middle and Upper Schools collaborated on several programs this past year, including an assembly about the Jewish holidays, Diversity Leadership Day, and the Black Student Union's inaugural Step Team performance and Black History Festival. The School has been on a path of community building and collaboration across Grades K-12 for several years, and it is my pleasure to continue this growth.

We created a preliminary research-based workshop in support of members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and conducted a professional development workshop for each division. The objective is to help our adult community understand the various challenges that our students may face, as well as families who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community. They should feel like they see themselves here and that they are welcomed at Viewpoint no matter what division they are in.

We are a school with families who come from over 70 different countries and from a wide range of areas across Los Angeles. This type of diversity truly offers tremendous opportunities to grow and learn as a community. We are fortunate to have a multitude of religions, abilities and learning styles, cultural, gender, and ages on our campus, and it is our hope that everyone feels they have a home here. After all, we are Patriots, and it is important that we continue to strive for Liberty and Justice for all.



"I HAVE A DREAM.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. 1963 / Viewpoint School Second Graders 2020

During Black History Month, Primary School students gather in the courtyard as Second Graders present their renditions of Dr. King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, shining a light on their role as changemakers.

By Jasmine Novick, Second Grade Teacher

not only endearing, it is infectious.

openhearted and curious beyond measure. They are receptive and willing to learn from their mistakes with an ease that we adults have often forgotten. When they dare to dream, it comes with a hope that borders on expectation that their dreams will come true. The joy and optimism they possess is

■ hey are the dream. Our youngest students are

The month of February gives us a unique opportunity to link the themes of love, activism, and patriotism in the classroom. Black History Month is a special time to hold space for honoring the Black visionaries who helped shaped our country. In the classroom we read stories and share videos of African Americans and past presidents who actively worked towards making the idea of "freedom and justice for all" a reality. Being exposed to stories about courage and passion, both from history and the present day, makes an impression on their young minds of what is possible. Being a changemaker requires a strong faith in what you believe in and the audacity to do something about it. Rewriting Dr. King's iconic "I have a Dream" speech from their own perspectives is one way for them to envision positive change and their role in achieving it.

When learning about issues of intolerance and injustice they invariably ask the unanswerable question: Why? Why would people intentionally act unkindly towards others? Their natural response? To become changemakers themselves and to encourage others to do the same. This is why I strongly believe that children are never too young to learn about social justice. When they ask questions to express their curiosity, they are signaling to the adults in their lives that they are ready for a developmentally appropriate answer. In their innocence, children explore difference without judgment. We provide them with space to take risks and discover in a safe environment as they learn and grow together.

The magic of Viewpoint is the true dedication to nurturing the whole child. Just as we teach our academic subjects with rigor, it matters that our children's social and emotional needs are prioritized. We want them to be proud of who they are and where they come from. We want them to have experiences where they teach and learn from others so they can see how we are all connected. Socially, emotionally, and academically it matters that our children are exposed to a variety of learning experiences. Exposure to different

cultures and perspectives gives them the opportunity to think critically and creatively through situations they may not encounter organically. To their curious minds, this exploration is both exciting and educational; they consider what they would do and how they would feel in new situations, and they leave these exercises feeling more confident and capable as learners.



Mrs. Novick's Second Grade Class

THIS IS OUR

Revealing to children that they are powerful and that they can use their unique power to act upon the world is a gift. It is a

gift that I am humbled to share with my amazing colleagues. When our students feel that their actions matter, they are more thoughtful and more considerate when making them. Whether it is delivering a speech in front of their peers, leading an assembly for their division, or contributing their perspective to a classroom discussion, our students are ready to use their voices to lead. It is up to us to remind them that their voices and choices truly do matter.



Second Grade Teacher

Opposite Page: Second Grader Devon Chang with Head of Primary School Cathy Adelman





EVERY VOICE IS LIFTED

AT THE PEOPLE OF COLOR CONFERENCE

By Didi Anofienem, Middle School English Teacher

eep breath in, deep breath out. Breath work, the art of using the physiological movement of oxygen from the environment to the lungs in order to focus the mind and get lost in meditation. Studies have shown that during deep breathing exercises, the brain emits the same frequency that was emitted during the "Big Bang." Creation energy. The creation of new concepts, theories, and ways of being. Breath work is essential for the sustenance of human life and the human mind. Breathing is easier at the People of Color Conference (PoCC), like the air is unclouded and full of oxygen. Like the barriers to lung expansion are removed, and I can breathe deep and full and free.

For over 30 years, as many as 1,500 participants from across the country have gathered for the annual National Association of Independent School (NAIS) People of Color Conference (PoCC), the mission of which is "to provide a safe space for leadership, professional development, and networking for people of color and allies of all backgrounds in independent schools." In 2019, PoCC was held in Seattle, Washington, from December 3-7. It was Seattle, so the group of Viewpoint faculty and staff who attended were worried about the rain. The sky was cloudy and gray when we arrived with a light smattering of droplets glittering on the sidewalks. Luckily for us, the rain never turned into a constant downpour that kept us from enjoying the conference. This year's group included administrators, faculty and staff: Cynthia Ambriz, myself, Daynin Blake, Trudy Baylock, Stephen Chan, Sharon Chon, Salah Farrag, LeRhonda Greats, Mavanthi Imbuldeniya Javaratna '99, Mark McKee, Jasmine Novick, Jamon Pulliam, Suzanne Rodas, and Lacey Thompson.

As a usual custom, we gathered as a group to have dinner on our first night together. The next day, we met for breakfast as we made our way to the Washington State Convention Center. The opening of PoCC featured Valerie Kaur, a lawyer and civil rights activist, whose Sikh family immigrated in the 1900s. Kaur shared a sorrowful but resonating story of how she came into civil rights work through her family's experience dealing with racism that unfortunately claimed the life of her loved one

due to increased xenophobia after 9/11. Despite what they endured as immigrants and people of the Sikh faith, Kaur described her commitment to using love to combat hate. Specifically, love of the self to withstand degradation, and love of the opponent, as a part of ourselves that we just haven't met or reconciled with. This was a powerful and challenging message. The idea of loving your opponent has its roots in many religious traditions and speaks to the call we all feel to meet our higher selves, those parts of us that embody all that humanity could be. During her opening, Kaur encouraged us to breathe. Deep breath in, deep breath out.

The highlights of PoCC every year are the workshops that panelists present to share their "labors of love" from throughout the year. Our cohort attended a wide variety of workshops that focused on a diverse range of topics, from teaching a diverse student body equitably to mentorships and professional growth. Individual members of our cohort attended workshops with titles like:

- Building Blocks of Resilient Female Leaders of Colors
- Heads of Color Sponsoring and Mentoring Others to Become Heads of Color
- Our Liberation Is Connected: Thriving Together by Healing Racial Divides Between Communities of Color
- They're More Than Athletes: Educating Today's Black Boys in Predominantly White Institutions
- Why Not Now? Exploring Race, Identity, and Differences in Early Childhood



Viewpoint faculty and staff at the PoCC Conference

- What about the "Mixed" Kid? Multiracial Representation in Children's Literature
- Taboo Topics: Talking About Race, Class, and Privilege in the Classroom
- Mind the Gap: Exploring Asian American Identity in the Racial Narrative
- Mournable Bodies: Intended Consequences of Teaching About Racial and Political Violence
- The White Elephant in the Room

As a group, we all attended Dr. Joy DeGruy's master class where she described her work in Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing. She described in detail her experience with creating a non-profit center for underserved Black children and their families. We were so fortunate to receive a truncated version of her graduate seminar teaching educators her valuable and insightful evidence-based theoretical framework explaining the modern day impact of chattel enslavement on Black people.

Dr. DeGruy is also a cultural icon and legend, responsible for helping the Statue of Liberty National Monument pay homage to the original design and intent of the Statue of Liberty. According to historical documents, such as the original drawings and letters from the creator, the Statue of Liberty was designed as a celebration of the end of slavery and the emancipation of enslaved Africans in America. This history was long hidden, deliberately obscured from American memory and the visiting public. The original designs, showing broken chains in the statue's hand and at her feet, were even hidden in a lower level part of the museum. Dr. DeGruy made it her mission to bring this history to light by adding the broken chains to the present-day statue and retraining the museum's rangers to provide this accurate historical information to tourists and guests.

At the end of PoCC, the choir began the final meeting with a beautiful rendition of "Lift Every Voice," the Black National Anthem. The choir sang all the verses of the song that I didn't even know existed. This is something the Black anthem has in common with

the United States' national anthem — very few people know all the words. Thankfully, the lyrics were posted on large screens for everyone to join in and sing along. The breathing as we ended the conference was cathartic and emblematic of the entire PoCC experience. A deliberate centering of marginalized identities is the foundation of PoCC and what keeps me coming back year after year. ■



Didi Anofienem

VIEWPOINT

THIS IS

LeRhonda Greats (center) with staff members from the Independent School Alliance

Across Colors Diversity Conference

By LeRhonda Greats, Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Life

ON NOVEMBER 9, 2019, Viewpoint was pleased to host the Across Colors Diversity Conference (ACDC), the flagship of the Independent School Alliance's (ISA) commitment to supporting the diversity initiatives in independent schools. The theme of this year's conference was Empathy First: Cultivating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice. It is a biennial conference, and its mission is to provide a safe space for the professional development of students, parents, board members, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds in independent schools. Head of School Mark McKee recently joined the board of ISA, making Viewpoint the location of this year's conference a natural fit.

The conference welcomed participants from more than 38 schools and organizations throughout the Los Angeles area. The Keynote speaker was Rasheda Carroll, Assistant Head of School for Equity, Inclusion, and Counseling at Westland School. Rodney Glasgow, Head of Middle School and Chief Diversity Officer at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland, was the afternoon facilitator for the students.

Lucia Reynolds '20 served as the student speaker this year.

Lucia is a proud member of the Independent School Alliance and serves as a part of ISA's Youth Ambassador Program. ■

learning















Jiaxiang Foreign Languages School, Chengdu, China

觀點-嘉祥 VIEWPOINT-JIAXIANG Cultural & Educational Exchange

By Robert Bryan, Associate Head of School

the summer of 2016, Viewpoint's Upper School Chinese teacher **Ming Hodgson** led a group of 15 Upper School students, along with **Laurel Baker Tew '78** and me, on a tour of important cities and sites in China. We spent time in Beijing and Shanghai, where we were generously hosted by several Viewpoint families, as well as in Hangzhou and Chengdu. People may be less familiar with Chengdu, since its location in Sichuan province makes it somewhat off the beaten path for tourists. However, as a hub of business and culture (not to mention pandas!), Chengdu is one of the most important cities in China, with over 20 million people. Interestingly, Chengdu is reportedly the most visited tourist destination for those living in China. For me personally, being in Chengdu brings back happy memories of my time in Sichuan as an English and American Studies instructor at Chongqing University in 1985-86.

During our time in Chengdu in 2016, we visited the campus of Jiaxiang Foreign Languages School. As a group, we enjoyed some competitive ping pong (Mrs. Hodgson is quite the player!), and learned some basics of Chinese painting and calligraphy. While we were very impressed with the school's students, teachers, and administrators, what caught our greatest attention was the school's vision: "To build the best high school in China and develop elite students to be ready for tomorrow's global society and economy." Beyond excellence and preparation, Jiaxiang also was distinctive because of its emphasis on intellectual curiosity, critical and creative thinking, and character development in areas such as compassion, ethical conduct, contribution to the community, and respect of other views, beliefs, and cultures.

As we processed our brief time at Jiaxiang, we realized that Jiaxiang and Viewpoint had much in common. We both seek for our students' experiences that result in excellence, achievement, relevance, character, and contribution. We both seek for our teachers training in the application of current neuroscience research to enhance student learning.

This mutual purpose has led to ever strengthening ties between the two schools. In the summer of 2018, **Mr. Mark McKee** and Mrs. Hodgson were invited to bring two Viewpoint students to China for an educational summit hosted by Mr. Kejian Xiang and Jiaxiang Foreign Languages School. Mr. McKee and Mrs. Hodgson were accompanied by **Piers Carmichael '19** and **Daniel Cashdan '19**, who were able to consider significant issues affecting schools and society in collaboration with students from schools in China and beyond.

(continued on next page)

Cultural & Educational Exchange

Teachers and students from the Viewpoint-Jiaziang Cultural and Educational Exchange





Chinese students in Fletcher Family Library

In the spring of 2019, Mrs.
Hodgson, Mrs. Katelyn Forero,
Associate Director of Admission,
and I chaperoned another group
of Viewpoint students to
Chengdu, this time for a week of
educational and cultural activities
on the Jiaxiang campus and in
the local region. Students were
well cared for by their Chinese
host students and families, and
participated in school activities
including public debates.
Viewpoint students also visited

the Sichuan Panda Reserve at a time of year when many pandas were available for viewing, picked tea leaves for a tea ceremony, learned how to prepare their own Chinese lunch (complete with chef's gear), and visited a famous Taoist temple. It was truly a memorable experience for all concerned!

In the summer of 2019, Mr. McKee and I were invited to participate in a government-sponsored educational conference hosted by Jiaxiang Foreign Languages School at Emei Shan, one of the four sacred Buddhist mountains of China and an important pilgrimage site. While

there, Mr. McKee represented Viewpoint by being one of the only international educators asked to address the topic of the future of education with the 500+ educators in attendance.

All of these activities and relationships established over the past few years resulted in Viewpoint hosting a group of 15 students and three teachers from Jiaxiang Foreign Languages School. In January 2020, this group arrived in Los Angeles and greeted their Viewpoint host students and families, with whom they stayed throughout the week. During their stay, the Jiaxiang group attended classes and activities with their hosts and toured sites in and around Los Angeles. Jiaxiang students were introduced to the Upper School student body at a Senior Speech assembly, and they presented to the Parent Partnership for Diversity and Inclusivity, where they gave informed, spirited, and amusing answers to the questions posed. Jiaxiang students also participated in Viewpoint's Upper School poetry assembly by reading selections of their choice in English, and in a number of other classroom activities throughout the week. Since the Jiaxiang students are largely fluent in English, they also heard from our college counselors about how the college admission process works in the United States. The group toured the Getty Villa and Museum, Universal Studios, and UCLA, among other sites.

Anyone who knows Chinese culture knows the importance of the farewell banquet, which is a time of reflection, celebration, and

recognition both representing and strengthening the bonds between our two schools. Because of the generosity of our families, we were able to host this important gathering in the magnificent setting of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, under Air Force One. After some introductory remarks, we were treated to two beautiful numbers by our Upper School Choir, and by stunning solo performances by **Daniel Kuelbs '20** on cello and by **Dori Yu '21** on a guzheng or Chinese zither. Chinese student performances included vocal and piano solos, as well as an impromptu student address highlighting the most memorable aspects of their week at Viewpoint. It was truly a remarkable evening, made all the more so by the incredible setting!



At the Reagan Library



Chinese Teacher Ming Hodgson

While we were all sad to see the Jiaxiang students and teachers leave, we remain hopeful that the relationship between the two schools will continue. Given our common educational goals and the importance we place on

them, we certainly will be able to share perspectives and experiences that will enhance our teachers' training as well as our students' cultural understanding and educational experiences. Special thanks to all of the Viewpoint families who served as hosts, to Mrs. Hodgson for her organization and tireless efforts to make the exchange successful, and to Mr. McKee, the Viewpoint Board of Trustees, Mr. Xiang and the Jiaxiang staff for their ongoing support of this important exchange.



Cereal & China

By Jackson Denke '21

Of all the studying I have done at Viewpoint under the amazing Chinese program, nothing could have ever prepared me for my trip to China. The absolute deluge of cultural differences was overwhelming, and I would imagine the same was true for the Chinese students who came here.

I remember the first night here with the student I was hosting, Jason (Xia Gengyan); he requested a "traditional American" snack. Since the U.S. is such a cosmopolitan country, there really are no truly "traditional" American foods, so the best I could come up with were a few boxes of cereal. I laid out Lucky Charms, Reese's Puffs, and Frosted Flakes, all with the typical loud American logos and vibrant colors.



Jason (Xia Gengyan) and Jackson Denke '21

As he sat at my counter and ate the cereal feast I prepared for him, I thought about how extremely informal this must have seemed. After all, in China, every morning and every

night, I would sit down with my host family and quietly share what would be considered a Thanksgiving meal in America. But of course, this was the exact purpose of the Cultural Exchange Program — to tear down the walls dividing America and China. Whether that is a cultural divide or language barrier, it does not matter. What truly matters is that we attempt to bridge the gap and embrace our differences.







2

- 1 LeRhonda Greats, Director of Diversity, Inclusivity, and Community Life
- 2 Benjamin Meppen '22
- 3 Ryan Gurewitz '20
- 4 Keynote speaker Gyasi Ross addressing the crowd
- 5 Tai Flemming '21, Maile Brady' 21
- 6 College Counselor Jamon Pulliam, Dante Ogbu '23, Olaitan Egberongbe '23, Osiris Nalls '23, Oriola Egberongbe '23, Amir Baylock '24
- 7 Keynote speaker Gyasi Ross
- 8 Caleb Ogbu '26, Lamont Koonce '26
- 9 Asher Oden '26, Abigail Ogbu '24, Laurel Eith '24

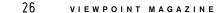


iewpoint's Fourth Annual Diversity Leadership Day for the Middle and Upper Schools was held on February 5. The day included inspiring performances, speakers, 45 student-led workshops, and a skill-building workshop for having difficult conversations. Keynote speaker Gyasi Ross, a Native American author, attorney, rapper, and storyteller, set a positive tone for the day by encouraging the students to embrace the opportunity to share their stories and to listen to the stories of others.









learning

■ Together.

3

VIEWPOINT MAGAZINE

The workshops, developed and presented by the students, initiated conversations on race, religion, politics, sexuality, socioeconomic diversity and privilege, representation in social media, body image, and mental health. An underlying theme was the importance of showing compassion to everyone despite possible differences. The concluding session, led by Dr. Liza Talusan, asked students to interact with their peers and to initiate conversations on potentially difficult topics.



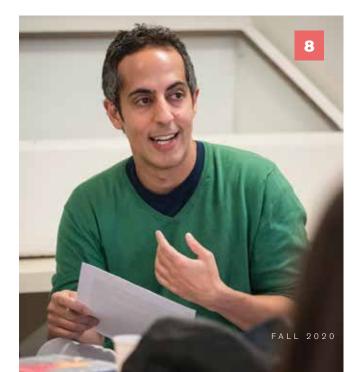


We are stronger.

Diversity Leadership Day provided a safe space for the exchange of ideas, opinions, and stories — with the goal of opening channels for further dialogue and creating a more connected community, where everyone feels at home.



- 1 Kayla Yang '26, Ari Winston '26, Allison Kim '26
- 2 Dr. Liza Talusan
- 3 Maile Brady '21
- 4 Ambrielle Harris '26, Nathan Danese '25, London Price '26
- 5 Ryan Sumpter Gillyard '24
- 6 Riley Herbert '22, Chris Ordonez '22, H.H. Landau '22
- 7 Alexis Hernandez '20
- 8 Speaker and Author Abdi Nazemian



THIS IS

VIEWPOINT



BLACK HISTORY FESTIVAL



The Upper School students celebrated Viewpoint's first Black History Festival with a rousing performance by the School's new Middle and Upper School Step Team.

The students, led by Step Coach and College Counselor **Jamon Pulliam**, practiced for months and the results were amazing! The Upper School students also had a great time playing a spirited round of "Black Jeopardy," hosted by game show host and comedian Wayne Brady P '21. They then participated in Double Dutch, which they learned was REALLY challenging, enjoyed three-on-three basketball, had the chance to learn a step routine (also challenging), watched short films, and snacked on churros and popcorn. The Middle School students had a chance to see the Step Team in action at their own Black History Month Assembly on February 11, as did Primary and Lower School students at their own special assembly.

Many thanks to Jamon Pulliam, Donna Hicks, LeRhonda Greats, the Black Student Union, and many others for organizing this very special week of Black History Month activities for our community!









▲ 5 THE CROWD CHEERS AS THE STEP TEAM PERFORMS



(4 cont'd) Upper School Step Team: Amir Baylock '23, Deja Bickers '20, Vanessa Ogbu '20, Jordan Moore '20, Tai Flemming '21, Lucia Reynolds '20, Olaitan Egberongbe '23, Oriola Egberongbe '23, Dante Ogbu '23, Janah Omordia '20 5 The Step Team 6 Lucia Reynolds '20, Jordyn Moore '20, Jamon Pulliam 7 Oriola Egberongbe '23, Nia Blumenfield '24, Yeni Denloye '24 8 Upper School crowd enjoying the performance 9 Morgan Washington '24, LeRhonda Greats

1 Caleb Ogbu '26, James Faulhaber '26 2 Mr. Jamon Pulliam jumps double dutch 3 Wayne Brady P '21 4 Middle School Step Team: Ambrielle Harris '26, Cyera Washington '26, Jordyn Washington '24, Morgan Washington '24, Prianna Pierce '26, Caleb Ogbu '26, Kapri Garnett '26, Lina Saley '25, London Price '26, Morgan Omordia '24, Sundiata Enuke '24, Nia Blumenfield '24, Yeni Denloye '24, Chris Champion '24, Lamont Koonce '26





NEURO DIVFRSITY

By Liz Pappademas, Former Middle and Upper School Learning Specialist

Neurodiversity at Viewpoint: How Learning Specialists Support Our Vital Variations K-12

he email comes in at around 9:45 p.m., the time teachers usually hope students are already in bed, even though we know they rarely are. It's from a Middle School student, new to Viewpoint this year. She and I had a long talk during lunch that day and she is writing to thank me for showing her that she does not need to be afraid of math. Even though she still thinks it is "the most creepiest subject alive" she says, "I know I am not alone."

The role of Learning Specialists is relatively new for Viewpoint.

to create, from the ground up, an academic support program

By visiting peer schools in Los Angeles, San Francisco and

nuanced aspects of an effective academic support program.

No formal program was in place when **Danielle Burness**

and I were hired in the Middle and Upper School for the 2015-16 school year. We saw this as a special opportunity

based on best practices and the needs of Viewpoint's

Boston, Danielle and I gathered information about the

It is often hard for me to describe what I do when I meet new people. The truth is, what learning specialists do is pretty simple: we make school less scary by helping kids know they are not alone.

A NEW ROLE

"WHY FIT IN, WHEN YOU WERE BORN TO STAND OUT?"

-DR. SEUSS

Gemma Green joined us as the Learning Specialist for the Lower and Primary school in 2016. The three of us work as a team, and also continue to build relationships within the Learning Specialists Consortium, a group of Los Angeles area professionals at peer schools, which held its annual Spring meeting here at Viewpoint this year.

> Across the four divisions, we have supported hundreds of students with a range of challenges, and a growing faculty consistently interested in researchinformed strategies that will help them create equitable classrooms to reach all learners. Each year, we return from professional development workshops with new ideas on brain science, learning

disabilities, and reading and math programs that will continue to make Viewpoint's program state-of-the-art.

NEURODIVERSITY AT VIEWPOINT

Viewpoint's mission "recognizes the uniqueness of each child and is committed to the preservation and development of that individuality." Research by The National Center for Learning Disabilities indicates that one in five Americans has difficulty reading, spelling, writing, reasoning, recalling, and/or organizing information in a typical way.

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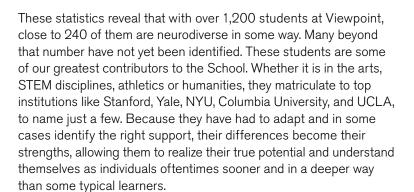
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learning

NEURO DIVERSITY







A June 2019 article from *Scientific American* defines neurodiversity as "the idea that neurological differences (like autism, dyslexia, and other learning disabilities, ADHD) may be disabilities, but they are not flaws.

- People with neurological differences are not broken or incomplete versions of normal people.
- Disability, no matter how profound, does not diminish personhood.
- People with atypical brains are fully human, with inalienable human rights, just like everyone else.
- People with disabilities can live rich, meaningful lives.
- Neurological variations are a vital part of humanity, as much as variations in size, shape, skin color and personality.
- None of us has the right (or the wisdom) to try and improve upon our species by deciding which characteristics to keep and which to discard. Every person is valuable.
- Disability is a complicated thing. Often, it is defined more by society's expectations than by individual conditions. Not always, but often."

In addition to our work with students, we also counsel parents, and collaborate as liaisons with teachers, outside psychologists, educational therapists, speech language pathologists, tutors, and other paraprofessionals to identify and to develop instructional strategies and supports that empower Viewpoint students to succeed academically, demonstrate independence, and embrace neurodiversity.

Neurodiversity has been championed by schools as well as in the workplace. Steve Silberman's book *NeuroTribes*, describes how companies like Specialisterne, founded in Denmark, employs people on the spectrum to put their autistic intelligence to work in the technology industry. Instead of putting potential candidates through grueling face-to-face interviews, Specialisterne lets them cut loose

with a table full of Lego Mindstorm Robots...candidates can just show off their skills rather than have to explain them." (Silberman, 473)

PERSONAL HISTORIES

While neurodiversity may be a contemporary term, support for exceptional children dates back to 1920s Vienna, where the field of child psychology was constructed on the ideas of Anna Freud, Alfred Adler, and others who pioneered the study of therapeutic education. August Aichorn, another Freudian psychologist, created a combined educational and therapeutic setting he called *heilpaedagogik*, which has no direct English translation, but loosely means, "the helping teacher" (Ficksman & Adelizzi, 46). Although originally created for disabled children, in principle, the concept can be applied to all



Liz Pappademas, Gemma Green, Danielle Burness

children, for there is no one who does not need help in some way, and schools have a special assignment to create an environment that surrounds students with a network of informed, adaptable teachers, specialists, counselors, and coaches.

I was fortunate enough to have a few "helping teachers" when I attended middle school, because I too once thought math was "the most creepiest subject alive." My Seventh Grade poetry teacher was the first to identify the discrepancy between my ability and my achievement (often an indicator of a specific learning disability) when he observed how good I was with language compared to how much I suffered in math. Despite years of tutoring and the feeling I was



Kelly Ghaffary will be working as the Middle School Learning Specialist starting this fall. Prior to joining Viewpoint, she was a Learning Specialist at Oakwood for the past 10 years.



working harder than my peers, I struggled. But I attended a school that valued all learners and could see that there was something beyond motivation that was causing me difficulty.

I met with the Learning Specialist at my school, and she taught me strategies I still use and teach to my current students. These teachers and a desire to help kids who are working, as I did, to reach their full potential helped me to decide to become a Learning Specialist. My own challenges and successes have given me a special ability to empathize with my students, as well as the adults in their lives.

Danielle fell into the Learning Specialist position at a previous school where the need was prevalent, but not at all identified or supported by the administration. "In my school counseling role, I took it upon myself to create this position. It was never formalized, but it was widely known that I was supporting students with learning difficulties.

That began my interest in expanding my knowledge and my desire to work with this population."

WITH OVER 1,200 STUDENTS AT VIEWPOINT, CLOSE TO 240 OF THEM ARE NURODIVERSE IN SOME WAY

She continued, "Last year, I experienced the other side of the desk, when my son had his own neuropsychological evaluation due to some learning challenges he was experiencing. That process was invaluable because it gave me a whole different perspective on the work I had been doing for so many years. I have always been very compassionate and had a soft spot for neurodiverse kids. However, really understanding how the neuropsychology of it worked, and being able to experience firsthand what that testing feels like was emotionally taxing - watching your child struggle. At the same time, it also was incredibly rewarding when you get to discover what is really going on. You get a full picture of your child in a way that you never would have without this kind of information. It is empowering for the child and for the family. My son is now doing great. He enjoys school more, and has more confidence in himself now that he has the supports in place at school that help him thrive. And, we have also been able to give his teachers tools so that they can better understand him."

Gemma shared that her experience with neurodiversity began when she was a child. "I grew up with a mother who was born severely hearing-impaired. My siblings and I naturally learned to speak to her only when she could read our lips. Whispering in her ear was never a consideration. Our home telephone sounded more like a siren than a typical ringtone. From a very young age, I was aware of the difficulties my mom faced, but I also knew her deeply beyond her hearing impairment. To me, she was my mom, and her disability did not define her.

Throughout my life, I've always been drawn to people like her, realizing that their difference or disability is just one part of who they are.

The prospect of helping people find solutions to their challenges led me to pursue a career in Special Education.

As a Learning Specialist, I want to know my students fully. What are their interests, their strengths, their passions? I also want them to know that I am aware of their struggles, and I am going to stick with them as they grow and achieve their educational potential and build self-confidence. It's a thrill for me every time a concept suddenly 'clicks' for a student. Even better is seeing that this early intervention produces enduring school success for the students, teachers, administrators and parents. I hope my students see how much I value and believe in them."

It has been over a year since I've heard from the student who wrote me that late night email.
We still greet each other

in the hall, but not all students who spend time with me or with another Learning Specialist continue for an extended period. They get the help they need and move on as independent learners. Not all students we work with seek evaluations or help outside of school. But it is the hope of the academic support department that all of the students we meet, and the adults around them, feel that Viewpoint is a school where you are not alone in uncovering the neurodiversity intrinsic to our community. If there are parents or students or teachers reading this who do feel this way, please do not hesitate to reach out to your division's Learning Specialist. We are here to make school less scary.

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learning







SUPPORTING OUR LGBTQ STUDENTS

THE GENDER SEXUALITY FACULTY STAFF ALLIANCE (GSFSA)

By Monica Case '90, Associate Director of Communications

Everyone wants to feel like they belong. Regardless of how we think about many things, this is one thing upon which most of us can agree. Yet for many students on the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer) spectrum that feeling of belonging can be elusive. At Viewpoint, we want our entire community - our students, faculty, staff, and families - to feel that they are safe and accepted.

Two years ago, a group of educators on campus started gathering together to discuss how to create a more inclusive school, establishing the Gender Sexuality Faculty Staff Alliance (GSFSA). Over 30 teachers from all divisions, including administrators, met regularly to discuss challenges and initiatives. At the start of the 2019-20 school year, the group worked with leaders on campus to create trainings for teachers that could lead to students feeling welcome, cared for, and

safe, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. The groups co-leaders, English teachers Nan Cohen and Tom Moore, worked with **LeRhonda Greats**, Director of Diversity, Inclusivity, and Community Life, and with diversity directors in each division, including **Mayanthi** Imbuldeniya Jayaratna '99, Stephen Chan, and Eboni Rafus.

I met with the group on March 10 to learn more about the needs of our LGBTQ students and about how adults in our community can help create a culture of security and inclusion for everyone.

TOM MOORE: The GSFSA was formed in response to hearing students' experiences. The students in the in Upper School Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) shared how hard things can sometimes be for them. They shared that they faced harassment, that they heard homophobic language regularly, and that they sometimes felt invisible. Some shared that they heard little positive, open discussion of LGBTQ identities.

adult sponsors, but also a number of other adults on campus, just to talk about how we are asking students to do too much to make the atmosphere safer or better by themselves, and about how as adults we can step up and do more to help students and support them.

THE GOALS OF THE GSFSA ARE TO:

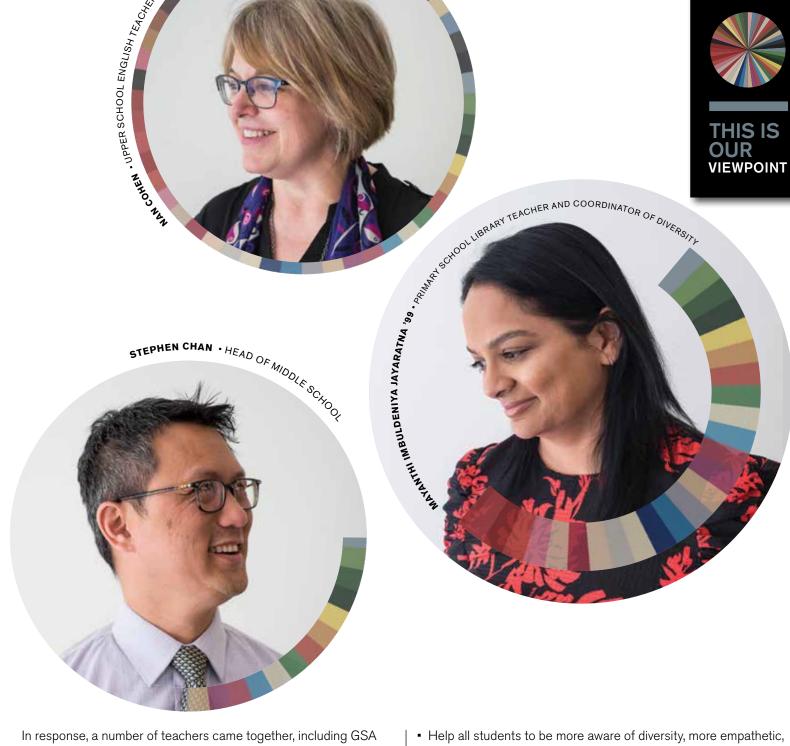
- Help all kids feel welcome, regardless of their identity or family structure.
- Keep gender identity and sexual orientation from becoming associated with shame.
- Find ways to talk respectfully about different identities related to gender identity and orientation so that homophobic language and gender-based slurs don't become normalized.

and more supportive of each other.

One of the things that is important is helping all of our staff, faculty, and adult community understand how much pain some of these students are in, how much fear some of them experience, and how, if we can shift the community on campus, we can make it a safer and better place for everybody. We want all students to feel safe and have a place where they can question and be supported. We have had LGBTQ students in our community who have thrived and been amazing leaders on campus, bringing joy and making a difference, and we want to give all of our students the safety they need to be their best selves.

The GSAs also play a critical role, because they give students a safe place where they can go and not be so alone. For LGBTO kids,

(continued on next page)



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"YOU'RE SAFE, YOU'RE WELCOME.

internal struggle for so many of them because they can hide their differences, unlike some other forms of diversity. Instead of talking to others when they are hurt, they often "THE GSAs ALSO PLAY internalize their struggles and associate A CRITICAL ROLE. a big part of themselves with shame. BECAUSE THEY GIVE One of the biggest things adults can

> STUDENTS A SAFE PLACE WHERE NOT BE SO ALONE."

kindness and we respect them." Otherwise, a passive culture sets in where kids fear or stigmatize gender and sexuality differences. As much as we adults can keep shifting the culture, that's what we want to do. We want all of our students to know, "You're safe, you're welcome. We accept all of you here."

do to help is to have positive

existing in our community, and

conversations about these people

acknowledge that, "These people

are people, and we treat them with

coming to terms with their identities can be such an

STEVE CHAN: The key aspect of the GSA is the inclusion of the allies, because the allies will be fellow students who will support LGBTQ students. And for those students who feel isolated or alone, it's a key facet of GSA, which is different than some of the other organizations, which are for LGBTQ people only.

Tom: I would like to say one thing about the safety piece. Because there is safety at a smaller level, and there is safety at a bigger level. Major organizations have studied what it is like for LGBTQ kids in schools, and at the smaller level, there are higher levels of stress and anxiety reported. Students' GPAs go down, their standardized test scores go down, and they skip school more often. All of this has been studied on a national level. And at the bigger level, we tell the faculty that, in terms of safety, this really is suicide prevention work. For too many kids, after years of silence and fear, it builds to a crisis point.

THEY CAN GO AND

TOM MOORE MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL **ENGLISH TEACHER**

imagine what is a parent's worst nightmare, that your kid finds themselves so afraid or self-hating that they could harm themselves. Part of this work is, let's celebrate our kids and their diversity, let's make it safe for kids at the small level. Let's make every

In 2016, the Center for Disease Control found that

29.4% percent of gay, lesbian, and bisexual

students in Grades Nine to Twelve had

attempted suicide one or more times in

the 12 months prior to the survey. These

are just awful statistics. You look at

transgender kids, more than 50%

of transgender male teens who

participated in a survey by the

American Academy of Pediatrics

lifetime. Nearly 30% of transgender

female teens said they did. So, you

attempted suicide once in their

kid feel welcome in class on a small level - but then also keep in mind that there's an urgency here.

TEACHING THE TEACHERS

LERHONDA GREATS: Over the course of the past school year, the GSFSA met with the faculty and staff in all four divisions. We tried our very best to be as consistent as possible in the messaging for all of the adults regardless of the ages of the students they are working with. While not all of the data is directly relevant to our younger students, it is critically important for all of the adults on campus to be educated in the same way.

MAYANTHI IMBULDENIYA JAYARATNA: Our library staff has purchased books for the library and our teachers to support the committee's efforts.

Tom: We thought about the different families we have in our community. We have people throughout our community – faculty, staff, families – who are LGBTQ. And so, if kids start reading all

the different types of stories and see all of these people, and the

teachers talk about them respectfully and openly, all of a sudden,

things start shifting and become more accepting.

WE ACCEPT ALL OF YOU HERE."

If we actually use the words "lesbian or transgender," in a respectful, positive, open way, they do not become stigmatized. In the LGBTQ community, queer is not an insult anymore, it is somebody who feels they do not actually think that they fit within these narrow boxes of gender, and they celebrate that and they are happy to be that. Part of the work of making safer schools is about removing stigmas. It is about representation in a positive way in our stories and giving presence to the people who have been erased from our history, where we get rid of that aspect of who they were. Curriculums at schools often just cut out the fact that authors or people in history were gay or lesbian, pretending that was never a part of them. All of a sudden, let's look at them as a whole people in history. Another way schools can help is to talk explicitly about language. As a teacher, if you hear a student on the playground say, "That's so gay," it is important to know how to have that conversation with either the student or with the whole class.

Steve: One of our critical resources is GLSEN (formerly the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network). GLSEN is an important organization for independent schools, especially because it very much grew up out of independent schools—the founder was a teacher at Concord Academy in Massachusetts. So, it was a history teacher who was actually in this environment, and he saw the needs of his students, and he also knew his own needs as a faculty member who felt isolated in that environment. And GLSEN grew up from that.

Using the data from GLSEN and other sources, Tom and Nan put together the statistics and information below to share with the GSFSA and our faculty and staff to give a better understanding of why supporting our LGBTQ students is so critical.

BENEFITS FOR ALL KIDS, NOT JUST LGBTQ

(Quotations from GLSEN's Inclusive Curriculum Guide)

"LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum benefits all students by promoting acceptance and respect, and teaching them more about the diverse people and families in the world."

- "Anti-LGBTQ bias hurts all children, both those directly affected and those who learn in an atmosphere of fear and tension, afraid to explore their own lives because of worry about disapproval and rejection."
- "Beginning these conversations in elementary school will help young people develop empathy for a diverse group of people, and to learn about identities that might relate to their families or even themselves. It is never too early for schools to set up a foundation of understanding and respect."

Viewpoint is dedicated to making sure all students in our school feel welcome and safe, no matter what their family background is, no matter their diverse identities. By focusing on acceptance, kindness, and our universal values, all the members of our community will receive the respect that they deserve.

CURATED BOOK SELECTIONS BY OUR LIBRARIANS ON LGBTO THEMES

Books for Students in Grades Kindergarten-Two:

I Love My Purse Demont, Wimmer Red: A Crayon's Story Hall, Michael Julián is a Mermaid Love, Jessica Mary Wears What She Wants Negley, Keith Stella Brings the Family Schiffer, Miriam B. All Families Are Special Simon, Norma, Flavin, Teresa

Books for Students in Grades Three-Eight:

Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World Blake, Ashley Herring The Pants Project Clarke, Cat The Lotterys Plus One Donoghue, Emma Federle, Tim Better Nate Than Ever (series) Gav & Lesbian History for Kids: The

Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights

Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community Stevenson, Robin

Pohlen, Jerome

Books for Students in Grades Nine-Twelve:

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda Albertalli, Beckv Kuklin, Susan Beyond Magenta

The Letter Q Moon, Sarah & James Lecesne

It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming

Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living Savage, Dan ■

THE HISTORY OF US

By Sarah Levin-Katchinskiy, Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Medieval World History, Seventh Grade

during the medieval era (5th-15th centuries C.E.). Students learn about a diverse range of cultures, beginning with a study of the Maya and Aztecs in Mesoamerica, followed by the development of Islam on the Arabian Peninsula and major West African kingdoms. The second semester covers a group of empires in Asia, including China, Japan, and the Mongols, and ends with Feudal Europe providing a comparison and contrast to social

The History of Us is the culminating project for their History 7 course, existing as a writing and technology project, and in years past the students made a formal presentation to the

history is a narrative, written by historians based on available evidence. From there, students are guided to think about their lives and experiences through the lens of history. using the same tools to consider what events shaped their lives, select artifacts that reflect important aspects of their identities, and conduct interviews to gain an understanding of family history. They also use geography skills to map ideas, experiences, passions, or beyond, considering how people interact with their environments. Students collect materials and use them to create an individual website photography, digital and physical mapping,



Student websites showcasing their ability to research, evaluate, and present aspects of their own histories

THE PROCESS

Step One: EVENT

Students are asked to consider what makes an event historically significant. Through discussion, reading, and critical thinking, the concept of cause and effect helps them determine that significance is related to the changes that result from an event, and the number of people affected, or the scale of those changes. Students are then asked to find an event that occurred in their own lives that had a (relatively) large scale effect and explore, like a historian, to try to identify the various causes of the event. Once they have established their event, effects, and causes, they write a narrative paragraph describing the event. This is the first step in telling their own story.

Step Two: INTERVIEW

As the semester progresses, students are introduced to the idea of oral history and tradition through the study of the Arabian Peninsula and West Africa, broadening their understanding of what they considered history. Students interview family members and close friends about important family lore. They practice writing and asking open-ended questions and become familiar with recording technology, producing audio and video interviews to upload to their personal websites.

Step Three: IDENTITY CHART

As the first semester comes to a close, students think about which aspects of their identities are most essential to who they are. They create an identity chart, defining (and sometimes redefining) for themselves who they are and what they are like. Then, they select three aspects of themselves that are the most important to know. Just as historians think about what to include and what to leave out, the Seventh Graders consider which parts of their story to tell.

Step Four: ARTIFACTS

At the beginning of the second semester, we review the premise that history is a narrative written by historians, based on available

evidence. This step is about proving, with evidence, what students are trying to show and say about themselves. Students select artifacts, objects created or altered by people, to show evidence of the importance of each of the three selected parts of their identity. Students who identify themselves as athletes might choose a worn-out game ball, evidence of the frequency with which they play. Worn ballet slippers, hard-won trophies, and many well-loved stuffed animals show by turns their dedication to dance, sport, and family bonds.

Step Five: MAPS

By mid-second semester, students have learned about human interaction with the physical world, through the study of geography built into every unit. An exploration of a variety of thematic maps helps students envision maps of their own. Selecting another aspect of their identity that can be expressed in the form of a map, students embark on creating physical or digital maps of their choice. In past years' maps students have created maps of beloved summer camps, digital road trips, family immigration paths, and once even a map of a student's body, labeled with injuries they earned practicing dance over many years.

Step Six: PRESENTATION

As each piece of the project is completed, it is uploaded to their personal website. In years past, the final step in the project is to polish and present. Students select a single artifact of the three on their site to display and discuss at the presentation. Each Google Site is published to the web, with restrictions on access to maintain privacy for students. OR codes are displayed with the student's artifacts to allow access for parents, family, and friends. The culminating presentation is filled with nervous energy, pride, and excitement. We will look forward to doing this again next year.

learning

"This I Believe"

The Viewpoint Senior Speech Program is a capstone event for all Viewpoint seniors. Using the NPR series, "This I Believe," as the basis for their speeches, each senior writes and then delivers a speech to a cohort of fellow students, and in some cases to the entire Upper School community. The keys to writing a good senior speech are honesty, personality, and clarity. Oliver Davidorf's speech below is a model of all three essential elements.

Senior Speech by Oliver Davidorf '20



hen the bombs dropped, everything changed. A disaster, chaos on a grander scale than anyone could have possibly imagined. When the bombs dropped, everything changed. Fatalities, irreparable damage to families, ships, and defense. When the bombs dropped, everything changed. Or, so one would think.

From the Japanese fighters, bombs rained down on Pearl Harbor. While the death and the destruction was catastrophic, the impact on the innocent legal and loyal Japanese-American citizens can be seen as just as staggering. All down the Pacific Coast, thousands of Japanese-Americans were placed in internment camps by the executive order of Franklin D. Roosevelt, solely because of their race. For these Japanese-Americans, seemingly everything had changed. However, I believe your fate is never written in stone. I believe that we all are capable of not letting circumstances define us, and creating positive change.

My *Tai Gung*, my great grandfather, Hung Wai, embodied this belief. Hung Wai grew up in Honolulu, born to Chinese immigrants. After an accident resulted in his father's death, he, his mother, and his five siblings suffered through intense financial insecurity. The hardship of growing up in a poor immigrant neighborhood alongside people of Japanese descent as well as other races contributed to the softening of his heart through the entirety of his life.

Hung Wai was a part of a special council, dubbed the Council on Interracial Unity, formed to try and maintain harmonious relations among Hawaii's multi-racial population. During World War II, this council became an important bridge between government officials and the people of Hawaii.

After the bombs dropped on Pearl Harbor, sweeping measures were put in place by the U.S. government. War was officially declared on Japan, and internment began. In Hawaii, quotas of certain amounts of Japanese to be taken into custody each day were imposed on government officials. When Hung Wai caught wind of this, he personally confronted the colonel assigned to the task, and convinced him of the injustice of the quota arrests. The colonel then refused to fulfill the quotas, risking his entire military career by disobeying orders from his superiors. Hung Wai's passion and belief in the loyalty of the Japanese men and women he grew up with was so powerful that a man was willing to sacrifice his career.

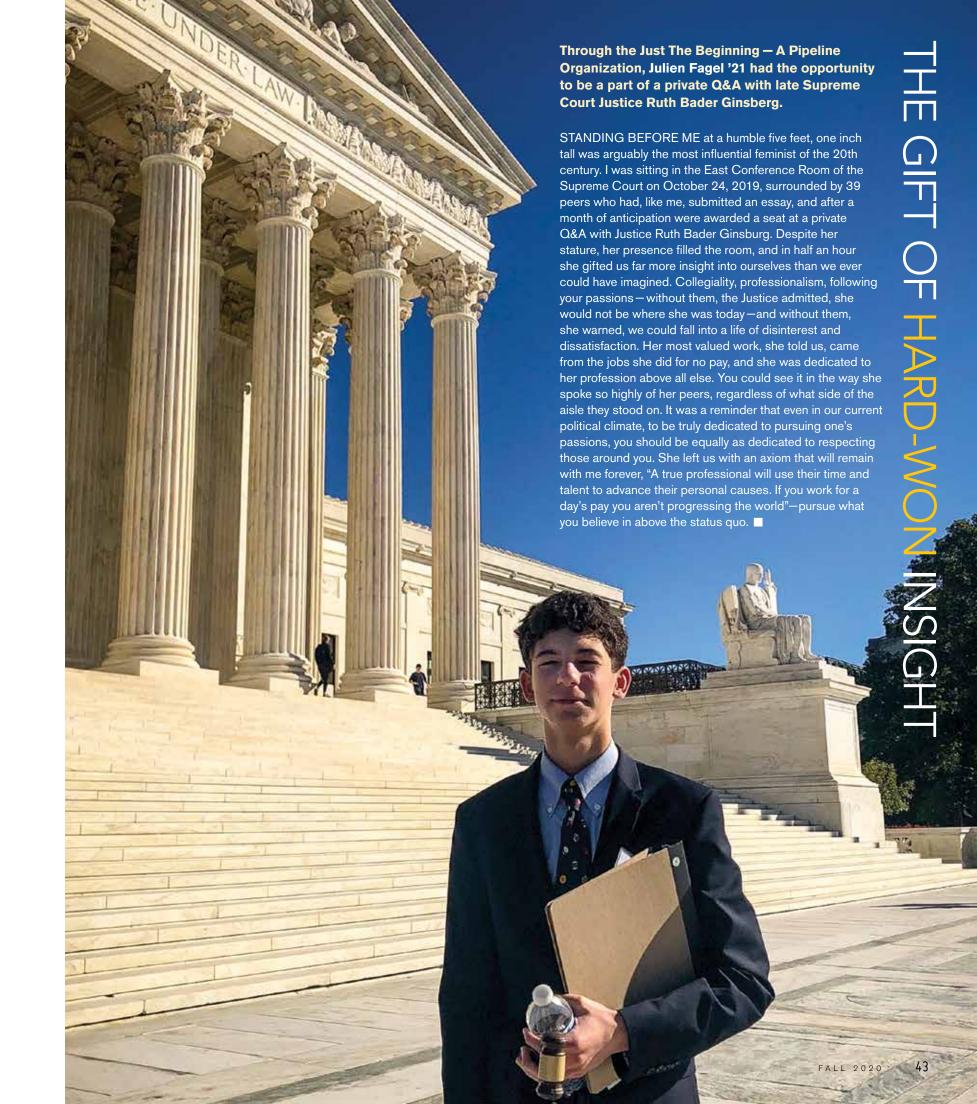
And this is what I mean when I say nothing is written in stone. It is not about the cards you are dealt because not everybody is going to get pocket aces. So, while we can mope and groan about how unfair life is, we can also be proactive in how we use our time, and how we choose to live our lives. When Hung Wai saw wrong, he went out of his way to do right by it.

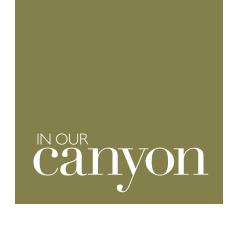
When all soldiers of Japanese ancestry were discharged from the Hawaii Territorial Guard, Hung Wai convinced these confused, bitter college students to petition to the appointed Military Governor of Hawaii to serve as a non-combatant labor battalion. Hung Wai realized that in a time where fear of the Japanese consumed Americans across the states and in the White House, it was becoming increasingly important for the Japanese to outwardly display their loyalty to America. No matter how unfair it was for these American citizens to "prove" their loyalty—as they were "Americans" which should have been enough—they put aside their anger and did the best with what they had. It was the impressiveness of these young men in this non-combatant battalion that ended up winning back Japanese-Americans' right to bear arms.

Through the Council on Interracial Unity, Hung Wai and the other members kept in close contact with the head FBI agent in charge of interning the Japanese in Hawaii. This communication helped prevent the wrongful internment of thousands of people of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii. On the Pacific Coast, around 120,000 Japanese were placed in internment camps. However, in Hawaii, where approximately 150,000 people of Japanese ancestry were living, only 1,200 were interned. That's less than 1% of the total population in Hawaii.

Hung Wai, a Chinaman, had no connection to Japanese heritage. Millions of Chinese citizens were slaughtered in raids by the Japanese on China, yet, Hung Wai held no racial animosity towards the Japanese. He saw the Japanese who lived in Hawaii as members of his community, and when government officials who did not know these people, who acted out of fear, tried to intern the Japanese, he knew it was not right, and that was his sole reason for fighting so strongly in support of the Japanese in Hawaii. Nobody ever asked Hung Wai to assist the Japanese, he was never compensated for his work. He did it because he thought it was right.

He wanted to make a difference, he wanted to create positive change, he wanted to change fate. Hung Wai, a man who did not owe anybody anything, helped to prevent further exacerbation of an event later seen as one of the most shameful parts of America's 200-plus year history. A simple man from humble origins, a jokester, a prankster, a drinker, a smoker. A guy known for his big mouth, but an even bigger heart. This was a man who was not given anything by anyone, a man who showed that circumstances don't have to define anyone, fate does not have to be written in stone, that everyone is capable of positive change. He was a man who showed that when the bombs dropped everything did not have to change.





"NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROTECTING CHILDREN, AND I REALLY APPRECIATE KNOWING THAT EVERYONE HERE AT VIEWPOINT IS ON YOUR SIDE..."

By Monica Case '90, Associate Director of Communications

DON ANDERSON, Director of Campus Safety

and Chair of the COVID-19 Taskforce, comes to us from the law enforcement and corporate security community.

Before joining Viewpoint in the fall of 2019, Don spent four years as the Director of Security for Sony Pictures, and prior to that Don was with the Los Angeles Police Department. He is still active in law enforcement, providing firearms and tactical training to law enforcement agencies in California and across the county. Some of Don's assignments included Counter Terrorism/Special Operations Metro Division, Gang CRASH Unit, and the Career Criminal Apprehension Unit. Don always has had a passion for protecting people and training people to protect themselves and others. One highlight of Don's career was being part of the protection detail for Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush.

THIS INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE IN FEBRUARY 2020

LAPD - THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Don grew up in Whittier and comes from a law enforcement family. His father, Don Anderson, Sr., is a 32-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department with 28 years in SWAT as a Team Leader. Don Sr. is also the recipient of the 1998 Medal of Valor for his heroic service during the famous 1997 North Hollywood Bank Shootout. Don's brother, Sean, is currently a 25-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department.

In addition to his job at Viewpoint, Don continues to have his own business training SWAT teams all over the country. He explains, "We use current LAPD SWAT team leaders as our instructors. Most departments don't want to be trained by somebody who's not active, and our guys are. We do no marketing, it's all word of mouth. They subscribe to our method, which we believe to be the best anywhere in the world."

DOWNTIME - IN THE DAYS BEFORE COVID-19

"These days all my free time is spent hanging out with my family, my wife and two young daughters," said Don, "My older daughter, Charlie, is 13, and she plays on three softball teams, so softball is pretty much our life. And my younger daughter, Cheyenne, is eight, and she's a little cowgirl. I am teaching them both to ride, but she hopes to have a career in the equine industry. Cheyenne and I also do Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and both of my daughters surf. My wife, Niki, who I have known since Seventh Grade, is a top-level snowboarder and marathon runner, so there's not a lot of downtime in our 'downtime."

IN THE BULL RING

Before he was a police officer, Don was a professional bull rider for eight years with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and has been on 1,000 bulls. Don explained, "I started riding when I was 17, and rodeo was a really fun time in my life. There really is no way to describe riding an 1,800 lb. bull that wants to pound you into the ground. After eight years of bumps, bruises, and broken bones, I hung up my spurs, but I have a lot of fond memories traveling from state to state and competing alongside my brother."

He continued, "My brother's a real cowboy. I'm not a cowboy, I just enjoyed the actual riding the bull. I really enjoy the competition, and I really like the actual mechanics of riding a bull. I would practice every move on a barrel. That's what I love. I'm more of that kind of a guy, like a chess player planning the next move. Jiu Jitsu is like that too. It's not as ballistic as bull riding, but it's probably the closest thing to the timing and feel. It's also the most tiring thing I've ever done my life. However, the timing and the feel of all these different moves that you know and the techniques you can use is similar — this maneuver isn't working, but you hold it or you do something different, then get off balance, and another door opens. So, you try this other maneuver, and it's infinite, and that's why I'm so addicted to Jiu Jitsu right now. It is the mechanics of all these things. It's also like this when I am training someone, and I see them problem-solving. The feeling is of accomplishment and success, like, 'They know this now.' I really like that."



WHY VIEWPOINT?

Don replied, "Nothing is more important than protecting children, and I really appreciate knowing that everyone here at Viewpoint is on your side and is so supportive. It is quite different from the corporate environment I was in with my last position. I also have a great team. Multiple times every single day, we're doing drills. Like I said, I always enjoy the mechanics of training, and seeing results, seeing increase in performance. The students are not aware of the drills, so there's never any impact on the culture or their well-being or any anxiety. We would never create anxiety. However, we will be highly trained. Our reactive capabilities will be next level, and the population will not be impacted by that. That is the model here.

"Over at Sony, I was looking for active shooter hostile threat types, individuals, suspicious activity, and we still have to do that here. That's still part of our job. It was much more focused at Sony, and it was on a global scale, so Viewpoint is smaller in that respect, but operationally you have a threat, and you have to know how to deal with it, how to mitigate it, how to keep it out.

"This past winter, we did an all-hazards risk assessment with the county, Joint Regional Intelligence Center, which is LAPD, LA County Sheriff's, and LA Fire. They came to campus, did the assessment, and I told them, 'I just wrote a Use of Force policy.' I gave them the details, and they asked what my background was. They said, 'We've done hundreds and hundreds of high-end schools. And right now, you guys are at the top of security.'

"So, they came back to us, and we got 'commendable' on a slew of things that we are doing. We are in very good shape. And that is coming from the industry's experts: Fire department, multiple police departments. They look at what we are doing and they are very, very pleased."



"...THE PPDI HOPES TO GROW OR ESTABLISH ROBUST AFFINITY GROUPS WHERE PARENTS WITH COMMON INTERESTS, BACKGROUND, AND EXPERIENCE CAN COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER THIS YEAR."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

MEET THE LEADERS OF THE PARENT PARTNERSHIP FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

By Monica Case '90, Associate Director of Communications

The Parent Partnership for Diversity and Inclusivity (PPDI) was established in 2015, out of the former Multicultural Committee, and has grown and evolved to become an integral part of parent life at Viewpoint. Sponsored by the Viewpoint School Service Association (VSSA), the committee hosts activities designed to enhance cultural awareness, to foster diversity, and to promote compassion throughout our community. The goals of the PPDI are:

- Celebrate and recognize the cultural diversity of Viewpoint School.
- Connect and support parents from all affinity groups to strengthen our shared experiences so we can deepen our understanding of one another, in the firm belief that this process helps weave together the fabrics of diverse communities into a stronger whole.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the PPDI hopes to grow and establish robust affinity groups where parents with common interests, background, and experience can come together to support each other this year. They also have created a new PPDI newsletter for our community to read about the stories, cultural holidays, and issues that matter to our diverse community at Viewpoint. Finally, the PPDI is presenting a series of cultural events and guest speakers for parents this school year, where they can experience dynamic and engaging presentations that celebrate our cultures.

Given the limitations on meeting in person, we would like to introduce the leaders of PPDI for 2020-21 and give our community a chance to get to know them. We asked each of them the same three questions:

- 1. Please tell us a bit about your background. This can include where you are from, your education, your professional or volunteer background, details about your family whatever you would like to share.
- 2. Why did you decide to take on the leadership of PPDI?
- 3. What do you hope to accomplish this year?

Here are their answers, in their own words.

PPDI CO-PRESIDENTS



Cachi Baier, Co-President Parent of Jansen '18 and Marina '23

My family immigrated to the U.S. in 1962 from Cuba. As a young child, I recall always trying to fit in and feel included. This deep desire brought me to seek those out who feel left out. I have been involved with PPDI over the years and hope to create more community and more awareness of our similarities and to celebrate our differences. Bringing

individuals together will create the building blocks our children can take with them to explore other cultures.



Courtney Spikes, Co-President Parent of Conner '26

My family moved so often that I attended six different schools by the time I graduated high school! We lived on both coasts and even spent many years abroad. Being the new kid on the block was a blessing in disguise because it helped me understand empathy, compassion, and how our identities are often preconceived by others. What I love about PPDI is that

it helps to bridge opportunities for shared experiences, knowledge, and understanding among all Viewpoint families. From the moment Cachi Baier met me and then — two minutes later — asked if I would help with the International Potluck last fall, I have enjoyed every moment with PPDI! I'm delighted to be a part of this amazing team, and we have been busy this summer implementing some exciting new PPDI initiatives for the school year.



Fiona Wong, Co-President
Parent of Aiden Wong Go '27
and Alyssa Wong Go '29

I was born in Oregon to immigrant parents. My father is from Hong Kong, and my mother is Chinese Filipino. When I turned one, my family immigrated to Canada. I graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BSc in Computer Science and decided to venture to Silicon Valley to begin a career in software development

and pursue graduate school. After receiving an MS in Computer Science from UC Davis, I worked in the telecommunication industry for years developing wireless devices, first generation smart phones, and later, content distribution network infrastructure foundational to streaming services.

I identify with multiple cultures being Chinese, Filipino, Canadian, and American. My family and education taught me to celebrate multiculturalism. Time and time again, I am reminded that a strong and supportive community impacts directly our abilities to understand each other. I feel strongly about the critical need to raise awareness and empower people to respect one another. I am blessed to work with such a dedicated and passionate group of faculty and parents.

There is a lot of work to be done. So many people in our community are facing unimaginable adversities; there is a need to provide some infrastructure that supports parents, students, and faculty in their need to feel safe, supported, and heard.

VIEWPOINT'S DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY STAFF



LeRhonda Greats
Director of Diversity, Inclusion,
and Community Life

I began working in independent schools in 1998. I was the Chair of the Computer Science Department at a boarding school in Princeton, New Jersey. Although I grew up attending public schools, when I visited that school for the first time I knew that I would do whatever possible to give my two children the opportunity to be educated

there. In 2000, I also assumed the role of Diversity Coordinator, and my passion for supporting underrepresented students and families

began. Over time, my role has expanded, while working in a few different schools on the East Coast. Most were boarding schools, and that gave me a passion for getting to know students on a personal level beyond the classroom.

When I joined Viewpoint and learned about PPDI, I knew that it was a natural arm of the office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Life. I am honored to partner with parents to develop programming that will support the amazing diversity at Viewpoint. Our goal is to offer a space for parents to learn more about the ways that diversity impacts the learning and growth of our students and the world around us.

I hope to listen to the PPDI leaders and support the initiatives that they propose. Families are key to their child's success in school and it is very important that Viewpoint partner with them and offer them a connection to the great education that they are receiving in their classes. If we can offer engaging programming through PPDI, it just feels like a win for everyone.



Mayanthi Imbuldeniya Jayaratna '99 Teacher of Primary School Library, Primary and Lower School Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusivity

Born and raised in West Hills, California, I am a proud member of the Class of 1999, attending Viewpoint School from the First through Twelfth Grade. After earning my Master's Degree and Teaching Credential from

Pepperdine University, I worked all over the City of Los Angeles, from Watts to Woodland Hills, with the goal of bringing the Viewpoint style of care and community to underserved students. I taught in public education for eight years before feeling called back home to teach at Viewpoint in 2017. I also am raising my five-year-old son, Rishi.

As Coordinator of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Service in the Primary and Lower School I am excited to partner with this parent group to make every student and family feel seen and heard at our school. My goal for this year is to increase participation from the Primary and Lower Schools in the PPDI, so we can expand our students' rich experiences of the diversity within our community. My door is always open.

(continued on next page)



"WORKING WITH THE PPDI IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE PARENTS ARE AS MUCH A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY AS ANYONE ELSE."



Lizz Melendez
Middle School Social Studies
Teacher and Middle School
Coordinator of Diversity

I was born and raised in Tustin, California, and I am really happy to have finally made my way back home. I originally left to study Art History at New York University. After I graduated, I made my way into teaching through a teaching fellowship at Greenhill School in Addison,

Texas. During that time, I began learning about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) work and the critical role of cultural competence and anti-racism in teaching practices and the education system as a whole. I have spent the last five years continuing to grow as an educator and leader in this work, so that I can be the best teacher I can be for EVERY student who comes through our school and my classroom.

I was very excited to be asked to play a role on the leadership of PPDI as the Middle School Coordinator of Diversity because it is so important to have parents as PARTNERS in this work. I am grateful for the opportunity to lend my voice and energy to this community effort!

As a new faculty member, my personal goal for this year is simply to get to know and learn from and with my new community. Within PPDI, I hope to be a valuable resource and advocate for our students and families.



Jacob Rivers
Upper School English Teacher,
Upper School Coordinator
of Diversity

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, in a large family with four sisters and one brother. I attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where I majored in English/Creative Writing and minored in Writing, Rhetoric, and Media Arts. As an undergraduate, I also played

football and ran track. My most significant volunteering experience was when I lived in South Africa for six months, working with the Amy Biehl Foundation to support students in Townships. Before coming to Viewpoint, I worked at the Greenhill School in Texas and The Williston Northampton School in Massachusetts.

Working with the PPDI is important because parents are as much a part of our community as anyone else. I will do everything I can to support this group and the growth of Viewpoint parents and, together, we will make the best support system for our students.



Trudy Baylock
Advancement Coordinator
Parent of Amir '23 and Aven '28

I am from a small town in South Carolina — the middle child of six children. I graduated from the neighborhood high school and local college with a major in Political Science and Communications. Growing up, my parents were always involved in the community. My father was a city councilman for many years, so I guess

their involvement in local politics rubbed off on me. Throughout my teenage years and educational career, I was an active volunteer serving the community through the Girl Scouts, assisting community voter registration drives, food banks, and local politics. In college, I was passionate about politics and felt a strong sense of responsibility to speak on behalf of the underrepresented. At one very exciting time in college, I traveled with the Political Science department to Washington, D.C. to lead the debate team in the Model U.N. representing the country of Botswana, from which we came in first place

As a parent with two young children at Viewpoint, I continue to feel a sense of service that comes with being a member of a community. If there is any way that I can facilitate a cause or bring awareness through community programs and shared affinity that welcomes all, I am very willing.

I am so hopeful and excited about how PPDI has developed and continues to flourish into a beautiful service organization! The leadership and perspective that Ms. Greats has brought to Viewpoint is transcending. I pause with appreciation for how she leads with authenticity and patience. I hope that PPDI continues to build affinity spaces that are representative of each and every family at Viewpoint School, and that each member of this community shares a true sense of belonging that unites us in spirit and in deed.

Fond Farewells We will miss you!



Heather Blair
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL
RESEARCH & ACADEMIC OPERATIONS

For 10 years, Heather skillfully led the critical academic leadership functions of assessments and testing, scheduling courses and students, and maintaining the complex informational infrastructure needed for our large K-12 learning community. Her leadership reflected her deep knowledge of school communities and curricula, and her understanding of students and their developmental needs. Her intellect and character had a positive impact on Viewpoint's development and academic operations. In addition to originating the role of Director of Institutional Research at Viewpoint, Heather led two school re-accreditation efforts. We will miss her as she relocates to her native New England.



Lissa Sholty

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TREASURER

Lissa has expertly served the School in the Business Office since 2006, first as Controller, then as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since 2015. Lissa skillfully managed construction budgets, bond refinancing, litigation, and a myriad of complex challenges, along with a \$53 million operating budget in close collaboration with the Board's Finance Committee. Lissa kept a focus on our students' experience, ensuring that all students and teachers have the resources that define the high level of excellence of a Viewpoint education.



Heather Meriwether

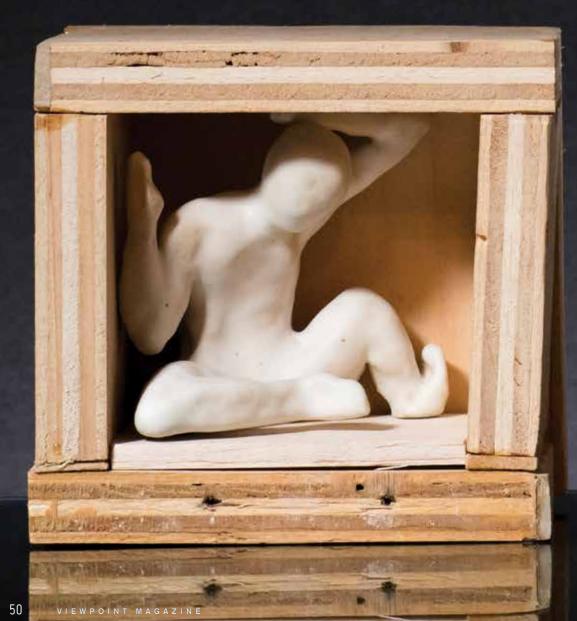
CHAIR, MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

After 36 years in the Viewpoint community as a teacher, Department Chair, and parent, Heather retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year. We will miss Heather's leadership of the Math Department, which has built a distinctive culture of excellence in math education, as well as her friendly presence in the classroom.



Mental Health and the Transition from High School to College

A Conversation with Rhody Davis and Sabrina Schoneberg '09



Marcus Intal '20, The College Process



From left to right: Rhody Davis and Sabrina Schoneberg '09

February 28, Director of College Counseling **Rhody Davis** and **Sabrina Schoneberg '09** sat down to talk about mental health and the transition from high school to college. Sabrina has a B.A. in Behavioral Biology from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's in Social Work from USC, where she now works as a counselor in their mental health center. Rhody was Sabrina's college counselor at Viewpoint. With the COVID-19 pandemic, so much has changed about making the transition to college since their conversation in February, but we feel this dialogue is still timely and important and should be shared.

Rhody Davis: I am so excited that you are doing this really important work as a result of your education and what you care about. Can you talk a little bit about the work you're doing at USC?

Sabrina Schoneberg: I work in Counseling and Mental Health Services, which is part of USC Student Health and Keck Department of Psychiatry. I work with students on any sort of mental healthrelated issue ranging from break-ups, to experiencing psychosis, or dealing with suicidal thoughts - kind of the full gamut. I really love it.

Rhody: What does a workday look like for you?

Sabrina: I think what's cool about working in mental health on a college campus is my day can look a lot of different ways. It is a lot of seeing clients, but it's also speaking on campus about mental health and trying to defeat stigma, which is a passion of mine. I see about six clients a day, for individual therapy, and then I also do some group therapy.

Rhody: What kind of groups?

Sabrina: Right now, I am doing a group for student leaders to support the struggles that come with being in that role. In past semesters, I have done groups for students with bipolar disorder and groups to teach life skills. I have also led a group on social anxiety, which is probably the most popular group we have. Group therapy can be a nice way to get skills and treatment, while also learning that you are not alone.

Rhody: Are most of your clients freshmen?

Sabrina: I would say at the beginning of each semester we do see a lot of new students coming in, but I see a lot of seniors having

anxiety about graduating, and I work with graduate students and PhD students. So, I would say I see a lot of freshmen, but it is not necessarily the majority.

RELATIONSHIPS

Rhody: Can you talk about some of the common issues that bring students into the office?

Sabrina: Broadly speaking, the number one issue that brings people in is relationships, which makes a lot of sense. If you look at the typical stages of development, what we are tasked with as young adults is relationship development. Whether that is relationships with an intimate partner or relationships with a roommate or with friends, relationships are often the driving force for what brings people in. But we also see some more serious mental health issues—people who are struggling with things like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. The age of onset for those disorders is usually right around college age.

We know that stress can have a big impact on mental health, and in college, there is a lot of stress. Drug and alcohol use can also impact mental health. A big thing we see a lot is suicidal thinking. It's really important to have a place for students to come when they are feeling that way. We do a lot of crisis intervention. We also support people coming in and consulting when their friend has mentioned to them that they are struggling with suicidal thoughts. We can support them and help them figure out how to get their friend the help that they need.



LIFE IS FULL OF TRANSITIONS

Rhody: Can you talk a little bit about making the transition from high school to college?

Sabrina: Yes. We get so many people struggling with that transition, either as a freshman or transfer student. I think the first thing is just acknowledging that it is a huge transition, whether going to college in a different part of Los Angeles, or across the country or the world. No matter what, you are likely going away from home and your support system for the very first time. So that is just a challenge.

Part of what compelled me to do this work is that everyone talks about college as the best four years of your life. And looking back, I loved college, but the first semester was really tough. You go from high school where you're a senior, you know your people, you know how to navigate the system, and you are on the top of the world, to now being bottom of the chain. You do not know how to navigate the

system, you do not know people yet. It just takes time to build your space. That is a really uncomfortable feeling, but it is normal, and so much of the work I do is just helping people to realize that. Especially in this age of social media, when we as humans are so compelled to compare ourselves. We see what everyone else is doing, and it looks like everyone else is having the best time on nights when we are having the worst time. But it is important to remember that everyone else is posting their highlight reel, while you are getting the whole movie of your own life.

Rhody: That is a good way to put it actually. I am glad you touched on social media. What are some of the other issues that students bring into your office? Do you see certain threads around certain times of year, like maybe final exams or going home for the holidays?

Sabrina: Yes. So, often the first month of college for people is the honeymoon stage — it is all exciting, there is all this programming, school is not that tough yet, it is a lot about getting your syllabi, and smooth sailing. Then around October, mid-terms hit, homesickness hits, that's when the loneliness hits — maybe students are not feeling as connected or struggling to make friends. If you are on the East Coast or somewhere cold, it starts to get cold, it starts to get rainy and gloomy, and then that is a really tough time. Thanksgiving and winter break seem far away. A lot of students feel like they do not have their place or people yet, but it takes more than a month to feel really comfortable and to have your people.

Rhody: That is true for doing anything new in life.

Sabrina: Now, add these factors of you being away from your family and your support system; you are in this new environment. It is also, transition-wise, when the rubber meets the road. So, in high school, you are spending the majority of your time in class, almost 35 hours a week, probably. And then you are going home and you are doing a lot of homework. But in college, it is almost reversed. You are in class for maybe 15 hours a week, and then you have all of this unstructured time. That is when people start to have problems with organization—just not knowing how to structure their time. You are away from home for the first time and you do not realize how much your parents or your school might have been doing for you. So, you are just trying to navigate how to take care of yourself. Much of my work is talking about how to take care of yourself, that it is okay to take breaks, because college culture can make you feel, "You should not be sleeping and you should not be taking any breaks."

Rhody: Really?

Sabrina: Yes. At least at the campuses I know, there is definitely that thread of always needing to be doing more. And we know that if you are not getting the nutrition that you need, if you are not getting the sleep that you need, if you are not doing your self-care, you do not even have a fighting chance of your brain functioning well enough to feel okay. So, all of those are factors.



FINANCIAL STRESS, TIME MANAGEMENT, SLEEP, AND THE THREE-DAY HANGOVER

Rhody: How much does financial stress play a role for college students?

Sabrina: Financial stress is a huge factor affecting people's mental health. College is expensive, especially private universities. Dealing with loans and navigating the financial aid system is not necessarily simple. The financial documents and things that you are having to deal with can all contribute to feeling overwhelmed. At some of these expensive universities, people often do not feel comfortable sharing or acknowledging when they are struggling financially, or they can feel weird about having to have a job and balancing a full class load. Or, some students are working almost full-time with combinations of jobs, so that can also just add to the level of stress.

Rhody: Right. The time management piece is huge.

Sabrina: Really huge. We keep students pretty regulated here at Viewpoint. Then, you get to college and anything can happen; you can stay up all night, and no one is going to bug you about it. There is a natural pendulum swing that happens for some. If you are used to being really managed by Viewpoint and by your parents, and then you get a taste of freedom, it is really exciting. So, there is this automatic correction that has to happen, it is normal. If that correction to finding balance can happen sooner, great, but it is really easy to just keep down that path of, "I don't have to sleep." Or maybe it is, "I am staying up

till 3:00, but then I'm napping in the middle of the day and not getting my homework done." You can really get off track in your self-care.

Rhody: Yes, exactly. Sleep hygiene.

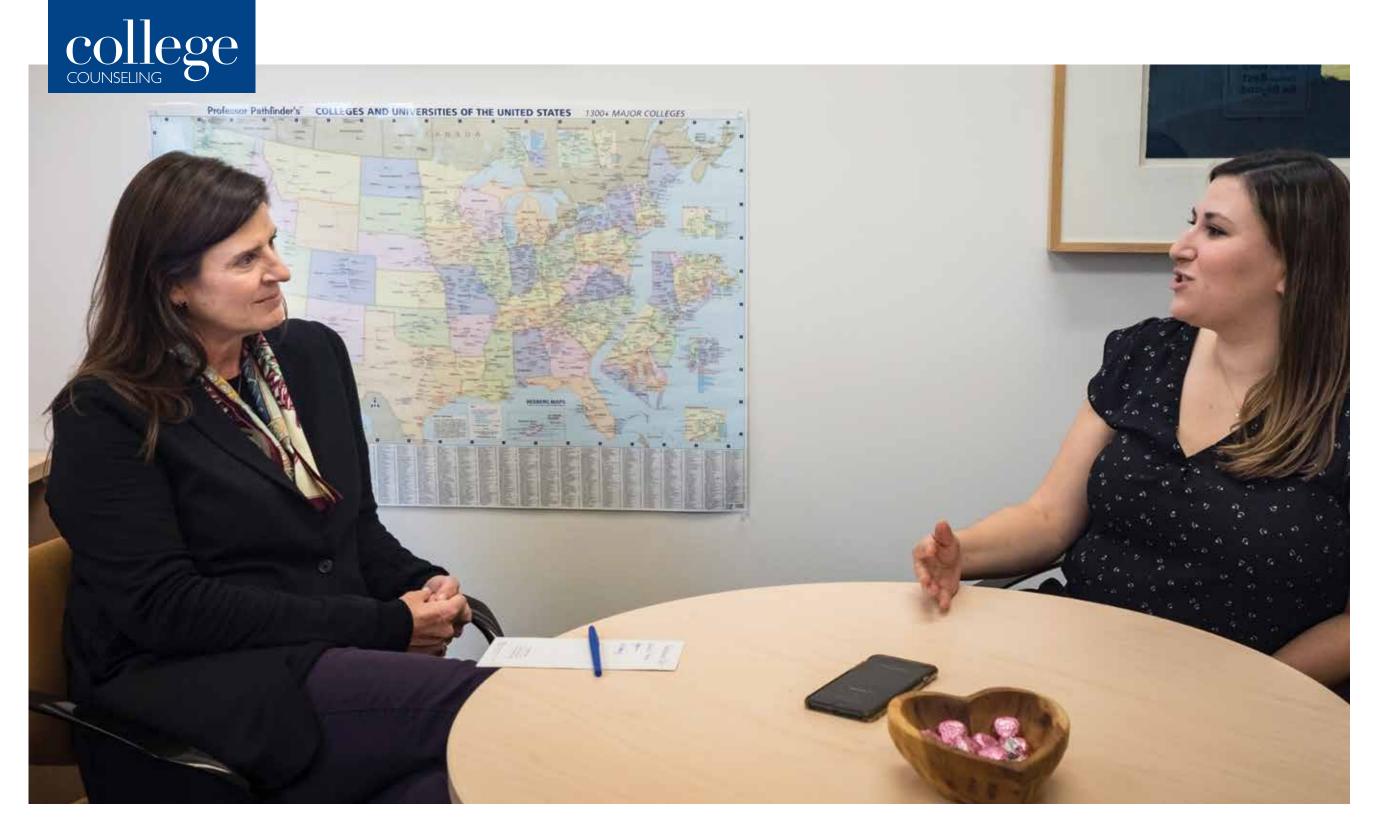
Sabrina: Yes, sleep hygiene is a big one. I do a lot of work on sleep. Sleep intersects with every single one of the things I've mentioned previously. If you're having trouble with your roommate, are you going to be comfortable sleeping in your room? No. If you are depressed, that affects your sleep. If your time management is off, that affects your sleep. If you are feeling overwhelmed...

Rhody: Right, or if you are drinking.

Sabrina: Or, if you are drinking. Yes. We do not always think about the ways that our students' drug use and alcohol use contribute to their mental health. People believe, "Oh, if I drink a lot on a Saturday night, then yeah, maybe my Sunday is a little messed up." But actually, that can affect your system for a couple of days. I think heavy marijuana use is a huge problem.

Rhody: Yes, because now that it's legal...

Sabrina: Now that it is legal, more and more students are using it, and I think students assume that it is helping their mental health. They're saying that it calms their anxiety or it makes them feel better in some ways. In the moment it might be helpful, but if we look at marajuana use over time, it is not helpful.



ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Rhody: Are there things that our current parents can do to help their high school students make the transition to college easier?

Sabrina: I will talk about both health and mental health. If you know going into college that you have medications that require prescriptions, or ongoing medical or mental health care needs, get ahead of that. Don't wait until it is October and mid-terms and you are in crisis to get help. When you visit the campus, locate

the counseling center and the health center. Know where those things are, so that if you need them, that is not a barrier to getting help. At orientation, you and your parents can walk over together, and usually the health services and mental health services will be available to answer questions during any move-in events.

I cannot tell you how many freshman I see who have been medication for years and life got in the way and suddenly they have one pill left, they are in my office, and I cannot prescribe. So then we are scrambling to help them, which takes time. Most college counseling

centers will have crisis appointments available, but to establish ongoing care, either on campus or off campus, can take time. So if you know you need it, get ahead of it.

Also, residential life is a great resource. Go to events put on by your dorm or your RAs (residential advisors). Find ways to connect with people through your interests. Go to your classes and initiate conversations with your classmates because they are trying to make friends too. Go to clubs; every school has an activities fair. Get yourself on some lists, try to get involved, because it is the

Much of my work is talking about how to take care of yourself, that it's okay to take breaks, because college culture can make you feel, 'You shouldn't be sleeping and you shouldn't be taking any breaks.'

- Sabrina Schoneberg '09

students who end up not having connections who tend to struggle the most. We are creatures of connection. That being said, there might be barriers to connection. You might have social anxiety, so get help for it. Go to the counseling center; join a group.

Rhody: What are other resources? You mentioned RAs.

Sabrina: I think RAs are such a great resource if you need help, because they are there and they are trained, and they are really close to it. They are usually only a year or two older than you, so they can be a great first line of defense to get you to the next place. Most professors are willing to lend a listening ear. You also have career counseling and academic advising as resources.

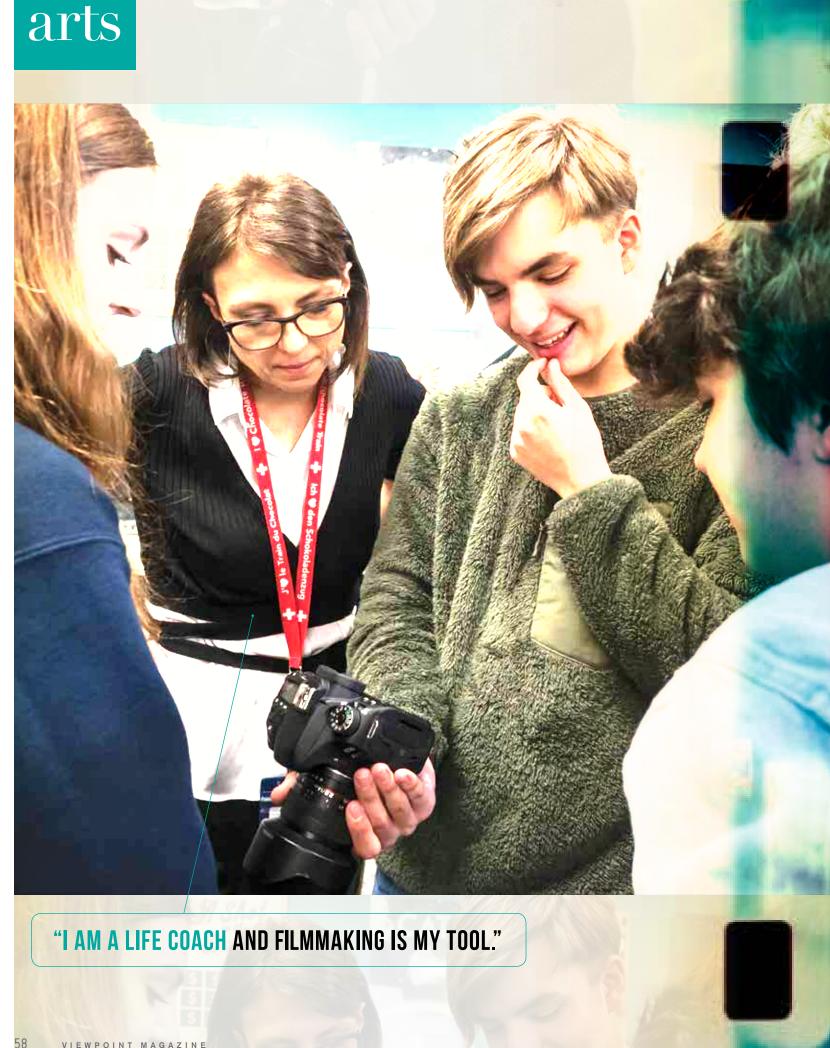
I was a tour guide and I befriended the admissions people, and I even ended up working there. I had the peer connections but, for me, it was nice to connect with some people who were a little older than me and had some life experience. This helped take me out of the college bubble a little bit. Students who are on financial aid may find their financial aid office really helpful. All campuses have some sort of office of religious life, which usually offers broad programming, but also whatever your religious denomination is, you can go to your particular religious figure for support. That is a great place to find community.

Rhody: So is there anything else during the high school experience, not the summer before, but maybe the year before that parents or families could do to help their kids ease that transition?

Sabrina: Teach your children basic life skills, like how to do their own laundry or buy toothpaste. Start to back off by giving them some independence, knowing that this big chunk of independence is going to come.

Rhody: Right. One of the underpinnings of our college counseling program is centering the student in the process, because it is their life, and they are going to have to function independently, and hopefully, without their parents making every decision or managing everything.





SOFT SKILLS VS. HARD SKILLS **EDUCATION IN FILM CLASSES**

The combination of developing technological expertise and creativity alongside a wide range of soft skills is what makes the film classes unique at Viewpoint and within the independent school community. To do this, I focus on creating an experiential learning environment with my curriculum. Here my students have many opportunities participating in industry-standard student film shoots outside of the classroom and they partake in authentic film industry work alongside myself or other industry professionals. These film shoots are a perfect example of experiential learning at its best, closely imitating a real-life workplace situation where a supervisor, myself, facilitates the process. This type of learning-by-doing helps the students develop technical expertise while also offering the perfect vehicle for teaching them important life lessons. Students further their growth in critical thinking, collaborating, delegating, advocating for themselves, and communicating in a constructive manner. Their work culminates in the Symposium, a presentation of their senior film in front of the wider Viewpoint community. Throughout the program, the students achieve an appreciation for the process of filmmaking; the time, effort, energy, and hurdles related to the creative and logistical filmmaking processes.

Film students learn a wide range of technical and creative filmmaking skills including writing, directing, camera operating, or lighting, while they work on increasingly longer and more complex projects in small crews. As they rise through the ranks, I can target their unique technical and creative talents and gifts. What is more difficult to quantify and help develop are their soft skills. Discussing with my students the role I play in their lives, words like "mentor," "manager," or "facilitator" pop up more often than the word "teacher." I act as the catalyst for the film projects my students create in their junior and senior years. I help set their goals, make decisions and deal with problems surrounding the film projects, which are often not film related, but rather life skills related. These skills are as much, if not more important than their filmmaking skills. I am, in effect, their life coach. Teaching our students a wide variety of employable skills such as accountability, reliability, and organization, will carry them through all walks of life and will help them in any chosen field of work. Film shoots encourage students to practice decision making and problem solving on the spot and, in general, deal with the challenges of budgeting, schedules, personality differences, resilience, and so much more!

(continued on next page)



Opposite Page (from left to right): Students Gracie Schecter '21, Producer, and Dom Gaidys '21, Camera Operator, blocking a shot from a Film III Personal Passion Project, "Saving Dylan", written a Directed by Lachlan Beattie '21 This Page (above center): Gracie Schecter '21

focus on Film

I love how our former film students come back with feedback on our program. The ones that do go to film school come back to tell me how much they are ahead of their classmates in college because of the four years of film skills they learned at Viewpoint. Very few other high schools offer these specific skills at this high level of proficiency. Their college classmates look up to them because they realize that Viewpoint film students enter film school as highly competent filmmakers; the education they received at Viewpoint rivals the education offered in their undergraduate classes.

When our film alumni come back to visit, they do not simply come back to report what they have done with their lives, they genuinely offer help to our current students by giving them career advice and guiding them creatively. Some will even reach out for hiring purposes because they know that Viewpoint students will be able to handle work life situations. They look to our students because they know that we train employable filmmakers who have earned their skills through lived experience. We invite industry professionals who talk about their career choices and inspire our current student body to keep working together to create a strong network whom they can rely later on for employment.

Even though not all film students pursue careers in the industry, they foster relationships with each other and with other industry professionals, and these relationships and soft skills can be applied universally. We hosted Kenny Nerinberg, a camera operator, and Eric Steelberg '95, a cinematographer, who both talked about employability skills in the industry and the importance of networking that can start within the walls of Viewpoint. Our students tell us that hearing former alumni or working professionals speak is especially important for their education.

Many of our students, however, do not go to film school. Yet, they still end up using many of the soft skills they learned in film classes. When non-film school students come back, they tell me that skills, like critical reasoning, being able to work in teams, delegating and advocating for themselves, are really what makes them stand out in college. They learned and practiced many of those working on film shoots. A lot of these soft skills become relevant at different points in their lives. Organizational and research skills will be immediately important upon entering college. Negotiating skills and patience will be more relevant when they buy a car or house later in life. Employability skills will be very useful when they get out of college applying to internships and their first jobs. These soft skills become the building blocks of their career. These skills easily translate to other fields of work. Most companies are willing to spend money on specific job training, but not on teaching soft skills. Those are the skills my students learn now, in my film classes, putting themselves ahead of the curve.

offering to practice long-lasting life skills along with creative and technical skills attracts and retains students year after year, rendering the film classes among the most sought after elective courses at Viewpoint regardless of their desire to go to film school or not. In today's society new careers pop up that haven't existed before, and companies are calling for people who can easily adapt to new skills, which will allow them to work with each other to solve complex problems. It is immensely fulfilling for me to help my students grow into mature and confident adults, whether they choose to pursue film as a career or not. Getting along and working well with others, being reliable and dependable, and the willingness to learn new ideas are what I want them to walk away with from my classes. ■



Mila Boudreau '21 and Max James '21 discuss questions with Ms. Hoenig during a pre-production meeting regarding the ICARE project on climate change issues, such as water shortage and extreme heat, originated by Max James '21 and Lachlan Beattie '21.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Catherine Dunn, Chair of the Film Department and Middle and Upper School Film Teacher, and Dan O'Reilly-Rowe, Middle and Upper School Film Teacher

iddle School is a time of exciting exploration for our students. By choosing their own electives, students get to explore their passions and, more importantly, find new ones. Filmmaking is no exception. Starting in Seventh Grade, students can enroll in Movie Adaptations/Screenwriting which explores the relationship between literature and visual storytelling. For their final project, students create a short script that passes the Bechdel Test and does not gender stereotype. Bringing diversity, equity, and inclusion into the classroom, the scene must feature two women who talk to each other for more than 60 seconds about something other than a man. During class reflection, students are often surprised by how few films that they see in the theaters actually pass this test. Working on these and other scripts, students find a safe space in this class to explore their own core values and beliefs. And they get to write screenplays!

In Eighth Grade, Media Production puts the students in the driver's seat as they explore the power of media to shape their understanding of the world and place in it. Students in the class build skills in technical and creative techniques of audio-visual storytelling, and then create projects that explore Viewpoint culture and community. In the culminating project, students venture into the Upper School hallways and conduct interviews using a "Vox Pop" technique (from the Latin vox populi — the people's voice). The production teams approach older students, teachers, and support staff they may have never spoken with to gather footage representing a range of perspectives on a specific topic relevant to the community. Students who have completed this project describe the powerful experience of using media production as a new and exciting way of building deeper connections within our school community.

Filmmaking in the Middle School celebrates vision, values, and community.

Top (from left to right): Alex Suski '24, Sammy Petrocelli '24 (holding boom),
Collin Nelson '24, Olaitan Egberongbe '23
Bottom: Middle School students interview seniors on their advice to incoming freshmen





VIEWPOINT'S FILM DEPARTMENT OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- Seventh/Eighth Grade: Movie Adaptation/
 Screenwriting and Movie Adaptation/Screenwriting II
- Eighth Grade: Media Production
- Upper School: Filmmaking I, II, III, and IV; Documentary Filmmaking, Acting for Film
- Stop-Motion Animation

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ACTIVIST FILMMAKING

By Dan O'Reilly-Rowe, Middle and Upper School Film Teacher

For their first major production in Film II, students work collaboratively to identify topics of social importance and to craft thirty second short films in the style of a public service announcement on those issues. Following a research and skills-building phase, students work in small teams to craft a film that is designed to deliver a specific message on the topic to a well-defined audience. The filmmakers' goal here is to use appropriate aesthetic, cinematic storytelling, and rhetorical techniques to deliver the message to an audience that could have a real effect on the attitudes or behaviors of the target audience. In the course of the project, students gain valuable skills in creative expression, technical ability, and collaboration. Perhaps most importantly, the young filmmakers are able to engage in a very hands on manner with the way in which media shapes our perception of social issues and the sense of agency that comes with using mediamaking as a tool for positive social change.



Derick Leroy '22, Will Kanny '22, and Ethan Shi '22 adjust a tripod on the set of their public service announcement on the dangers of drunk driving.







Zach Samuel '22, Jules Mazzolini '22, and Harlow Schuman '22 at work on a piece to raise awareness of cruelty against animals in the testing of cosmetics.



Maya Fardad-Finn '21 acts in an emotionally impactful short film urging parents to check in on their children's mental health, created by Sophie Weiss '22 and Caitlyn Kaufman '21.



Gracie Schecter '21 working on a script breakdown sheet

THE ICARE PROJECT

By Monica Hoenig, Upper School Film Teacher

The ICARE project is a semester-long narrative film project based on a global or social issue in Film III. Students research and choose an ongoing and relevant issue of personal interest to them and write, direct, shoot, and edit a scripted, narrative story based on that issue. Topics such as racism, gender identity, gun control, climate change, and immigration have been previous issues that students showed great interest in exploring through the lens of the camera in a narrative form. A large portion of this project is spent doing research into pertinent topics from around the world. Students eventually choose topics based on specific global issues that have touched their lives significantly or even peripherally, and they begin to communicate their opinion of those issues through characters, storylines, conflicts, plot points—in effect, a well-structured narrative screenplay. The characters don't have to deal with those issues specifically, but the problem needs to be going on in the background of the story itself. Examples of these kinds of films would be *Get Out*, *Moonlight*, or *Call Me by Your Name*, just to name a few.

Every student writes a five-minute script of their chosen topic and the class selects four of those scripts to go into production. The class then self-selects into crew positions and using the choice board, each student learns a different technical crew position for that specific script. The five people crews together pre-produce, pre-shoot, shoot and edit the chosen films.

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SILVER LINING **DOCUMENTARIES**

By Catherine Dunn, Chair of the Film Department and Middle and Upper School English Teacher

was right in the middle of a production when the March guarantine hit. During remote learning, we switched over to analyzing Hitchcock's North by Northwest for its three-act structure. The students liked the theory behind how films fit together, but I could tell they were itching to get back to production. At the same time, I saw silver linings to quarantine in my own family and home. So, without any real plan, I asked the students to shoot very short videos, selfies, and still shots on their phones documenting their silver lining moments. Once I saw their raw footage, I knew we had to take this project further to document this unique time in our students' lives, to give them agency in a time where they had little and to explore their artistic voices in a project that was deeply personal.



"How I get through quarantine."

-Jenny Ji '23



"I wanted the message in my film to show people that being in quarantine can help us get in touch with ourselves and our creativity."

- Izzy Fowler '23

FILM FESTIVALS AND AWARDS 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR*

- CAT by Film IV

 Calabasas Film festival
- Festigious Best Student Film, Best New Filmmaker
- Best Shorts Competition Award of Merit
- Accolade Global Film Competition
- Los Angeles Film Awards
- Direct Monthly Online Film festival
- St Laurence International Film Festival
- Florence Film Awards Honorable Mention
- Accolade Global Film Competition Award of Merit
- Nacogdoches Film Festival — Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival –
- Los Angeles - Beverly Hills Film Festival - Los Angeles
- REVL Film Fest Los Angeles, Semi-finalist
- Screen Test Student Festival Schaumburg, IL
- European Film Award Bronze Award for Best Short Film/ Silver Award best Score
- Indv Shorts Indianapolis, IN -
- Best Narrative High School Film
- San Diego International Kids' Film Festival

A Shot In The Dark by Film IV

- Best Shorts Award of Recognition
- Accolade Global Film Competition Award of Merit
- San Diego International Kids' Film Festival

Closed Loop by Film IV

- Best Shorts Award of Recognition
- Accolade Global Film Competition Award of Excellence, Humanitarian Award
- Annapolis Film Festival Annapolis, MD
- Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival -Los Angeles
- San Diego International Kids' Film Festival

Static by Film III

- Los Angeles Film Awards Honorable Mention
- Top Shorts Best Horror
- Festigious Honorable Mention
- Oniros Film festival Honorable Mention
- LA Shorts Film Festival
- Screamfest
- Florence Film Awards Finalist
- New York Film Awards
- All American High School Film Festival -Best Overall Director
- Reading Film Festival
- Calabasas Film festival Award of Merit
- Accolade Global Film Competition -Award of Excellence Special Mention
- YoungArts Award of Merit Los Angeles
- American Student Film Festival
- SCREEN Film Festival
- Nacogdoches Film Festival
- DC Independent Film Festival Washington, DC
- Westflix Studio City, CA
- Blastoff Los Angeles
- Phantascope Richmond, IN
- San Diego International Kids' Film Festival
- Burbank International Film Festival

*Awards are given for submissions from the prior school year.



Indy Shorts – High School Film Competition: Narrative Category Winner – CAT Director: Madeleine White '19















Static by Film III





PERFORMING ARTS

Top photos from left to right: Finn Harrington '29, Rose Scaramuzzi '27, Jaclyn Pomada '27 Below photo: Hannah Ritz '23 and Members of the Primary School Ballet Class





THE 2019 HOLIDAY PROGRAM

On December 14, 2019, the Primary and Lower School students presented their annual Holiday Program, "'Tis the Season to Shine," at the The Thousand Oaks Bank of America Performing Arts Center. While the Fifth Graders shared stories of the holiday season, the students in Advanced Strings, Lower School Chorus, and all the grades performed cherished holiday songs. The Primary and Lower School Dancers, accompanied by several Upper School ballerinas, also delighted the audience with an annual favorite, "Nutcracker Short and Suite."



Top photo clockwise from top: Maya Fardad-Finn '21, Eli Tenefrancia '20, Xander Blumel '22, Sana Pospishil '21

Bottom photo from left to right: Sana Pospishil '21, Xander Blumel '22





MR. BURNS. A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

On November 22-24, 2019 the Upper School Conservatory of Theater presented, *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*, a play which asks the question, "What will endure when the cataclysm arriveswhen the grid fails, society crumbles, and we are faced with the task of rebuilding?" This imaginative dark comedy propels us forward nearly a century, following a new civilization stumbling into its future as a group of survivors share a campfire and begin to piece together the plot of The Simpsons episode "Cape Feare" entirely from memory.



PIPPIN

The Conservatory of Theater was set to present Pippin, the story of one young man's journey to be extraordinary, in March. Just a month before our opening night, Viewpoint transitioned to remote learning. During quarantine this dedicated cast continued to rehearse on Zoom and created two virtual cast recordings, "Magic To Do" and "Corner of The Sky." We were proud to share our work in a re-imagined way.



Upper left from top: Dani Granaroli '20, Xander Blumel '22 Group from top left to right: Row 1: Max Wiseman '23, Cinderella Yu '21, Lily Dettmann '20, Izzy Fowler '23, Payton Schetter '23, Chris Ordonez '22 Row 2: Maya Fardad-Finn '21, Tai Flemming '21, Dani Granaroli '20, Zoe Plotkin '20, Riley Herbert '22 Row 3: Vivian Grundel '23, Eli Tenefrancia '20, Ofek Levy '23, Samantha Sagerman '23 Row 4: Clement Xiang '23, AJ Williams '23, Merista Quetzál '23, Caitlyn Kaufman '21

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)

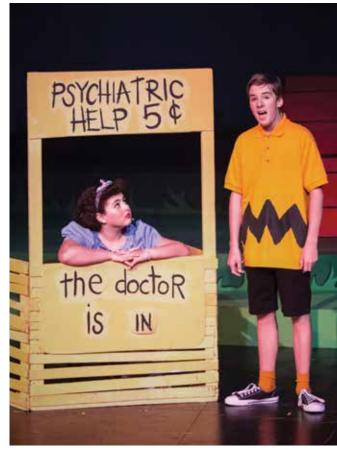
On March 6-8, the Conservatory of Theater performed The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), a play in which an ensemble of madcap actors weaves their way through all 37 plays - the comedies, histories, and tragedies in 97 minutes leaving the audience breathless with laughter.



Above from left to right: Riley Herbert '22, Danny Humphrey '22, Ofek Levy '23, Romina Khodaverdy '22, Clement Xiang '23, Eli Tenefrancia '20

Top from left to right: Megan Shaw '26, Prianna Pierce '26, Kapri Garnett '26, Lydia Gugsa '26, Lola Rogan '26 Bottom from left to right: Violet Kaltman '24. Collin Nelson '24





YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

On November 8-10, 2019, the Middle School Theater Arts Department presented the musical, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown. This family favorite, featuring Snoopy, Linus, Lucy, Sally, and Schroeder, is based on the beloved comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz. The show captures an average day in the life of Charlie Brown through a series of vignettes and songs. The production was recognized with numerous Awards and Nominations at the 2019-2020 National Youth Arts Awards.

ARTWORK OF THE YEAR

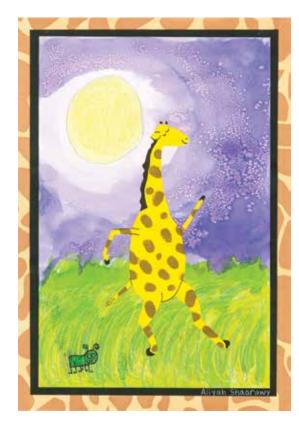
Each spring, Viewpoint's fine art students display their work on campus in the Malcolm Family Art Gallery. This year decisions were made remotely. The faculty chose a Picture of the Year for each of the School's divisions, and Ceramic Piece of the Year, Sculpture of the Year, and Photograph of the Year in the Middle and Upper Schools.



▲ MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sculpture of Year

Jarett Washington Walker '24



▲ PRIMARY SCHOOL

Artwork of the Year

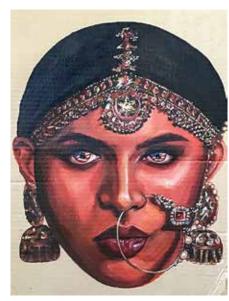
Aliyah Shaarawy, Kindergarten



LOWER SCHOOL
Picture of the Year
Fifth Grade Collaboration



▲ MIDDLE SCHOOL
Picture of the Year
Daphne Huffman '26



▲ UPPER SCHOOL
Picture of the Year
Imaan Deen '21



▲ UPPER SCHOOL
Sculpture of the Year
Cherry He '20



■ UPPER SCHOOL

Sculpture of the Year

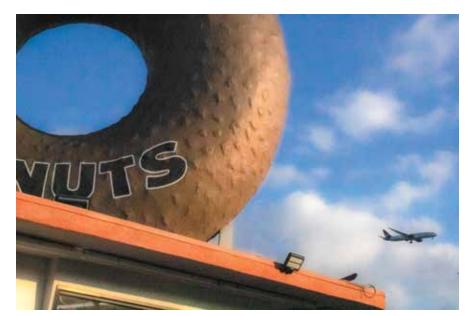
Riley Glickman '20



■ MIDDLE SCHOOL

Photograph of the Year

Kasey Lee '24



▲ UPPER SCHOOL
Photograph of the Year
Lena Schulze '23

arts



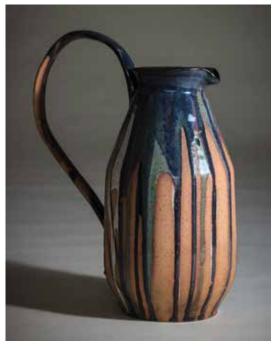
National Gold Key Award for Photography: My Grandfather's Tackle Box, Henry Didden '22

VIEWPOINT STUDENTS HONORED WITH ONE NATIONAL GOLD AWARD & 36 REGIONAL AWARDS

By Monica Case '90, Associate Director of Communications

Congratulations to the outstanding fine artists and writers who won one National and 36 Regional awards in The 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards from the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers.

Established in 1923, The Scholastic Art & Writing competition is the most prestigious recognition program in writing and the visual arts for students in Seventh through Twelfth Grades in the United States. Young artists and writers are granted over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and prizes. Nationally, more than 330,000 works of art and writing in 29 categories were submitted for review in 2019-20. Past winners include artists Andy Warhol, Cy Twombly, and John Baldessari; writers Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, and Joyce Carol Oates; photographer Richard Avedon; actors Robert Redford, Alan Arkin, Lena Dunham, and John Lithgow; fashion designer Zac Posen; and filmmakers Ken Burns and Richard Linklater.



Regional Silver Key Award for Ceramics, Chloe Pfefferman '22



VIEWPOINT IS PROUD OF OUR 2020 SCHOLASTIC AWARD WINNERS:

National Gold Key

Henry Didden '22, Photography

Regional Gold Key

Erin Beazley '23, 2-D Haley Blonstein '20, Photography Henry Didden '22, Photography Malia Goldman '20, 2-D Miles Rosenbloom '21, Sculpture Ethan Schreier '21, Photography

Regional Silver Key

Ariana Allen '21, Photography
Sabine Antall '21, Ceramics
Luna Bruss '21, Sculpture
Henry Christensen '20, Photography (2)
Jenny Fang '20, Sculpture
Malia Goldman '20, 2-D (portfolio)
Sarah Koesema '22, Photography
Chloe Pfefferman '22, Ceramics
Cinderella Yu '21, Photography (2)

Regional Honorable Mentions

Ariana Allen '21, Photography (2)
Erin Beazley '23, 2-D
Marianne Bishai '21, Ceramics
Luke Boehm '21, Photography
Auveen Choroomi '21, Ceramics (3)
Imaan Deen '21, 2-D
Henry Didden '22, Photography
Jenny Fang '20, 2-D (2)
Malia Goldman '20, 2-D
Julia Kresnicka '21, Sculpture
KaiLan Mackey '20, Sculpture
Treye Meadows '21, Photography
Kayla Rosenberg '21, Sculpture
Lizzy Scott '20, Ceramics
Peter Sussman '20, Photography









Top: Regional Gold Key Award for 2-D, Malia Goldman '20 Middle Left: Regional Gold Key Award for 2-D, Erin Beazley '23 Middle Right: Regional Gold Key Award for Sculpture, Miles Rosenbloom '21 Bottom: Regional Silver Key Award for Ceramics, Luna Bruss '21

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Fall 2019

UPPER SCHOOL

Football

1st Team: Niko Candido '20, CJ Carr '21 2nd Team: Jackson Little '20, Will Parker '21, Jaden Howard '21

Girls Volleyball
1st Team All League: Deja Bickers '20, Trinity Stanger '21
2nd Team: Gracie Schecter '21, Antonella Kissling '21 2nd Round of CIF playoffs

Winter 2019-20

UPPER SCHOOL

Girls Soccer

Gold Coast League MVP: KaiLan Mackey '20 1st Team: Marla Boudreau '23, Sarah Konopaske '20 2nd Team: Kayla Davis '21, Cate Young '21

Boys Soccer

1st Team: David Luner '20 2nd Team: Colin Beazley '20

Girls Basketball

1st Team: Kayla Keshmesian '22, Karlee White '23 2nd Team: Vanessa Ogbu '20, Katie Topacio '20 CIF Division 3A Quarterfinals and CIF State Division 3 Regional Semi Finalists

Boys Basketball

1st Team: Giovanni Goree '23 2nd Team: Dante Ogbu '23

FALL & WINTER Highlights

Opposite Page Far Left (from left to right): Girls Volleyball – Jordan Moore '20, Trinity Stanger '21, Gracie Schecter '21 Top Right: Football - #3 C.J. Carr, #8 Luke Boehm '21 Bottom Right: Girls Basketball -Katie Topacio '20

This Page Top Right: Girls Soccer-Rachel Sullivan '21 Bottom Right: Boys Basketball -Giovanni Goree '23





athletics

Varsity Girls Basketball



Back Row (left to right): Karlee White '23, Gabby Reynolds '23, Maddie Nadolenco '23, Vanessa Ogbu '20, Faith Han '22
Front Row: Molly Cole '21, Kayla Keshmeshian '22, Katie Topacio '22

The Viewpoint Varsity Girls Basketball team recently saw its hopes for a Division 3A CIF Championship and a State Championship both vanish after losing two very well-played games. While the girls and coaches were, naturally, bitterly disappointed, I couldn't help but marvel at the effort, skill, and toughness they had shown against two very physical and seasoned teams. But when I think of this team of girls, even more impressive to me is the commitment they have shown. Commitment to the goals they set for themselves, commitment to growing as individuals, and most importantly, commitment to one another. Starting in June 2019, save for a mandatory three-week Dead Period, the girls have been together working on their skills, and most importantly, working on themselves. Ever since his arrival at Viewpoint nine years ago, Coach Will Burr has been consistent in preaching that for the girls in his program, it is about family first, then academics, then basketball. Clearly, his student-athletes listened.



When asked how the team felt about the season leading into the State Tournament, here's how they felt

/ MADDIE NADOLENCO '23

Being on the Basketball Team is like having another family at school. A family that wins together, loses together, learns together, and grows together. Being a freshman, it was intimidating going to the first practice and not knowing what to expect. Immediately the team made me feel welcome, and we started to bond. Coach Will always told us we start training for playoffs in the summer, which really started with the first day of practice. Throughout the whole season, we went through the amazing wins, insanely hard defensive practices, and of course the long talks just about life in general together. It was like being a part of a well-oiled machine, everyone had their role, and it was like we all worked as one. Having a family-like bond with a teammate is something truly incredible. One of the first practices we ever had as a team, whose goal was to go to the State Championships, was coloring. In coloring books. With crayons. I was completely shocked when Coach Will took the whole team outside and gave us these coloring books and told us the whole practice we would be coloring. Just to bond and get to know each other. It was crazy for me to think about a team who had a hard goal, to go to the State

Championships, would be spending the first practices coloring. Later I realized that it was that team chemistry that would help us get to the State Championships. It was playing for the person next to you, not just yourself. Being selfless and literally taking one for the team whether that was taking a charge or giving it your all every time you stepped on the court. Everyone brings something different to this team, and it has been an amazing journey to be a part of it.

/ GABBY REYNOLDS '23

Being on this Basketball Team means more than just playing together in games. Being on the team means going through all the hard practices together and also enjoying the ones where we color and just talk. We have been through so much together, including the losses and the wins and preparing for the same goal together for almost seven months. Our team has gotten so close, and even outside of basketball, they are always there for me. Being a freshman and not as experienced as the rest of the team would usually make the transition to Varsity difficult, but this team was so accepting and really made me feel at home from the beginning. Basketball and this team mean so much to me and has become such a big part of my life. I love going to practices even when I know we are going to run, because just being with my teammates makes up for it.

This team really is a family on and off the court, and I am so glad I had the pleasure of joining this year.

/ FAITH HAN '22

My teammates are like the sisters I have never had.
I know I can count on them for a good laugh, cry, or chuckle. Even in our rough times, we are there to support one another. I love being a part of this team because I look up to these girls. My teammates are so hardworking, motivated, and talented. When I am with them, I can be myself and let loose. They always give me great advice on basketball, school, or life in general. Ever since my freshman year, the girls have been so welcoming and really made me feel a part of the team. I am really going to miss our seniors because they lead our team and make all of us laugh until I cry. Our coaching staff is genuinely so kind and they really care about us. Our coaches tell us that they want us to grow, not only as players, but as people.

/ KATIE TOPACIO '20

Viewpoint Basketball has always been like family to me. Although I have been on Varsity for the past four years, there has never been a team quite like this one. I am not just talking about our great season record, the achievements we have made, or our amazing talent and skill. I am talking about our unique chemistry on and off the court, the friendships that have turned into being like sisters, and the sense of family among us. I am talking about the pure joy I felt when Karlee White took the game winning shot vs. Crossroads. I am talking about how proud I was of her and the team at that moment. Through all of the tough practices and losses, we all stuck together as a team. Sure, there were times when I wanted to give up, but I remembered that my teammates needed me. This is something I never thought about in the past. That is when I began to realize that this team had changed me for the better. Not only has this team made me a better teammate

and captain, but a better person. This team and our coaches mean the world to me, and I would not trade it for anything else. Viewpoint Basketball has been my home away from home for the past four years, and I will always be grateful for having been a part of something so special.

/ KARLEE WHITE '23

Being a part of this year's basketball team is a privilege and experience that I will never forget. We have all worked incredibly hard since summer to be the best that we can be; not only as players, but as individuals. The desire that not only the players but the coaching staff had to be unstoppable helped build a bond that will last forever. Our common mindset is what has helped create this everlasting bond on and off the court, and is what continued to help us grow as people. This one minor setback does not signify the end of our journey because we are coming back stronger than ever. So watch out, because State here we come!

/ KAYLA KESHMESHIAN '22

Words can't describe the way this team has grown this season; we not only have grown as a group but also as individuals. We

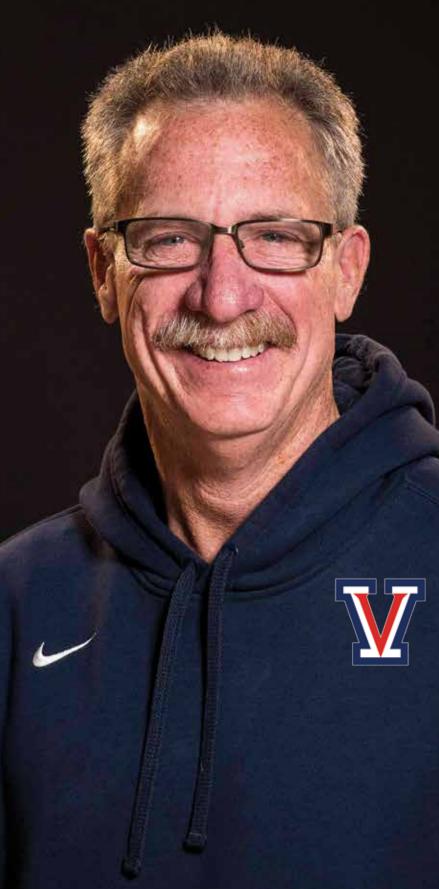
have all experienced the same success, downfalls, and everything in between. Because of this, we have an unbreakable bond within each other where we can trust each other with anything. Our friendships off the court created not only success on the court, but was part of the fun we have in practices, games, and even long drives. There were two goals that we set during summer: to win CIF (which we came short of), but also to win state, and we have been preparing for this since summer of 2019. Every minute of every practice has

been dedicated to completing these goals and now we continue to move onto working towards our second goal. With our team and the tremendous amount of hard work not only we, but also the amazing coaching staff has put in, anything is possible, and you can feel the belief in our team and our goals in every player and coach. I am so incredibly grateful to be surrounded by such an amazing group of people, and I am so proud of what we have already accomplished, but watch out because we are not stopping here.

/ COACH JAZZ DAVIS

Coaching this team since the summer has been a complete joy. From the very beginning, all of the girls got along well and really enjoyed being around each other. That is largely due to the fact that they all are genuinely sweet and caring young ladies. It is great to see these girls always smiling and laughing together, enjoying high school and enjoying each other. Over the past couple of months the girls have really come together and locked in on one common goal; winning CIF. This playoff run has allowed the girls to fully display the work that they have been putting in since the summer. Trying to achieve this goal has taken an extreme amount of dedication and commitment from the girls, and it definitely has not gone unnoticed. I am very proud of every single one of them, and I am happy to call myself their coach.





Greg Stafford

By Patrick Moyal, Director of Athletics

reg Stafford joined the Viewpoint Athletic Department 25 years ago to bring our total number of physical education instructors to four at the time. Formerly at

Buckley School, he had developed a reputation as a hard-working coach of swimming, cross-country, and soccer. We saw him bring to Viewpoint many strengths including great integrity, resolve, and energy.

As a former college athlete having played soccer for Chico State University, Greg first started at Viewpoint coaching swimming, crosscountry, and soccer. He immediately created a name for himself as a coach with so much more to contribute to the development of young people than how to play a sport. His philosophy and passion were to cultivate in his players the desire to work as hard as they possibly could while capturing and learning from all the experiences that came their way.

Greg has consistently proven himself regardless of the new challenges placed before him. For several years, he has been the Chair of the Physical Education Department, where he has worked diligently to help our teachers stay current, uphold the standards of the School, and instill in our students the values and benefits of physical fitness and health. As a father of two daughters, Greg takes these values to heart. In his tenure, we have added dance, outdoor education, and yoga to our list of P.E. options for our Upper School students. As stated by colleague Coach Kelly Toovey, "Greg has dedicated his focus and energy to fostering students' positive attitudes, good character traits, collaboration, social skills, and personal responsibility through movement experiences throughout our K-12 curriculum."

Coach Justin Fisher, who has worked closely with Greg for the last 15 years says of his colleague that "as his teammate in the Viewpoint Athletic Department, I've benefited from his creative problem-solving, tireless work ethic, and willingness to do whatever it takes to make the athletic program the best it can be. As a colleague, Greg is incredibly generous with his time and expertise. Beyond that, I have to say that his humor and good nature makes working at Viewpoint that much more enjoyable."

Another colleague, Assistant Director of Athletics Nikko Fournier, had this to say: "I've worked with Greg Stafford for the past 24 years and he not only has been instrumental in helping shape our Athletic Department, but has exhibited what it takes to be a true servant-leader of this community through his leadership, guidance, and his willingness to always make himself available to his students and colleagues in any way he can. He values the importance of good character above all and believes in the idea of having a "superior attitude" at all times. (A quote that says "Superior Attitude" has hung on the wall in front of his desk for the 24 years I've been here!) I appreciate his friendship and his guidance when I needed it most. Congratulations on 25!"

As a teacher, coach, and mentor of young people, Greg is looked upon by his players and peers as the standard. We consider ourselves most fortunate to count him as a valued colleague, principled mentor, and esteemed coach.



KaiLan Mackey '20

By Travis Kikugawa, Director of Soccer Operations & Athletes in College Sports

here are so many words that one can use to describe KaiLan Mackey and the impact that she has had on everyone associated with the Viewpoint Soccer

Program the last four years. In hopes of doing this article justice, I decided to ask one player in the freshman, sophomore, and junior class to chime in to share some of their thoughts about their fearless leader.

Freshman Marla Boudreau: "When people ask me about Kai I explain to them that I had never played with anyone like her before. She has the most extraordinary leadership, attitude, and player mentality that impacts the team so amazingly. Not only is she one of the best high school players I've seen, but she has the most welcoming and funny personality. I've only played with Kai for one year, but I am going to miss her presence so much."

Sophomore Colette Samek on Kai: "KaiLan is exactly what one looks for in a teammate and a friend; she leads the team by example, with her inclusivity, hard work, and humility. She has inspired us to strive to be our best, and she has worked relentlessly to help shape the Viewpoint Girls soccer program to be what it is today. "

Junior Cate Young: "KaiLan is the epitome of a senior captain. She not only leads us on the field, but has also created an unmatched culture within the team. KaiLan serves as a role model to the team and it is an honor and privilege to play with her. "

Kai has done everything there is to do inside of the athletic arena here at Viewpoint School. Everything from a CIF Championship in 2017 to multiple league titles the past several years to 1st Team All-League Honors to League MVP this past season, there aren't many boxes that KaiLan hasn't checked throughout her journey inside of the athletic arena. For as much as Kai has done on the field, it's who she is off the field and inside of the team dynamic that speaks volumes about the impact and legacy that she will leave behind as she prepares to play soccer for Harvard University this coming fall.

KaiLan is a once in a decade player that every coach should have the opportunity to work with and every player should have the privilege of playing with. Kai makes everyone around her better and does it with such humility that at times it's tough not to just shake your head and smile. A selfless individual who is always looking for ways to get better, Kai doesn't know how to give anything less than her very best each and every time she trains and or plays in matches.

It's clear to everyone reading this article or anyone who has ever watched #7 play that Kai's passion for the game and her team are second to none. For as good of a player that KaiLan Mackey has been for Viewpoint Soccer, she has been a better person, role model, teammate, and friend. Thank you for continuing to raise the standard within the girls soccer program Kai, you will be missed by all and we wish you nothing but the very best in all of your future endeavors.

athletics



Cheerleaders at Homecoming Basketball Games

Winter Homecoming

JANUARY 24-25

Viewpoint held the School's first Winter Homecoming over the weekend of January 24-25, and it was a great success! The event featured a packed Paul Family Athletic Center on Friday night for the Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball games, and crowds filled the sidelines at Ring Family Field on Saturday afternoon for the Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer games.

This fun-filled weekend was punctuated by the long-awaited reappearance of Patriot Pete, an incredible shot from half court from **Sixth Grader Monty Koonce**, and wins from Girls Soccer and Girls Basketball. The Primary and Lower School Choruses performed, while some of their peers sold glow sticks and candy to benefit School on Wheels. The Navy, Viewpoint's student cheering section, was loud, supportive, and encouraging throughout all four games, and the players appreciated all of the support. Thank you to the VSSA Homecoming Chairs, **Stephanie Young P '18 '21** and **Wendy Klier P '20 '26**, and all their parent volunteers for organizing such a wonderful and memorable event. Go Patriots!



Boys Varsity Cross Country Team

WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Justin Hackitt, Cross Country Head Coach

The Boys Cross Country team won the Division 5 State Championship on Saturday, November 30, earning the first state championship in the School's history. Ronnie Orosky '20 and Miles Clark '21 led the team to victory, receiving All-State Honors with their seventh place and 10th place finishes, respectively. Thomas Matthew '20 came in just behind them in 13th place, making Viewpoint the only team with three runners in the top 15. Henry Didden '22 and Marcus Intal '20 secured the win with their fantastic performances as the number four and five runners. Ian Stenz '21 and Max Wolff '20 ran incredible personal bests, rounding out seven runners who gave everything they had in honor of each other, their goals, their hard work, and those who came before them. The boys put together their best race of the season to run the seventh-fastest team time for Division 5 ever, scoring 128 points, and earning the state title.

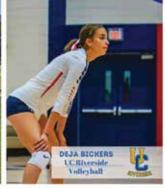
Elizabeth Scott '20 ran as an individual state qualifier and finished 25th with a time of 19:25, the fastest Viewpoint girls' time to be run on the state course. It was truly an incredible and special day for the Cross Country program and for Viewpoint School. ■



Top row (from left to right): Coach Chris Martinez, Ian Stentz '21, Marcus Intal '20, Max Wolff '20, Henry Hirschmann '23, Coach Justin Hackitt, Coach Alison Corneau Bottom row: Harlow Schuman '22, Miles Clark '21, Thomas Matthew '20, Ronnie Orosky '20, Henry Didden '22, Davis Newman '23







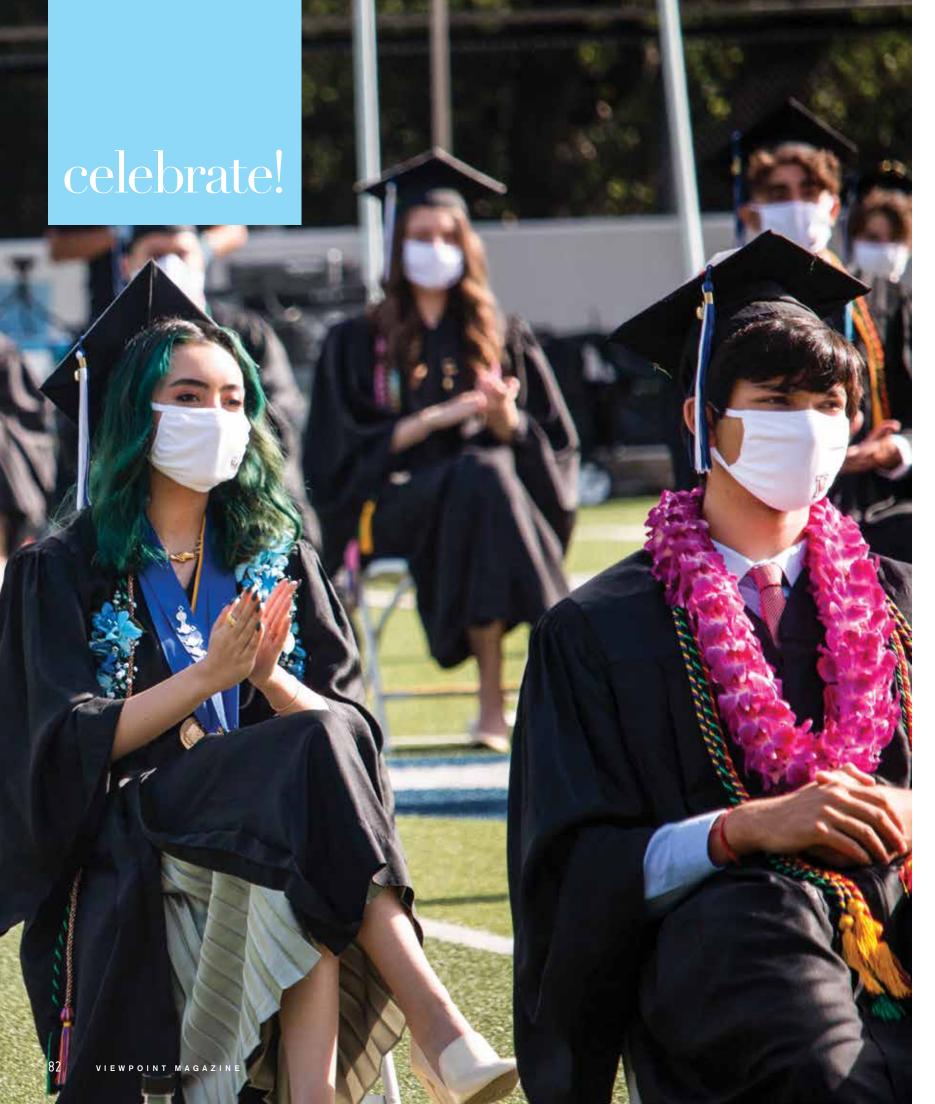


Senior Signing Day

CLASS OF 2020 COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

"Each year, we look forward to celebrating our college-bound athletes on Senior Signing Day, but this year's virtual gathering on May 15 might have been our best one yet. Coaches and players had time to reflect on and talk about their journey together inside of the athletic arena, which provided everyone in attendance a tremendous platform of connection."

-Travis Kikugawa, Director of Soccer and Tennis Operations and Athletes in College



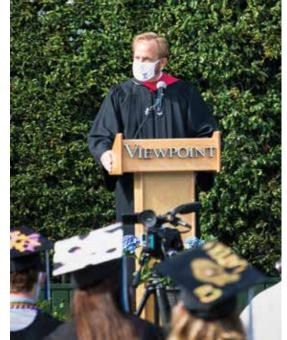
CLASS OF 2020 Graduates

After much deliberation, and then extensive and careful planning, the socially-distanced Senior Commencement Ceremony was held **on Ring Family Field on Saturday, June 6.** The students – even seated 10-feet apart and with their families watching via live-streaming – were thrilled to gather in-person to share this most cherished and hard-won milestone with their classmates.

The ceremony included welcoming remarks from Head of School Mark McKee, a commencement address by trustee John Nadolenco P'20 '23, and a speech by the 2020 Valedictorian **KaiLan Mackey**. At safe intervals, the graduates processed across a long dais to accept their diplomas. Following the ceremony, there was a joyful car parade for the graduates and families.

For the Class of 2020, who had long imagined sharing this very special day with family and friends, it was a departure from their expectations. However, the graduates showed themselves to be flexible, creative, and resilient -qualities that will serve them well in the future. We wish them well and know they will achieve

Congratulation to the Class of 2020!







Opposite page from left to right: Malia Goldman '20, Oliver Davidorf '20 This page from top to bottom: Mark McKee, Niko Candido '20, Abigail Sudit '20

2020 Upper School Awards

Arthur B. O'Leary Award

Lucia Reynolds '20

The School's most significant award recognizes a senior who demonstrates high academic achievement, character, and a positive spirit, qualities Viewpoint strives to develop. The faculty selects the recipient. Mr. O'Leary was the School's first Headmaster, appointed in 1979.

Thelma B. Sitton Award

Maya Resnick '21

The faculty selects the recipient of this award recognizing outstanding qualities of character and service to others. Mrs. Thelma Sitton was Viewpoint's first Director, appointed in 1963.

Valedictorian

KaiLan Mackey '20

Chosen by the faculty, the Valedictorian is the outstanding scholar of the graduating class.

Upper School Student of the Year

Eddy Yang '20

Chosen by the Student Council, the winner of this award is a senior who exhibits concern for others, school spirit, and interest in improving student life.

Cooper Scholar-Athlete Awards

Thomas Matthew '20

The faculty selects the recipients of this award based on the students' achievements in academics, athletics, and service to others. The award was established in 1970 by Viewpoint's teacher Rayna Cooper in honor of her sons, who excelled in athletics and academics.

Mary Carpenter Award for the Arts

Dani Granaroli '20

The faculty selects a student who upheld the standards of the School and achieved unusual growth in the arts. Established in 1986, the award is named in honor of Mary Carpenter, one of the School's founders and its first Director of Admission.

Meryl Staley '06 Award for the Performing Arts

Bianca Richmond '22

This award in memory of Meryl Staley '06 is presented to a sophomore or junior who, through his or her generous spirit, quiet determination, and positive attitude, exemplifies the character critical to success in the performing arts. The winner of this honor receives a grant for off-campus programs in the performing arts.

Upper School Community Service Award

Isabella Appell '21

The faculty recognizes the student who best demonstrates the spirit of generosity to others. Typically, the recipient volunteered time and effort on a significant, long-term basis, working to better the lives of those in need.

Salutatorian

Niko Candido '20

The Senior Class selects the Salutatorian who introduces the graduating class to the audience at Commencement.

VSSA Service Award

Margaux Bauerlein '20

The Viewpoint School Service Association (VSSA) annually recognizes a student remarkable for service to the School, often as an ambassador to the community. The faculty recommends the recipients, and the VSSA makes the final choice.

VSSA Social Justice and Leadership Award

Lucas Liu '20

This honor goes to an activist-minded junior or senior student who is committed to using ethics, leadership, and innovation for raising awareness and eliminating systemic and organizational inequities in our school and the larger community.

Calabasas Chamber of Commerce Award

Edan Klier '20

This award is presented to a senior who performed outstanding community service and is likely to study business in college.

Fine Arts Awards of the Year

Each year the faculty chooses the Upper School's Fine Arts Awards of the Year in the four following areas:

Ceramic Piece of the Year

Cherry He '20

Photograph of the Year

Lena Shulze '23

Picture of the Year

Imaan Deen '21

Sculpture of the Year

Riley Glickman '20

National Merit, Hispanic Scholarship Programs, and Other Recognitions

Of the top 50,000 high scorers of the 1.6 million juniors who entered the *National Merit*

Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 PSAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, 16,000 became Semifinalists and about 34,000 students became Commended Students. This year, Viewpoint School had two Semifinalists, who eventually became Finalists, and 10 Commended Students.

National Merit Scholar Finalists

Nicole Emi '20 KailLan Mackey '20 Julian Samek '20

National Merit Commended Students

Daisy Achiriloaie '20

Colin Beazley '20 Lillian Dettman '20

Kendall Fisher '20

Alyssa Frederick '20

Amanda Hogan '20

Daniel Kuelbs '20 Zivi Liu '20

Marie Riddle '20

Justin Samovar '20

Elizabeth Scott '20

Samuel Shang '20

Eddy Yang '20

Mohammed Yusufali '20

National Hispanic Recognition Program

Each year, the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) recognizes about 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT. Colleges use this program to identify academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students.

Leila Assil '20 Abigail Sudit '20

2020 Upper School Departmental Awards

Fine and Performing Arts:

Barbara Exum Art Award

Cherry He '20

Barbara Exum was an art teacher at Viewpoint for 25 years and served her last 15 years as Chair of the Art Department.

Dance Award

Maya Fardad-Finn '20

Theater Award

Eli Tenefrancia '20

Zaki Gordon'94 Film Award *Jack Albrecht '21 & Ilia Wayans '20*

This award was established in memory and honor of Zaki Gordon '94 to recognize

outstanding and inspirational achievements in filmmaking at Viewpoint School. The winner receives \$1,000 towards tuition for college if he or she is studying film.

English Awards

Writing and Research Award

Leah Sahani '21

American Language and Literature Award

Curtis Carr '20

AP Language and Composition Award Maya Resnick '20

Mathematics Awards

Calculus: Julan Samek '20
AP Statistics: David Luner '20

Advanced Math Awards:

Cindy Yan '20 & KaiLan Mackey '20

Music Awards

Orchestra: Daniel Kuelbs '20
Wind Ensemble: Charley Pollard '20
Choral: Margaux Bauerlein '20

Science Awards

Biology: Mia Sawicki '20 Chemistry: Daisy Achiriloaie '20

Physics: Marie Riddle '20

Environmental: Kaela Selesnick '20

Computer Science Awards

Kallie Fisher '20 Max Wolff '20

Social Studies Awards

Valen Dunn '21

Handley Award for American Studies
Leah Sahani '21

World Languages Awards

Chinese: Dom Gaidys '21 French: Amy Zhu '20

Latin: Valen Dunn '21 Spanish: Imaan Deen '21

Student Council Members

President: Sela Diab '20

Vice President: Lucia Reynolds '20

Secretary: Abigail Sudit '20
Treasurer: Kishant Mohan '22









Above photos: Class of 2020 during and after the Graduation Ceremony

Induction of the Cum Laude Society 2020

Viewpoint School's chapter of the prestigious Cum Laude Society welcomed 26 new members during an induction ceremony on April 30, 2020. The faculty members of the Society select students for membership who have demonstrated scholastic excellence (Areté), justice (Diké), and honor (Timé).

The Cum Laude Society, modeled after Phi Beta Kappa, the academic honor society for college graduates, recognizes superior scholarship in selected high schools in the United States and abroad. A member since 1992, Viewpoint is one of only 31 schools in California to have earned the distinction of having a Cum Laude chapter.

Society Inductees

Class of 2020

2020 Cum Laude

Ollie Davidorf
Lily Dettmann
Nicole Emi
Amanda Hogan
Katherine Lin
Ziyi Liu
Justin Samovar
Mia Sawicki
Elizabeth Scott
Katie Topacio
Max Wolff
Cindy Yan
Sean Zhang

Class of 2021

Auveen Choroomi
Valen Dunn
Jackson Gold
Heather Holm
Teage Johnson
Sophia Karimpour
Jiachen Liang
Junyi Lu
William Parker
Maya Resnick
Rachel Sullivan
Joshua Tenenbaum
Danyi Yu

84 viewpoint magazine fall 2020 85

celebrate!

BEYOND

Viewpoint

A list of Colleges & Universities Admitting Viewpoint's Graduates from 2016-20

Institutions in blue type indicate one or more matriculates from the Class of 2020.

AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts American University Amherst College Arizona State University Austin College Barnard College Belmont Abbey College Bentley University **Boston College** Boston Conservatory at Berklee **Boston University** Bowdoin College Brigham Young University Brown University Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo California Institute of Technology California Lutheran University California State University, Chico California State University, East Bay California State University, Northridge

Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Clemson University
Colby College

Colgate University
College of the Canyons
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines

Columbia College Chicago Columbia University Cornell University

Dartmouth College Denison University Dickinson College

Duke University
Durham University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emerson College

Emory University
FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design

& Merchandising – LA
Fordham University

Franklin Pierce University
Fullerton College
Furman University
The George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gordon College
Hamilton College
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
Hobart William Smith Colleges
Indiana University
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College

Hobart William Smith Colleges
Indiana University
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
London College of Communication
Los Angeles Pierce College
Loyola Marymount University
Marist College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

McDaniel College Middlebury College Moorpark College

Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles

The New School,
Parsons School of Design

New York University Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University Northwestern University NYU Shanghai

Occidental College Ohio Wesleyan University

Pace University – New York
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Pepperdine University

Pitzer College Pomona College Pratt Institute

Princeton University
Purdue University
Randolph-Macon College
Reed College
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Richmond The American Interna

Richmond, The American International University in London Ringling College of Art and Design

Ringling College of Art and Design Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology San Diego State University San Francisco State University

Santa Clara University
Santa Monica College
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Scripps College Shepherd University Smith College

Southern Methodist University Stanford University Studio School Los Angeles Swarthmore College

Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University

Texas Christian University
The American University of Paris
The University of Arizona

The University of Arizona
The University of Tennessee – Knoxville
The University of Texas at Austin

Trinity University Tufts University Tulane University Union College

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff University of California, Berkeley University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside

University of California, San Diego University of California, Santa Barbara University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Chicago

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Connecticut
University of Delaware

University of Denver

University of Exeter
University of Georgia

University of Hawaii at Manoa

University of Maryland

University of Massachusetts University of Miami

University of Michigan University of Nebraska University of Notre Dame University of Oregon University of Oregon – Clark Honors College

University of Pennsylvania
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Richmond

University of San Diego University of San Francisco University of Southern California

University of St Andrews
University of the Pacific

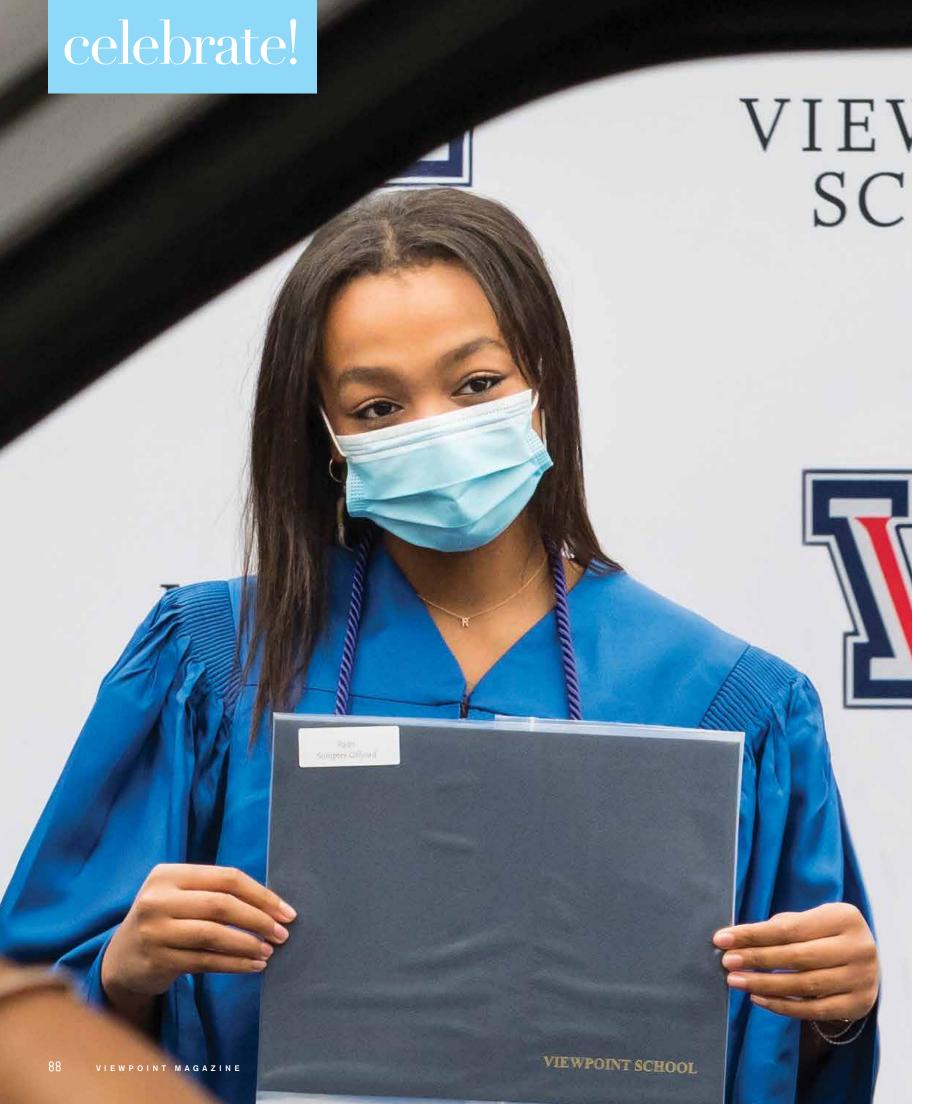
University of Toronto

University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St Louis
Wesleyan University
Whitman College
Whittier College
Williams College

Yale University



Class of 2020 photo taken in Fall 2019 for the yearbook



EIGHTH GRADE

Promotion

On June 5, Viewpoint's 94 Eighth Grade students celebrated their many accomplishments and the completion of Middle School at the Viewpoint's first Eighth Grade Virtual Promotion Ceremony, along with an in-person collection of diplomas and a car parade.

The online event included a slide show of thoughts and remarks from each of the Eighth Grade Advisory classes, a very inspiring virtual performance of "Unwritten" by the Middle School Vocal Ensemble, speeches by the Eighth Grade Historians, and a beautiful series of performances by the Alpin Strings students.

Despite the limitations of this moment, the Middle School faculty and leadership created a meaningful event for the students and their families. **Stephen Chan**, Head of Middle School and Middle School Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion, remarked, "It was wonderful to join together to celebrate our Eighth Grade students' achievements. While the event was virtual, our connections were deeply felt. We are grateful for the support of our students and their families in making this event possible. Congratulations to the Class of 2024!"

2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS

Student of the Year

Jack Fasching '24

The Middle School faculty selects an Eighth Grader who best exemplifies academic diligence, unquestionable character, a positive attitude, and respect for the School's community.

Scholar of the Year

Taryn Lee '23

The faculty selects the Eighth Grade's outstanding scholar to receive this award.

Classperson of the Year

Riley Pan '24

Selected by fellow Eighth Graders, the Classperson of the Year exhibits unusual qualities of leadership, dependability, a positive spirit, and respect for the School and classmates.

Service Learning Award

Nia Blumenfield '24

This award recognizes the Eighth Graders who best exemplify the spirit of giving.

Eighth Grade Speaker

Jack Fasching '24

The faculty of the Middle School chooses the Speaker based upon a student's demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding character as represented through his or her actions, and the extent to which he or she represents the learning expectations of the School.

Class Historians

Daniyar Ali '24 Laurel Eith '24 Sundiata Enuke '24 George Friberg '24 Violet Kaltman '24 Mia Nelson '24

The faculty of the Middle School chooses the Class Historians.

Opposite page from left to right: Ryan Sumpter Gillyard '24
This page from top to bottom: Eva Malek '24, Bianca Toberoff' '24, Kasey Lee '24







direction

ALUMNI EVENTS: 2019 HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 17, 2019, Viewpoint alumni, faculty, and staff gathered at The Local Peasant for the annual Alumni Holiday Party.













Top (left to right): David Sheftell '05 and Jaclyn Dry '05, Krystal Dry '03, Kyle Murphy, Alireza Ahmedian '03 Middle (left to right): Sam Vallone '16 and Jamie Lipman '16 Mayanthi Imbuldeniya Jayaratna '99 and James Low '99 Bottom (left to right): Mark McKee, Katie Hameetman '19, Natalie Friedman '19, Kristin Zwahlen '82, Jennifer Kirchmann, Justin Shapiro '15, Jaclyn Dry '05



JILL SHAW Director of The Viewpoint Network and Alumni Engagement

A fter serving as Viewpoint's Director of Strategic Communications for the past five years, Jill Shaw P '26 '27 is moving into a new role as Director of the Viewpoint Network and Alumni Engagement.

Jill is excited to launch the Viewpoint Network, a new professional networking and mentorship platform for all members of our community. The Viewpoint Network will capitalize on our campus relationships to connect our community across Los Angeles and worldwide. In addition, Jill is looking forward to developing new ways to deepen Viewpoint's relationship with alumni and engage alumni in the life of the School.

By joining the Viewpoint Network, parents, alumni, and other members of our community can find mentors, become mentors, and support one another. Jill expressed, "It's an opportunity for the Viewpoint Family to get to know one another. Young alumni can reach out to people in their chosen industry, and alumni and parents can mentor graduates who are starting their careers. It's also a great place to list job and internship openings. After all, when you hire a Viewpoint graduate, you know you are hiring a well-qualified, thoughtful employee!"

Visit viewpoint.peoplegrove.com to learn more. Jill may be reached @ jill.shaw@viewpoint.org.





"BEING ABLE TO WORK WITH SOME OF THE MOST TALENTED AND CREATIVE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, WHILE BUILDING NEW CONTENT BUSINESSES FOR GREATER SPOTIFY. IS A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ME."

n September 2020, Max Cutler '09 was named one of the Fortune magazine's "40 under 40" in media and entertainment. Here's why: "While many who listened to the *This American Life* podcast "Serial" were inspired to search for everything they could about defendant Adnan Syed and solve the case, 29-year-old Max Cutler was inspired to start his own true-crime podcast network: Parcast, which Cutler launched in 2016 without outside investment; three-quarters of its listeners are women. Cutler sold Parcast to Spotify in 2019 for more than \$50 million and still runs its operations."

We thought it would be interesting to learn more in Max's own words.

You graduated from Viewpoint in 2009 and founded your business in 2016. What were you doing in between? What jobs or experiences did you have that brought you to founding Parcast?

After graduating Viewpoint in 2009, I went to the University of Arizona, where I double majored in Finance and Entrepreneurship. From an early age, I knew I would be an entrepreneur. While many people believe you should use your twenties to get work experience before launching your own company, I have always felt that your twenties are the best time to launch a company. Most people have little responsibility. For me, it would be a time to test ideas at warp speed. Be fast to fail and fast to double down on what is working

Shortly after graduating in 2013, I launched a tech startup called Buzzanza that was meant to make it easier to share articles with friends and family. When this same feature launched on Facebook and then became popular, I decided to close down Buzzanza as we would not be able to compete. While we ended up failing, it led me to found Parcast. The learnings I had from Buzzanza paved the way for the future success of Parcast, which launched in June of 2016.

How did you come to sell your business to Spotify? What is your current role with Parcast?

In order to understand why I ended up selling Parcast to Spotify, it is important to understand how I started Parcast. When Parcast launched in 2016, I made the calculated decision to not raise money. I believed we would become a traditional content company where one show would pay for the next.

Fast forward to 2018, Spotify was beginning to invest in podcasts, and Parcast shows needed to secure distribution on Spotify. After an initial meeting with Spotify, it became clear that they were interested in acquiring Parcast. As a bootstrapped startup that was experiencing

hockey stick like growth, it was an incredibly appealing proposition to me to add fuel to the fire and secure the resources to compete with the most well-funded companies in the digital entertainment space. That is why I made the eventual decision to sell Parcast.

Since the acquisition, Parcast's growth has been nothing short of spectacular. I have taken on additional responsibility as not only the Founder and Managing Director of Parcast Studios, but also the Head of New Content Initiatives at Spotify. Being able to work with some of the most talented and creative people in the world, while building new content businesses for greater Spotify, is a dream come true for me.

Were you always interested in storytelling? And were you always interested in true crime and mysteries?

I have always gravitated towards audio content. From audiobooks, to radio to eventually podcasts, I was always the kid that loved audio storytelling and content in general.

While I have been interested in true crime and mystery content, it was clear from a business perspective that launching a slate of shows in this category would make the most sense. With a huge audience in the podcast space craving true crime content and Parcast having limited marketing dollars to spend, I decided to launch where there was already a proven audience and demand.

Were there any Viewpoint teachers who made a lasting impact

Mr. Chad Tew taught an economics class. His passion and knowledge for the subject helped shape my passion for business.

What advice would you give to aspiring storytellers and entrepreneurs?

Question. Experiment. Create. If you want to disrupt the "norm" and innovate, you must question. You also must never stop creating and experimenting. The moment you stop creating, is the moment your competition passes you. ■



Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

Diana Delgado Cornejo's writing and activism on immigration justice has been recognized nationally and internationally, and was most recently awarded the 2019 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship to support work towards an MA in Creative Writing at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During her time as an undergraduate at Loyola Marymount University, she successfully lobbied to increase resources to undocumented students and to hire a school psychologist with a specialty in undocumented anxiety. She has been featured twice in the *Los Angeles Times* and written a viral op-ed about her time at Viewpoint that has been translated into three languages. Now living in O'ahu, Diana is learning how to incorporate the framework of aloha 'aina — Hawaiian philosophy of love of land — into her work.

In May, **Sayo Denloye** graduated from Hamilton College with a degree in Economics and minor in Sociology. This fall, Sayo is continuing his education at Exeter University in the UK, to earn a MSc in Finance & Management.

Quincy Eaton had an amazing experience at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. In summer 2019, he had the opportunity to study abroad in Tokyo, Japan. This past May, Quincy graduated from CMU, on the Dean's List with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. During his years at Viewpoint, Quincy was always able to fulfill his passion for acting by participating in every play he could, and he continued this at CMU — performing in over 15 plays and being a member of their Scotch'N'Soda theater group. Due to the recent pandemic, his post-graduation plans of heading to Toronto, signed to a successful talent agent, had to be postponed. Fortunately, he qualified for an opportunity to apply, last minute, for CMU's IMB (Integrated Master's Bachelor's) program for the 2020-21 school year, and he was accepted into the program!

Gbolahan Fajolu graduated from Gordon College with a BS in Kinesiology. He enjoyed his four years in the frigid cold of northern Massachusetts. In those years he worked his way up from Treasurer to Vice President to President of a club called A.F.R.O. Hamwe. The club is a Black Student Union, which works to create a community for Africans, African Americans, Afro Caribbeans, and Afro Latinos on campus. He helped grow the club from a \$53 a year budget to a \$6,500 a year budget, all while maintaining his passion for going to medical school. He worked as a student intern at The Center for Balance, Mobility, and Wellness and he also created a Medical Sports page on Instagram, (@bolsports_md), which details the injury, surgery, and rehabilitation of injuries across all sports. He will take a gap year before going to medical school.

Keep your eye on the prize and make something happen. **Alyssa Hinojosa** has done that throughout her athletic career and will continue to do that as a successful businesswoman. In her last three years as a starting defender for the University of Oregon soccer team, Alyssa missed only 65 minutes out of 5,215 played. That takes resiliency, dedication, perseverance, determination, and lots and lots of hard work. She carried those qualities into the classroom, where she was recently awarded the Pac-12 Postgraduate Scholarship for 2019-20, given to only two student-athletes per conference team. She will now use those traits in business, as she just accepted a Marketing Associate position with a large non-profit in California while pursuing her master's degree.

Callie Kutasi graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in spring 2020 with honors. She is the recipient of the 2020 Irene B. Katele Outstanding Student Award, which recognizes academic excellence and leadership potential among students in UW–Madison's Legal Studies Program. Callie has relocated to Chicago where she will be attending law school.

Jacob Moody (Jake) graduated from Chapman with a BFA in screenwriting. He wrote, "While in college, I had an internship at a marketing agency called Movement Strategies, where I work full time on their Netflix, YouTube and Warner Bros DC Comics Instagram accounts. I recently moved to Redondo Beach with my college roommate, and I keep up with lots of my friends from Viewpoint!"

Brenden Rodriquez answered the question "What values did Viewpoint instill in you?" Viewpoint instilled in me a sense of determination. Whether it was in the classroom or on the football field, my teachers and coaches pushed me to strive for excellence and stressed the importance of a solid work ethic. These traits helped me excel in college and in my life more broadly. In May, I graduated from Harvard University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Astrophysics and commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. I recently reported to Pensacola, Florida for flight training as a Student Naval Flight Officer.

Zachary Rosen (Zack) graduated from Villanova University with a BS in Computer Engineering. He works for L3Harris in Colorado Springs, CO as a computer engineer.

Congratulation to **Jeff Schare**, who is now a 2020 graduate of University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in Economics.

Jessica Sprague graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in May. She earned her bachelor's degree and teaching credential in Early Childhood Education (PK-5). She is now teaching Fourth Grade Math and Science at Spring Lake Elementary School in Altamonte Springs, FL. This is Jessica's dream job as she is working at a Title 1 school with kids who really need the help and love — something that she has always wanted to do.

Jonathan Star graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Indiana University this past spring with a bachelor's degree in Economics. Jon will continue playing NCAA Division 1 college tennis as he attends UC Irvine's Innovation and Entrepreneur Graduate Program this fall.

Ari Weintraub answered the question "What values did Viewpoint instill in you?" Viewpoint taught me to work hard and to never stop chasing my dreams. I graduated in May from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Political Science and will move back to Los Angeles to pursue a career in optortainment.

Reno Williams graduated *Cum Laude* from Marist College with a major in Communications. He was on the Dean's List every semester and enjoyed playing on the Men's Volleyball Team. ■



























CLASS NOTES

Before the start of the pandemic, we asked our alumni to share what values Viewpoint instilled in them that still serve them today. Their answers, along with their class notes, are below. These notes were received between February 18 and July 20, 2020.

If you would like to submit a class note or share any news, please email Jill Shaw, Director of the Viewpoint Network and Alumni Engagement: jill.shaw@viewpoint.org.

1971

Rob Jordan and his wife of 27 years, Louise, have retired and moved to Reno, Nevada, where the great outdoors and Lake Tahoe entice them to walk and hike with new adopted Border Collie, Maggie. Daughters Taylor (USD) and Mackenzie (TCU) are beginning their careers in San Francisco and San Diego. In 2019, son Devon and his wife Shana provided the first Jordan grandchild! Brother Tony Jordan '74 lives in Pasadena, and motorcycles often to San Diego to be with his daughter and his grandchildren! All in all, life is pretty grand! Look us up if you're in the Reno area.



Rob Jordan '71 with daughters Taylor and Mackenzie, and wife Louise

1988

Kelly O'Connor answered the question, "What values did Viewpoint instill in you?" The Carden Method, unbeknownst to most of us at the time, really defined how we communicate as adults in terms of grammar, spelling, and syntax. I'm constantly amazed at what's been happening to the English language on social media — it's lost! I am so grateful to have been afforded the foundations in the elementary and junior high years to properly prepare me to communicate effectively today.

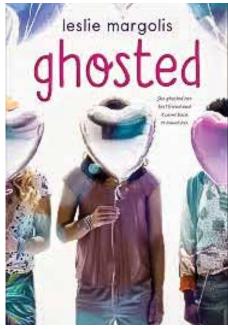


Kally O'Connor '88

Jenny Lynn Burnett has had an amazing year! She recently married Travis Carney and took a 3,300 mile honeymoon road trip through five national parks. They are both private pilots and commercial drone pilots who share a love of the outdoors. In addition to her full-time job in film production, Jenny Lynn's passion is aviation, and she serves her community by volunteering in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), which is the auxiliary branch of the U.S. Air Force. She has served in multiple capacities for the last 16 years including: Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Pilot, Director of Personnel, Diversity Officer and many more. The Civil Air Patrol is a national organization which promotes aviation through three missions: Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education, and Emergency Services.

1992

Leslie Goldman Margolis lives and writes in Hancock Park with her husband and their two children, who are in Fourth and Sixth Grade. Her latest novel, *GHOSTED*, was recently optioned for film.



Leslie Goldman Margolis '92

Christina Nigra Johnson writes, "I have lived in Long Beach for almost 23 years, and am in my 17th year of practicing law after attending UCLA for college and law school. My husband, Erik, and I are raising two unique and amazing kiddos, Piper (13) and Luke (10), as well as our two fur babies, Ziggy and Hazel. I am proud to have recently been appointed by the Mayor of Long Beach to be on the Animal Shelter Task Force charged with envisioning a new, animal-focused strategic plan for our public shelter, an issue near and dear to my heart. We love traveling, hiking, flying, gardening, cooking, volunteering in our community, and spending time with friends (especially catching up with long-lost Viewpoint friends!). I'm still in touch with almost all of the other 23 students in my class, and am so grateful for the incredible social and academic foundation that Viewpoint afforded me.



Christina Nigra Johnson '92

1999

Monica Daneshrad earned her Master of Science, Quality Assurance, and in 2019 she earned an MBA. Both degrees are from California State University Dominguez Hills. Monica currently works as an Engineer at Johnson & Johnson and is looking to pursue two PhD degrees.

Monica Daneshrad '99

IGN TELL Charge Molas DEBBIE SCHRIEBER

Debbie Fogel Schrieber '00

2000

Debbie Fogel Schrieber writes, "In May of this year, I became an international best-selling author. It was a privilege and honor to be invited as a contributing author among many powerful women from around the world for our book, Ignite Female Change Makers. We topped the charts at #1 in nine countries and 26 categories."

2005

It's been quite a year for **Erica Deutsch**. Early in 1999, she moved back to the San Fernando Valley. In October, she joined the law firm Henderson Caverly Pum & Trytten LLP as a tax and estate planning partner in the firm's new Pasadena office. Erica continues to enjoy spending time with family and friends, including the amazing friends she made at Viewpoint.

Daniel Agarwal finished his fellowship in Vitreoretinal Surgery at Yale University. On August 1, he started work in Ventura with the Miramar Eye Specialists Medical Group as their new retina specialist.

David Sheftell answered the question "What values did Viewpoint instill in you?" Viewpoint was able to instill a lot of values that I still hold dear, but I think most importantly, kindness. Above all else be kind to others. Earlier this year, David completed filming the movie Willy's Wonderland in the role of Sheriff Evan Olson opposite Oscar-winner Nicolas Cage, Emily Tosta, and Beth Grant. Willy's Wonderland is slated to release later this year. David is also selling luxury Real Estate through Compass Real Estate out of their Rodeo Drive office, helping buyers and sellers throughout the Los Angeles area.



David Sheftell '05

2008

Josh Craft '08 is in the third year of his medical residency in Baltimore at the University of Maryland Hospital, specializing in internal medicine and pediatrics, with a focus on infectious disease. He graduated from Columbia Medical School.

Paulo Vincent-Brown writes. "I went to NYU after graduating from Viewpoint. Dropped out after one semester because I hated the program I was in. But I loved New York. I studied ballet in New York for two years while working and supporting myself. When I decided I could not make a living with ballet, I was lost for awhile... became a yoga teacher and worked various jobs. Met a wonderful woman and moved to Washington to be with her and go back to school, Last year, I graduated from the University of Washington, Seattle, with a degree in Psychology. In March, I will marry the amazing Elora West, and in September I will be starting chiropractic school in Whittier."



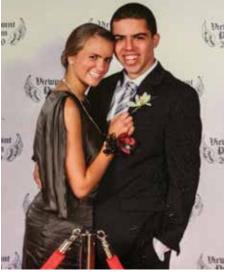
Paulo Vincent-Brown '08

2010

Lee Tennant started as the Vice President of Operations at Mesh++. This Chicago start-up builds lightweight, solar powered WiFi devices that are giving communities in Africa and Central America internet access for the first time. During the pandemic, Mesh++ is also helping bring connectivity to hundreds of underserved students around America for e-learning programming. Lee joins a team of eight engineers, who believe introducing reliable WiFi access to rural and emerging markets will have a profound impact on human evolution and economic growth.

2009

Congratulations to **Nicole Klein** and **Cyrus Behzadi** on their recent engagement! Here they are at their Prom in 2009, where it all began. Cyrus and Nicole plan to marry in 2021 with many Viewpoint alumni in attendance.



Nicole Klein '09 and Cyrus Behzadi '09

2011

Jack Kleinman is currently in his second year of anesthesiology residency at UCLA. He was supposed to get married in October 2020 but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, his marriage date has been delayed until September 2021.



2013

Kayla Mason Webster writes, "After graduating from UC Berkeley with a degree in mechanical engineering, I was working as an engineer while also starting up a side business called Planning with Kay, where I design and sell stickers specifically for planners and bullet journals! After six months, my partner Jake and I decided to quit our Bay Area tech jobs and move to Portland, Oregon to pursue our business full time! We've now been successfully operating Planning With Kay full-time for nearly three years. We also got married on October 19, 2019!"

2014

Rebecca Gross answered the question, "What values did Viewpoint instill in you?" Viewpoint taught me how to be a strong-willed woman; how to be creative and how to deeply appreciate the arts; how to respect my peers and my teachers; how to love learning.

Rebecca writes, "I am currently a master's candidate and a teaching fellow at Loyola Marymount University, where I study English Literature. I focus my research on literature written by women of diasporas, and plan to continue my studies post-graduation in a PhD program. When I'm not working in the academic sphere, I work as an independent writer, researcher, and editor. I have been published in *Kanstellation Magazine*, *LA Progressive*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Indie Obsessive*, and *Entropy Magazine*. I also curate, edit, and self-publish a zine called *All Female Menu*, which features the art and writing of exclusively female-identifying millennials. As part of this same intersectional feminist initiative, I also organize poetry/prose readings at bookstores around Los Angeles featuring primarily female and female-aligning performers."



Rebecca Gross '14

Grace Cornelius graduated from Boston College in 2018 with a BS in Biochemistry. For the last two years, she has been working at Adaptive Biotechnologies in Seattle, a company focused on advancing the field of immune-driven medicine by harnessing the inherent biology of the adaptive immune system to transform the diagnosis and treatment of disease. They are also currently partnered with Amgen and Microsoft for their COVID-19 antibody test and clinical trial.



Jonathan Hutnicki '14

Jonathan Hutnicki writes, "I graduated flight training and received my Air Force wings in August 2019. I am currently stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana, training to be a B-52 pilot. After I graduate in December, I will be moving to Minot AFB in sunny Minot, North Dakota."



Ryan Thompson '14

Ryan Thompson is a correspondent covering France for Euronews. Based in Lyon, in southern France, Ryan reports on stories about politics, society, and, of course, life amid the pandemic. ■

IN MEMORIAM: **DORIS WARREN**

By Mark McKee, Head of School



Longtime Viewpoint faculty member, parent, grandparent, and friend Doris Warren, passed away on February 15, 2020.

Doris was a beloved teacher of English, drama, and the arts, dear to generations of Viewpoint students, and a mentor and colleague to so many, including current and former colleagues and many, many alumni.

Although she retired in 2006 after 27 years of teaching, Doris remained a

devoted fan of our school and never missed a Viewpoint theater production. The Haskell family (Sam — Trustee Emeritus, Mary, Sam '06 and Mary Lane '07) honored Doris with seat number A4 in the front row of the Carlson Family Theater, which always will acknowledge her legacy and enthusiastic devotion to her students and the School.

Doris' colleague **Asif Azhar,** Upper School Math and Humanities Teacher and President of the Cum Laude Society, shared this remembrance:

"I had the distinct privilege and good fortune to co-teach a class with Doris very early in my teaching career. I learned so much about teaching from Doris, from her impeccable knowledge of the material, her outstanding preparation, her presence, her poise, and her generosity towards the students. A remarkable teacher in every sense of the word. Beyond the teaching itself, Doris had this incredible ability to put anyone totally at ease. Everyone in her presence felt totally seen, acknowledged, understood, accepted, and appreciated. And her laughter was renowned. She was always full of mirth and joy, and had an amazingly infectious laugh filled with joy and abandon. I will always remember Doris for her kindness, giving, caring, joy and love."

Doris' family appreciates the memories, care, and concern of the Viewpoint community. Our continued tradition of excellence in teaching, connected teacher-student relationships, and creative expression in the arts, honors her legacy and extends our community's reach into the future.

Others pay tribute to Doris:

"Doris possessed an extraordinary sense of humor and had an infectious laughter that delighted her students and colleagues throughout her long career. Her high expectations, constant encouragement, work ethic, and teaching expertise provided great inspiration to all who knew her. She inspired students of all ages, and they had great admiration and respect for her. Her remarkable positivity, in the midst of many personal challenges throughout her life, endeared her to many. She energetically dedicated herself to teaching and directing theater for many years at Viewpoint School. She was the kindest and most compassionate person and friend I have ever known, and I will miss her greatly."

- Janet Richardson, Upper School Spanish Teacher

"Mrs. Warren is the voice in your heart and your head to remember how to carry yourself both in speech and in presentation. Her amazing laugh boomed and echoed across the canyon and, if you were fortunate to draw it out of her, it made you stand a little prouder. Her tenacity balanced her love for everything she did for us. Her tender sweet heart made yours swell a bit more. It was clear she loved her craft of teaching English, Speech, and Drama. Hours in the classroom or nights and weekends on cold Blaney Patio, she was a master craftswoman. Those of us who learned from her have a more enriched life because of her. Thank you, Mrs. Warren. Your legacy and love lives on in all of us.

 Alison Steelberg Corneau '97, Primary and Lower School Technology Integration Specialist

"I think we're all still stunned, but are thankful for Doris' belief in the School and maintenance of standards. Her always positive affirmation of work well done, by students and colleagues, that I remember most frequently hearing, was 'You were terrific!'"

- Lynne Knebel, Middle and Upper School Librarian ■

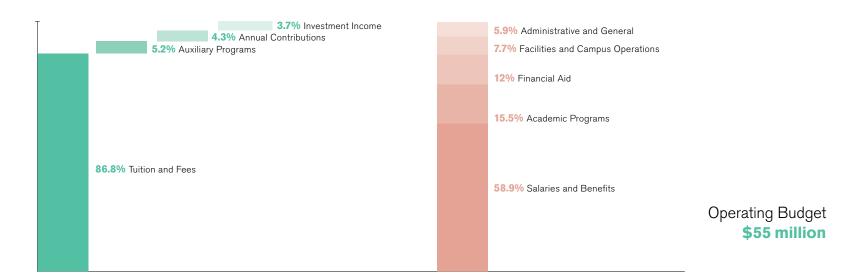


Upper School students watching a performance by the Middle and Upper School Step Team at the Black History Festival



2019 -2020

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR
FINANCIAL REPORT



2019-20 Total Annual Expenses*

Jonathon Wolfson / Chair, Board of Trustees

2019-20 Total Annual Revenues*



As we started school last year, we could not have imagined all what we would experience in the coming months. We faced life changing events — devastating fires in our region and an international pandemic. Through these emergencies, the unique strength of Viewpoint School's community was evident and powerful. Together we demonstrated resilience, creativity, and determination. We showed strength in crisis.

In the fall, in response to the wildfire emergency, our VSSA volunteers reimagined our traditional

fall homecoming into a spectacular showcase of our winter teams and community spirit over two days in January.

- In March, our administrators, faculty, staff, and Board implemented remote learning a few critical days prior to the region's Stay at Home order in response to COVID-19. Working hand-in-hand with our School's COVID-19 Task Force, our talented teachers were able to offer a remote education to all of our students in Grades K-12. And, parents played a critical role in keeping our students and community connected.
- Viewpoint cares about our greater community, and members of our faculty and student body demonstrated this as they came together to produce Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline workers and heroes, using ingenuity and thoughtful design.
- In May, our Benefit volunteers, talented Viewpoint parents, and Advancement Team reinvented our Annual Gala, creating a fun and rousing virtual event that brought together Viewpoint friends and family around the globe to raise critical dollars for the Patriot Community Fund. The generosity of our Viewpoint families has never been more needed and is truly appreciated.
- During the summer months, our COVID-19 Task Force, faculty, and staff created a safe environment whereby we were able to deliver top notch summer programming in a safe manner, which serves as a model for safely delivering an on-campus education as soon as we are able.
- Our Board and Administrative Team worked closely to respond to the financial crisis presented by the pandemic and strategically deployed resources to support efforts to advance the learning and development of our children, with health and safety always at the forefront. Under the

leadership of our Head of School, Mark McKee, and his administrative team, Viewpoint has vaulted to the top of schools developing robust online and hybrid learning models, so that we can be sure that our children will be educated the Viewpoint way, whether on campus or remote, as the new school year progresses.

I am proud of how we all came together in the past year to support our students and school community. In my three years as Board Chair, and as a Viewpoint parent and longtime volunteer, I have seen exciting advancements in how we employ collaboration, innovation, creativity, diversity, and inclusion to provide our students with academic excellence.

Although my tenure as Board Chair ended in July, my commitment to Viewpoint School continues to be strong. With our community and our nationally recognized Head of School, Mark McKee, his top-notch administrators, faculty, and staff, our school will continue to innovate to ensure that all of our students receive the tremendous benefits of a Viewpoint education.

Leading the Board of Trustees, and supporting our Head of School, are our incoming Chair of the Board, David ZeBrack, and Vice-Chair, Jill Schecter. They have dedicated countless hours of service to Viewpoint School and are deeply committed to its mission for our students. In addition to thanking David and Jill for serving in their new leadership positions, I also want to gratefully thank parent and trustee Kafi Blumenfield who has completed her term of office as Board Co-Vice Chair. Lastly, Mark joins me in thanking those dedicated trustees who have completed their board service this year — Shelly Sumpter Gillyard, Charles Schetter, and Frank Watanabe. I'm also pleased to welcome two new trustees, Michelle Bradway and William Go, MD, PhD Welcome to the Board Michelle and Will!

I thank each and every member of our community for your investment in Viewpoint and for your partnership in providing strength and direction as we diligently work to provide an extraordinary educational experience for each and every one of our students.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Wolfson Chair, Board of Trustees

2019-20 SUMMARY OF GIFTS

Viewpoint Fund	\$1.849.600
Total	\$1,849,600
Grandparents	\$7,750
Faculty, Staff, and Friends	\$23,702
Foundations	\$1,700
Current Parents	\$1,653,995
Corporations	\$112,785
Alumni and Alumni Parents	\$49,668

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds	\$506.750
Total	\$506,750
Grandparents	\$6,400
Faculty, Staff, and Friends	\$6,194
Foundations	\$1,200
Current Parents	\$381,052
Corporations	\$36,370
Alumni and Alumni Parents	\$75,534

*Unaudited data for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

David ZeBrack / Chair, Finance Committee

From the financial perspective, 2019-20 was both a strong year and a challenging year. Of course, matters concerning COVID-19 were unlike any we have experienced before. However, the Board carefully charted a course through these unknown waters with our values and beliefs serving as guide posts. Consistent with our Strategic Framework, financial decision-making centered around People first, both taking care of our employees and keeping current families enrolled in the School during this time of economic disruption.

Viewpoint Fund

Our Board's responsiveness and long-term thinking were evident in important decisions, including:

- On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee renegotiated the School's long term bond debt with First Republic Bank, resulting in a further decrease in the already historically low interest rates for the School's 30-year fixed rate bond.
- The Board of Trustees carefully considered and approved an application for funds under the CARES Act Payroll Protection Program (PPP) in order to prevent job losses and guarantee faculty and staff payroll, ensuring the immediate sustainability of school operations. Viewpoint's application was approved by the Small Business Administration (SBA) in accordance with the prescribed terms of the PPP. The trustees and administration remain grateful that Congress and the SBA made these funds available to businesses and nonprofit entities such as Viewpoint School to protect our viability during this time of financial crisis.
- The Board of Trustees recognizes that the financial stresses of the coming year will impact families in highly personal and unpredictable ways. In view of this, Viewpoint School extended to all families a 6% tuition credit, net of any discount or financial aid, for the 2020-21 school year. These credits are funded by one-time deferrals of funds that are typically reserved for long-term physical plant needs, and by short-term savings resulting from the refinancing of our long-term debt. For families paying full tuition, these credits averaged over \$2,000 per student, and some families elected to generously return this credit to the School.

Collectively, these "victories" last year, spearheaded by Head of School Mark McKee, CFO Lissa Sholty, the Finance Committee, and the Board of Trustees, have put us in a position to operate Viewpoint School in its finest traditions, even as the world compels us to improvise, adapt, and overcome.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Lissa Sholty, our long-time Chief Financial Officer, who retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Lissa expertly served the School in the Business Office since 2006, first as Controller, then as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since 2015. Lissa skillfully managed construction budgets, bond refinancing, legal and risk management issues, and a myriad of complex challenges, along with diligently stewarding a \$55 million operating budget in close collaboration with the Board's Finance Committee. Lissa kept a focus on our students' experience, ensuring that all students and teachers have the resources that define the high level of excellence of a Viewpoint education. Lissa leaves Viewpoint School in a far better financial position than it has ever been before.

Viewpoint School is an enduring institution with an important mission to over 1,200 students, their families, and over 350 faculty and staff. I am confident that we are positioned to weather the current uncertainty in the world, emerging ever stronger for our community.

Elsa?

David ZeBrack Chair, Finance Committee

NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

NEW TRUSTEES

Meet the New Chair and Vice Chair of the Board: David ZeBrack and Jill Schecter

David ZeBrack / Chair, Board of Trustees



It is really all about family for David ZeBrack. From his early career working alongside his father in their West Los Angeles commercial real estate investment and development company, ZeBrack Group, to enjoying regular vacations and spending time with his family, David explained, "It's who we are, and what is important to us." Which is why David generously consented to taking on the volunteer role of a Viewpoint trustee. "There is nothing more valuable than our children," said David. "Serving one's school is part of how we stay engaged in the lives of our children by showing them that who they are, and what they do, truly matters to us as parents."

David's children came to Viewpoint from Los Encinos School where David also serves as a trustee. "Choosing Viewpoint was an easy decision. We fell

in love with the campus's natural setting, but were sold on the nurturing environment, rigorous academics, and diverse opportunities."

This year, as his son Ben is a graduating senior, David has assumed the role of Board Chair. "At Viewpoint School, there is a strong sense of both tradition and an excitement about new and innovative education designed to prepare our children for the world in ways that we never imagined when we were growing up. A good Board of Trustees gives the School the tools that it needs and ensures that the right people with vision are in place to be successful. Viewpoint has got it right, and I continue to be excited to engage in the important work of this Board. I can think of no better place to volunteer my time!"

Jill Schecter / Vice Chair, Board of Trustees



Jill Schecter is honored to serve as Vice Chair of the Viewpoint Board of Trustees. "In these extraordinary times, it is a privilege to have a role in helping Viewpoint navigate for the benefit of children. The work of the Board is critical because we are charged with the long-term stability and financial viability of Viewpoint now and for decades in the future."

An attorney who still practices part time, Jill has long believed in the importance of giving back to her community. "I proudly serve on the LA Advisory Board of the Posse Foundation, as a Commissioner of the Traffic and Transportation Committee of the City of Calabasas, and have been a trustee at Viewpoint since 2015," said Jill. She also loves engaging with fellow parents, students, and faculty as the Parent Liaison for the important work of Challenge Success at Viewpoint.

Jill's three daughters each found a home at Viewpoint and made the experience there uniquely her own. Sarah '14 graduated from Northwestern, joined Teach for America, and is now an Eighth Grade Special Education teacher. Jamie '16 graduated in May from USC and works in Global Strategic Communications. And Gracie '21 is a current senior and involved in so many aspects of life at Viewpoint.

From her experience as both a current and alumni parent, Jill believes in the vision of the School. "It is incredibly exciting to watch our students develop innovation and collaboration skills that will be essential for their futures."

Viewpoint is pleased to introduce two new members to the Board of Trustees

Michelle Bradway / Trustee



We are pleased to welcome Michelle, parent of William '28 and Daisy '28, to Viewpoint's Board of Trustees. When asked why she decided to make the commitment, Michelle said, "I am honored to be invited to join such a talented board and hope my diverse experience and perspective will be my contribution. Nothing is ours anymore, it all belongs to our children, and our investment in their education is key to their future."

Michelle was born in Zimbabwe and grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa. Following undergraduate studies at the University of The Witwatersrand, Michelle moved to Naples, Italy, where she taught English to officer cadets of the Italian Air Force. She later moved to London, England where she began her career in IT. She was solely responsible for the set up and management of the IT infrastructure for a large Japanese pharmaceutical company. Eight years later she became an internet entrepreneur and was founder and CEO of one

of the first luxury fashion online "stores." Michelle helped set up nonprofit organizations focusing on African Wildlife and Education in Africa. She was also on the International Fundraising Committee for the British Red Cross, helping to raise vital funds for their causes. Michelle and her husband, Bob, moved to Southern California in 2006, where Michelle has been fully occupied restoring their ranch, setting up a horse rescue sanctuary, and raising their twins.

Dr. Will Go / Trustee



Many of our families are well acquainted with Dr. Will Go, parent of Aiden '27 and Alyssa '29, from his frequent "Zoom Calls with Doctors." Since last spring, Dr. Will has been sharing his vast expertise in epidemiology with our community through regular online forums on COVID-related topics, and we are so grateful. When asked why he decided to send his children to Viewpoint and now join the Board, he replied, "We chose Viewpoint for our children for many reasons. Viewpoint is a private school with a public purpose. The School captures both innovation and the 'Love of Learning.' I am honored to serve on Viewpoint's Board of Trustees."

As Senior Vice President and Head of Development at A2 Biotherapeutics, Will's organization oversees Process Development through to Clinical Development.

In 2011, after an outstanding academic career, Will joined Amgen playing an instrumental role in the clinical development of Vectibix® to treat colorectal cancer, as well as identifying new predictive biomarkers as a Medical Director in Global Clinical Development.

In 2014, Will moved to Kite Pharma to develop novel immunocellular therapies for the treatment of cancer. Will led the ZUMA-1 pivotal study and eventual FDA and EMA approvals of YESCARTA, the first CAR T cell therapy approved in Large B Cell Lymphoma. YESCARTA received the Prix Galien Award for Best Biotechnology Product in 2018. He became a Vice President of Clinical Development at Kite/Gilead leading Large B Cell Lymphoma clinical development.

Will received his BA in Biology from Carleton College and then attended University of California San Diego's Medical Scientist Training Program. He received his PhD in 2004 with a focus on Immunology and completed his MD in 2006. Will did his internal medicine residency, hematology/oncology fellowship at UCSD. He was the recipient of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine fellowship award and the American Association of Cancer Institute's fellowship award studying tumor immunology.

Cash gifts received / July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

The Viewpoint Fund is the foundation of all philanthropy at Viewpoint School. Gifts to this fund provide the resources needed to sustain and expand our highly personalized, challenging, and engaging student experience. The Viewpoint Fund allows us to go beyond for our students and to provide programs and experiences beyond what tuition alone could support.

The donors recognized in the following lists made cash gifts to support the 2019-20 Viewpoint Fund. Every donation directly impacts our students and we are very grateful for the generous support of our entire community.

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For more than 50 years, Viewpoint has been preparing students for an ever-changing global environment, and now. Viewpoint alumni span the globe. We are grateful to the following alumni donors who have joined together in support of our School and donated to the 2019-20 Viewpoint Fund.

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Why I Volunteer viewpoint

Yoni Nalls / Parent of Osiris '23, Syriah '28



It's truly my pleasure and honor to be a volunteer at Viewpoint School. The support, enrichment, inspiration, and development my children receive at Viewpoint is priceless. I'm grateful for any opportunity to give my time and service to the School in appreciation, and to be uplifted by the tireless and passionate examples of community enhancement from the volunteers and leaders of VSSA, PPDI, and Viewpoint staff. Indeed, the current year is unprecedented and full of uncharted challenges. It has been heartening to witness the perseverance and ingenuity used to assist families and students as they navigate through the changes and unknowns. I see the direct, positive influence community-building has on my children, which further motivates me to be as involved as I can. Volunteering has a way of broadening awareness and understanding which, during these times, is as critical as ever. Through the impact of collaboration, contribution, and consciousness, we all can make a difference no matter how small or grand the gesture. I look forward to the many upcoming possibilities as I continue on my volunteer journey.

Meet the VSSA Co-Presidents for 2020-21

Kristal Wazana-Carlton / VSSA President, Primary School and Lower School



"I was born and raised in the West Valley and attended El Camino for high school. However, all four of my siblings have been a part of Viewpoint since Kindergarten. I now have the good fortune to have my son Elijah attend Viewpoint; he is in Fifth Grade this year. I work in Calabasas as a real estate agent and have been doing that for the last eight years; it is truly my passion next to being a mom. I made a pretty big jump diving right into the Co-President role with the VSSA, but I really wanted to give back to the community that has given my family so much. With everything going on this year, I hope to bring a sense of belonging and calm to Viewpoint families while distance learning. My focus is to continue on the path of building a strong Viewpoint community with new and returning families."

Lauren Landsbaum / VSSA President, Middle School and Upper School



"I grew up in Southern California and attended UCLA for my undergraduate education. I worked for a few years in public accounting and obtained my CPA certification. I then went to law school at USC and practiced as a corporate bankruptcy attorney for over 10 years. I have been married for almost 19 years. I have twins, Lucy '23 and Charlie, who just turned 16. Lucy attends Viewpoint, and Charlie attends Westmark. Since I have had children and stopped working, I have always found it fulfilling to give my time to their schools. This year will obviously be a different year with respect to all aspects of the School and the VSSA. I hope that we can "reimagine" our Viewpoint activities and traditions, so that we all still feel that wonderful Viewpoint sense of community."

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The donors recognized in the following lists made cash gifts to support Viewpoint School during the 2019-20 fiscal year. In some cases, families may have supported multiple fundraising initiatives, including the Viewpoint Fund, the Patriot Community Fund, and Benefit Underwriting. Every donation directly impacts our students, and we are grateful for the generous support of our entire community.

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Kapil and Preeti Juneja / Parents of Krishnav '28, Pranav '30, Kaavya '32



We give to the Viewpoint Fund to continue our support of Viewpoint's mission of providing excellence in education. We migrated from India to study in the U.S. and value best-in-class education for our children. We strive to raise them with leadership qualities, and it requires individualized learning, access to world class facilities, and teachers who are experts in their fields. Tuition only covers 85% of the costs, and the Viewpoint Fund covers the rest. Viewpoint has incredible facilities available to our kids, and the additional expenses are paid for by the Viewpoint Fund. With two teachers in a smaller class size setting and teaching with innovative technology, we believe our kids are getting the best education, which is what we want as parents.

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My family and I recognize the crucial role education plays in shaping the minds of future generations. Viewpoint School's values of individualism, hard work, confidence, and compassion foster an environment that is vital to creating strong leaders. Viewpoint's endless electives, sports, and extracurricular activities encourage each child to discover their own passions and strengths in a safe space. The School's difficult yet diverse curriculum arms students with the tools and wellrounded knowledge needed to succeed in any circumstance. Viewpoint's nurturing and supportive teachers and staff inspire children to believe in their own ideas, while still listening thoughtfully to others. Finally, Viewpoint's emphasis on helping others and giving back is a fundamental value instilled in every child, staff member, and administrator daily, which has created a community that is unbreakable. That is a value that I still uphold. That is the reason I give back. That is the reason I encourage every member of this community to give back with me.

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over two decades is easy. I know that when I give, it benefits not only our students and Viewpoint School, but also me. Helping to support our community only makes my own community that much better. I appreciate having the opportunity to take care of the community that cares for me.



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Viewpoint's 37th Annual Benefit was planned for Saturday, May 9, at the stunning Hummingbird Nest Ranch in Simi Valley. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we quickly pivoted and turned our annual event into a fantastic, genuinely all-inclusive live-streaming show on Saturday, May 23!

With guidance from our energetic and dedicated Benefit Committee Chairs, Nicole Mazzolini P'22'20'18 and Cathy Blumel P'22'24'26'32, our entire School—along with many of their extended families—gathered to watch the show, celebrate our community, and support Viewpoint financially. We had over 2,000 unique URLs viewing the show—which we can extrapolate into over 5,000 people participating, from as far away as Thailand! We raised \$501,000 in net revenues for the Patriot Community Fund, an emergency financial assistance fund established to help Viewpoint families affected by the pandemic.

This fun-filled evening of laughter, camaraderie, and togetherness was achieved though the commitment and enthusiasm of the entire Benefit Committee and the remarkable direction of Adam Grossman P '22, reminding us of the joy that comes from connecting with our community and joining around a common cause. Our co-hosts for the evening, actor-comedian Ken Jeong P'25 '25 and Mark McKee P'16, kept us laughing, while the parent shout-outs kept us engaged, and the wide-ranging musical acts of Stevie Wonder, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and John Fogerty (and family — Shane '10, Tyler '11, and Kelsey '20) kept us entertained.

Viewpoint School is grateful to everyone who gave of their experience, time, resources, and means to make this evening an amazing one to remember. THANK YOU!

2,000+ HOUSEHOLDS = 5,000 VIEVVERS

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Cash gifts received / July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

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Halper Fine Art Christine Hardenberg Lenore Marusak & Terry Hardy Makenna Held Marcella Navarria & John Heubusch

Alan Howie Kara Karaoke Entertainment Becky Kierstead Personal Training Kieu Hoang Winery

KinFlow Derek Krull La Pitchoune Laugh Factory

Samuel Lazenby '24 Leshem Loft Loews Hollywood Hotel

Jennifer & Robert Lopata Lure Fish House Amy & Hans Maentz Magic Castle Hotel

Makey Makey Malibu Makos Surf Club

Malibu Wines Mastro's Steakhouse Nicole & Aaron Mazzolini Erica & Jav McGraw

Mark McKee NCIS: New Orleans Next Exit Photography Olive Alchemy Pacific Festival Ballet

Painthall LISA Inc. Pali Adventures Parker-Anderson Enrichment

Pasadena Plavhouse Courtney Spikes & Craig Perry Pilates Plus Los Angele Jody & Brent Polacheck Polacheck's Jewelers

PRP Wine International Talicia Raggs The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Rowley Portraiture Larae & Joshua Sable

Salon Sirenetta Karen & Charles Schetter Laura Schuman

Simon Rhee Tae Kwon Do Training Center Pamela Shriver

Jane Soper Spookstock Close Quarters Battle Stonefire Grill

Studio LOL Suitsupply Synergy Academics Topanga Pet Resort Total Wine & More Tres Palmeras

Trish McEvoy Val Surf Viridian Art Academy Warrior & Co. A Yoga Studio Jaelee & Frank Watanabe Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum Marian Williams Stephanie & Jonathon Wolfson WundaBar Pilates

Tracy Wymer

VIEWPOINT SCHOOL

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Values / As of June 30, 2020

Endowment Funds are financial assets that generate income through the School's wise investment of the principal. The investment of all Endowment and Reserve Funds is managed by the CFO/ Treasurer based on a Board of Trustees-approved Investment Policy Statement and under the oversight of the Board's Finance Committee. Portions of Endowment income may help to fund the operating budget or be directed toward donor-designated purposes. The Endowment also serves as a permanent savings account and helps to ensure Viewpoint's financial strength and stability. Donors may make contributions to existing funds, or establish new funds with a major gift. Endowment funds are frequently established to honor or memorialize someone of significance to the School. We are especially grateful that these donors chose to support the Endowment because they are helping to ensure a sound financial foundation for Viewpoint School's future.

NAMED FUNDS

The Anderson-Cheatham Family **Endowment for Music***

\$63.084

Dr. Robert and Mrs. Jane Cheatham established The Anderson-Cheatham Family Endowment for Music in Joving honor of Mrs. Cheatham's mother, who fostered a love of music. Investment income of the Endowment annually supports students in the music program.

Behrens Endowment Fund*

\$2,414,180

Established in 1969 with a bequest by Miss Lottie Behrens, a friend of the School, this endowment supports the general operating budget.

The Carlson Family Financial Aid **Endowment***

\$660 496

Established in 2012 by Mr. Steve and Mrs. Leslie Carlson, this endowment will provide annual tuition assistance for an academically qualified student in the Upper School (Grades Nine-Twelve) from a low-income family who otherwise would not be able to attend Viewpoint.

The Barbara Exum Endowment for the Visual Arts*

The Barbara Exum Endowment for the Visual Arts was established by her family in loving memory of Mrs. Barbara Exum, former Chair of the Art Department and Teacher of Art. The Endowment's annual investment income funds the School's Artist-in-Residence Program and purchases art books for the libraries in honor of each division's most outstanding artist.

Faculty Development Endowment*

\$60.567

The Members' Faculty Development Endowment is governed by a specific document of the donor. The corpus of the Endowment remains untouched. The annual investment income is used for faculty professional development.

Endowment for Financial Aid*

\$764.406

The Board of Trustees established the Endowment for Financial Aid in 2012 with the purpose of directing its annual investment income to the operating budget to support Viewpoint's financial aid program, The School's long-term goal is to substantively enlarge this Endowment, as well as Viewpoint's resources for financial aid, thus ensuring that the School can attract and enroll qualified applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, thereby broadening the socioeconomic diversity of

Edward E. Ford Endowment*

\$102,033

The Edward E. Ford Endowment is governed by a specific document of the donor. The corpus of the Endowment must remain untouched. The annual investment income in any given year is used for faculty professional development of the Upper School's teachers.

General Endowment Fund*

\$9.204.666

The General Endowment Fund is not governed by a specific document. The Board of Trustees may use the Fund at its discretion. Annual investment income is directed to support the operating budget.

Zaki Gordon '94 Alumni **Endowment Fund***

\$57,147

The Zaki Gordon '94 Alumni Endowment Fund was founded by Ms. Jo-Ann Gordon and Mr. Dan Gordon in memory of Zaki Gordon '94, and is governed by a document approved in March of 1994 by the Board of Trustees. The Head of School makes a recommendation and the Finance Committee directs the allocation of the Endowment's annual investment income for the purposes of "providing items not normally included in the operating budget" to "benefit the Arts and Science Programs."

The Joseph and Elizabeth Handley Endowment for **American Historical Studies**

\$4 213 845

The Joseph and Elizabeth Handley Endowment for American Historical Studies was established in 2004 with a bequest from Mrs. Elizabeth Handley, a long-time friend of the School and is governed by a specific document. The annual investment income of the Endowment supports the Voyage of Discovery trip to Williamsburg, Virginia and Washington D.C.; materials, buildings, books, and technology for educational programs specifically focused on American history; and a partial scholarship each year for a promising student based on achievement and interest in the field of American history. In 2018, the School approved the establishment of The Handley Chair for American Studies to honor a Viewpoint teacher who promotes intellectual inquiry and love of learning in the

States. The Handley Chair holder may be

a teacher of any discipline or grade level,

whose impact clearly promotes students'

understanding of our nation's values and

tradition and application of their learning

history, literature, and culture of the United

\$130.452

Established in 2017 by trustee Mr. Seth Casden '91, the endowment honors the late

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation **Endowed Scholarship Fund***

\$951,891

Established in 2010 by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, this endowment will provide annual tuition at Viewpoint School for an academically deserving student in the Upper School (Grades Nine-Twelve) from a lowto send their son or daughter to our School.

\$100.746

to provide financial assistance to deserving Latino students who wish to attend Viewpoint. but who are financially unable to do so. It is the donors' wish that the Endowment created by their gift be known as La Oportunidad Fund. This Endowment is governed by a specific document. The Endowment's investment income annually helps to fund the tuition of an excellent Latino student from a low-income family attending Viewpoint School. It is the donors' hope that, in addition to enhancing Viewpoint's ability to assist Latino students. the Endowment will inspire others to support this worthwhile goal and to contribute to this

2019-20 Donors

Mr. Andres Lessing '97 & Dr. Lindsay Rosenfeld Mrs. Jessica Lessing O'Leary '03 & Mr. Jim O'Leary Mr. Juan Lessing '00 Mr. Antonio & Mrs. Mary Rodriquez

The Dr. William Turner Levy **Endowment**

income family who otherwise would not be able

La Oportunidad Fund*

Mr. Miguel E. Lessing and Ms. Susan

Hurwitz established an endowment fund Endowment as well.

Established in 2015 by Mr. Xiaoyong Liu and Mrs. Yunhe Li, this Endowment will provide funds to support Viewpoint's Robotics Program.

Ms. Sharon Lovett, a former Chair of the

teacher (1986-91, 2000-03) was dedicated to inspiring her students with an appreciation and a love for music. She embodied the many personal qualities that Viewpoint wishes to instill in its students, and her spirit enriched our lives. As a tribute to Sharon, her parents,

faculty and program. The Dr. William Turner Levy Faculty Chair, Viewpoint's first endowed every two years for their exemplary work with

supports Dr. Levy's belief in the value of living experientially. Alumni he taught all remember fondly his recommendation to go out into the world and experience life. In addition to the stipend that accompanies the honorary endowed teaching chair, the proceeds from the endowment will provide resources for the Dr. the Middle and Upper Schools. Levy Chair holder to provide his or her students with a memorable educational experience that 2019-20 Donors

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine Mr. Seth Casden '91 Mrs. Laurel Baker Tew '78 & Mr. Chad Tew

would not otherwise be possible.

Provost and longtime beloved teacher, Dr.

William Levy Turner, who in his 29 years at

Viewpoint, inspired generations of Viewpoint

students to a lifetime love of learning. The Dr.

William Turner Levy Endowment will provide

support for two strategic enhancements to our

teaching chair, recognizes a faculty member

students that, like Dr. Levy, inspired them to

In addition, The Dr. William Turner Levy

Experiential Journey recognizes and

never stop learning.

Liu Family Endowment Fund for Robotics

\$132.045

2019-20 Donors

The Sharon Lovett Endowment for Music Education'

\$216,986

Music Department, choral conductor, and music

Dr. Robert and Mrs. Glenna Lovett, along with Sharon's family and friends, established The Sharon Lovett Endowment for Music Education to support students who qualify for financial aid and wish to further their musical instruction. The Endowment is governed by a specific document of the donors. The

investment income from the Endowment is awarded annually at the discretion of the Financial Aid Committee to assist students with rentals of instruments and other special costs associated with participating in the music program at Viewpoint School. Disbursements may fund instrumental music students at all grade levels and vocal or choral students in

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine Mrs. Tiffany Lovett Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

The Meryl Staley '06 **Endowment for the Theater Arts**

arts and participated in The Conservatory of Dance and The Conservatory of Theater at Viewpoint School. In memory of Meryl, her parents Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Javne Staley, along with Meryl's family and friends, established The Meryl Staley '06 Endowment for the Theater Arts. This endowment funds an award presented annually to the sophomore or junior in the Upper School who, through his or her quiet determination, selfless spirit, and commitment to excellence, inspires teamwork

and morale in the practice and performance of

Meryl Staley '06 had a passion for the theater

the theater arts. The Endowment is governed by a specific document of the donors, and the annual investment income supports a stipend for the winner of the Award for the cost of off-campus enrichment.

2019-20 Donors Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine Mr. Kevin & Mrs. Jayne Staley Mrs. Laurel Baker Tew '78 & Mr. Chad Tew

The Toye/Banzhaf Family **Endowment Fund for Film Education***

\$43 849

Established by Mrs. Sigrid Tove, a trustee emerita and former Viewpoint parent, the annual investment income of the Endowment fund supports film students of the Middle and Upper Schools (Grades Six through Twelve).

2019-20 Donors Mrs. Laurel Baker Tew '78 & Mr. Chad Tew

Viewpoint Excellence in Teaching

Endowment* \$252,616

The Board of Trustees established the Viewpoint Excellence in Teaching Endowment with the purpose of directing its annual distribution to award prizes on an annual basis to two members of the Viewpoint faculty for their excellence in teaching. The School's longterm goal is to grow this endowment in order to increase the number of prizes and/or to establish more endowed chairs.

Viewpoint Patriot Scholar-Athlete Endowment*

\$314.598

Callie Roskowinski '31, Koko Garnett '31, and Madee Beer-Dietz '31

VHWP(

Established in 2013 by Mr. Keith and Mrs. Nanette Leonard, this endowment will provide annual tuition assistance at the School for an academically qualified scholar-athlete in the Upper School (Grades Nine-Twelve), who has demonstrated a genuine curiosity for learning. Furthermore, this student will exemplify sound character, have proven financial need, and show a commitment to athletics.

The Woelfl Family Endowment* \$48,230

Mr. Rudy Woelfl, a trustee emeritus and former Viewpoint parent, and the Woelfl family established this Endowment in 2002 with the purpose of instilling in Viewpoint's students a curiosity and understanding of the biological (life) and physical sciences. The Endowment's annual investment income funds the purchase of science equipment for the Primary and Lower Schools' science classrooms.

*Note on Endowment Earnings and Distribution

The Board of Trustees maintains a comprehensive Endowment Spending Policy based on the advice of the Finance Committee and its Investment Subcommittee. The goal of the policy is to provide predictable, regular disbursement of annual interest earnings and to moderate the cyclical nature of actual market performance. Currently the Board has a standing spending rate of up to 4% of the previous 12 quarters rolling average in each endowment account. In years where earnings exceed 4%, the excess earnings shall remain in the fund to support distributions in years of low or negative earnings and to grow the balance of the fund to maintain purchasing power against inflation.

VIEWPOINT SCHOOL

TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL GIFTS

SPECIAL GIFTS



Usha '30 and Kirit Sarvaiya

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Ms. Fiona Bernet '20

Mr. Lamson & Mrs. Sally Rheinfrank

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Mr. Ron Antoine

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine

Mrs. Terri Bitticks

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine

Mrs. Susan Boething

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine

Mr. Cameron Calderone

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine Mr. Carter Hershey & Mrs. Tracy Calderone Hershey

Mrs. Mary Carpenter

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine

Ms. Peggy Corliss

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine

Mrs. Jennifer Cowen

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman

Mrs. Char Gailen

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine

Mr. Zaki Gordon '94

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Mr. Daniel Gordon

Mr. Michael Mantell

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine

Mr. Warren McNally

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman

Mr. Arthur O'Leary

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman

Mr. Brian Prinn

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman

Mr. Howard W. Sitton

& Mrs. Thelma Sitton

Mrs. Cathy & Mr. Neil Adelman Mrs. Claudia Antoine



Lauren, Justin, and Clayton '31 Sun and Elizabeth Sheffield

RESTRICTED

Viewpoint occasionally receives gifts that reflect a specific purpose. These gifts enrich the School's programs by providing items over and above those funded through the operating budget. However, as these gifts are not available to support annual operations, they are not considered contributions to the Viewpoint Fund and thus are listed separately.

Mr. Juan Alva & Dr. Annica Lin Amgen Inc. Mr. Robert & Ms. Kafi Blumenfield Mr. XiaoBing Cheng & Mrs. Min Tang Mr. John & Mrs. Mary Conlin The Driving Academy
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Mr. Darren & Mrs. Karin Gilford Mr. David & Mrs. Paige Glickman Mr. Jeff Glickman Mrs. Judy E. Glickman Lauder Mr. Daniel Gordon John Martin & Associates Mr. Gil & Mrs. Wendy Klier Mr. Simpson & Mrs. Lorraine Leonard Mr. Richard & Mrs. Iris Ritz Mr. Zackary Stentz & Ms. Leah Glynn Mr. John & Mrs. Annette Such UltraMobile

RESTRICTED FINANCIAL AID

Mr. Roland & Mrs. Maria Elena Wandeler Mr. David & Mrs. Tami Wank Mr. Frank & Mrs. Jaelee Watanabe Mr. Kejian Xiang & Ms. Lan Patty Zeng Mr. Ray Zhu & Ms. Grace Li

Mr. William & Mrs. Kathryne Garland

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Cash gifts received July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

Mr. Jonathon & Mrs. Stephanie Wolfson

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Each year, many individuals choose to donate items and services that fulfill a variety of needs at the School. From library books to computers, these unbudgeted items help support Viewpoint's programs.

Mrs. Joan Blake
Mr. Eric & Mrs. Robin Landau
Mrs. Amy & Mr. Hans Maentz
Mr. Steven & Mrs. Khani Nason
Dr. David Schreier
& Mrs. Michelle Marks-Schreier
Mr. Scott Tepper
Mr. Alex & Mrs. Viki White
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Stephanie Young
Mr. Ray Zhu & Ms. Grace Li

Mr. Stuart & Mrs. Kim Beattie

SPECIAL EVENTS SUPPORT

With sincere gratitude, Viewpoint wishes to extend special thanks to these generous families who provided resources for special events throughout the year.

Mr. Pasha & Mrs. Halé Behzadi Mr. Robert & Ms. Kafi Blumenfield Mr. John & Mrs. Mary Conlin Wells Fargo Mr. Jonathon & Mrs. Stephanie Wolfson

LEADERSHIP PARTY
SEPTEMBER 2019

Leadership Party / September 2019

The Annual Leadership Celebration took place on a lovely fall evening in September 2019. Over 100 dedicated leadership donors gathered to raise a glass with other enthusiastic and devoted supporters of Viewpoint School. This joyful gathering was an opportunity for the Board of Trustees and the School to show their deep appreciation for the generosity of our community members and their commitment to supporting the mission of the School to create the best possible learning environment for our students.



Rachelle Benson Yabrov and Tomer Yabrov P'31



Dean & Kathleen Rasmussen P'88 '91 '06 '08, GP'30 '31 '33



Mark McKee P'16, Morgan Wank '20, Abigail Sudit '20



Steven & Leslie Carlson P'01, GP'26 and Debbie & Ellis Stern P'00 '06 '10, GP'31 '33



Mary & John Conlin P'21'22



Cherilyn Shea P'26 & Lisa Austin P'26

WAYS TO GIVE

Every gift to Viewpoint is vital to the advancement of the School and to our efforts to enhance an excellent curriculum. Listed below are options you may consider when making your gift.

CASH

Gifts may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

STOCKS OR SECURITIES

A gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax saving: avoiding capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock and providing an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

MATCHING CORPORATE GIFTS

Many employers will match employees' donations. This opportunity presents an additional source of income for Viewpoint School and an easy way to leverage your gift into a larger donation. Please check this informative website to see if your employer matches charitable gifts. www. viewpoint.org/giving/matchinggifts

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Items may be donated to Viewpoint, such as computers, software, professional services, and athletic equipment, which provide operational savings and meet the specific needs of Viewpoint School. The School does not assign a dollar value to gifts-in-kind.

PLANNED GIFTS

Donors may consider giving through such means as life insurance, bequests, or charitable trusts. Gift planning can be a way to reduce or avoid estate and inheritance taxes. We encourage you to speak with your financial planner when considering any type of planned gift.

The School is pleased to provide you, your attorney, accountant, or tax advisor with additional information and assistance. Keep in mind that this information is general in nature. Always contact your professional tax advisor to learn how this general information relates to your individual circumstances. We are most grateful for your philanthropic

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Townes, Director of the Viewpoint Fund jennifer.townes@viewpoint.org

VIEWPOINT SCHOOL

23620 Mulholland Highway Calabasas, CA 91302 818-591-4441 phone 818-591-4473 fax www.viewpoint.org

The Annual Report of Viewpoint School is published once a year to provide a summary of the year's fund raising efforts and to recognize gifts received in the fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

For the purpose of this *Report*, donors may be listed in more than one constituency group. The Advancement Office has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information. If, however, an error or omission has been made, please accept our apologies and notify Mary Rodriquez: mary.rodriquez@viewpoint.org.

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Amy Maentz

Interim Assistant Head of School for Advancement

Trudy Baylock

Advancement Coordinator

Monica Case '90

Associate Director of Communications

Colette Connor

Director of Alumni Relations (2019-20)

Derek Krull

Director of Constituent Relations

& Advancement Special Events

Susan Marx

Director of Annual Giving (2019-20)

Verity Paton

Digital Marketing and Communications Manager

Mary Rodriguez

Director of Advancement Services

Director of Strategic Communications (2019-20) Director of the Viewpoint Network and Alumni Engagement

Associate Director of Research & Stewardship (2019-20)

Director of the Viewpoint Fund

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM 2020-21

Cathy Adelman

Head of Primary School

Claudia Antoine

Head of Lower School Adrienne Bononi

Director of Academic Systems and Institutional Research

Robert Bryan

Stephen Chan

Associate Head of School

Head of Middle School

Steve Cole

Assistant Head of School for Finance & Operations

Rhody Davis

Director of College Counseling

Anneke Emerson

Chief Innovation Office

LeRhonda Greats Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Life

Alan Howie

Head of Upper School

Heather Kruse

Chief Human Resources Officer

Amy Maentz

Interim Assistant Head of School for Advancement

Mark McKee

Head of School

Patrick Moyal

Director of Athletics/Dean of Co-Curriculum

Lissa Sholty

Chief Financial Officer (2019-20)

Laurel Baker Tew '78

Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Management



Viewpoint is **ALL IN** and here is why!

7,682 Disposable Face Masks Purchased

2,000 3-Sided Desk Shields/Partitions

300 Cloth/Reusable Masks Purchased

220 Sets of Tablemounted Plexiglas for Picnic Tables

180 Hand Sanitizing Stations

60 Cases of Wipes Purchased

16 Tents Rented

8 Touchless Sinks

Home Hardware Setups for Faculty

Including: Document Cameras, External Monitors, and Digital Tablets

Inspired Faculty

Financial Assistance

Academic Excellence

Technology Enhancements **Professional** Development

Distinguished Visual and Performing Arts

In a year of uncertainty, Viewpoint has adapted to provide an exceptional learning environment for our students, while ensuring the safety of our community. A contribution to the *Viewpoint Fund supports the teachers* and administrators who are ALL IN and continue to innovate and nurture the next generation of confident and compassionate leaders.

> Trustees Halé Behzadi P'10 '19 and Sarah Spano '05



Above photo left to right Liam Starobin '31, Claire Tang '27, Audrina Johnson '27, Olaitan Egberongbe '23



23620 Mulholland Highway Calabasas, CA 91302-2060

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Is this your preferred address?

If you did not receive this magazine at your current address (or parents of alumni, if your son or daughter no longer maintains a permanent residence at your home), please notify Jill Shaw, Director of the Viewpoint Network and Alumni Engagement (jill.shaw@viewpoint.org or 818-591-6670)