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Killeen valedictorian, salutatorian to study neuroscience, social work respectively

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The top two graduates of the Killeen High School Class of 2019 have learned through the International Baccalaureate program to think deeply and to maintain a sense of humor — about their future, the needs of others, even the sneakers they wear.

The valedictorian is Michael Tran. The salutatorian is Joseph Denton.

Tran held the top rank in the class for four years and said he takes seriously the status of No. 1 in the class. “The valedictorian represents the school. It’s a great deal of responsibility.”

He said the IB program has led him to “dive under the iceberg” to find the truth beneath the surface. It’s easy to look at the senior year as a series of “lasts” ending with a big goodbye. He said, though, it’s also a year of firsts as many students are the first in their family to go to college or earn a scholarship. He was part of the school tennis team that was the first to make it to the playoffs.

For all the contemplation, Tran said his address to his classmates will stay on the lighter side. After all, he is known to many as the “sneaker guy.”

The top-ranked KHS senior has accumulated a collection of sneakers that he said speaks to his own individuality and tells a story. He wore a pair most of last summer, for example, that now makes him think of the time he spent with his cousins in Philadelphia.

When he looks at a pair of shoes, he considers who inspired the design, how did the wearer acquire the sneakers — hard work saving the money or an indifferent choice of fashion, and how does one incorporate the footwear into life.

Entering high school, Tran said he wanted the most rigorous path and found that in IB. He has also taken lots of Advanced Placement courses. Both,



TODD MARTIN/KISD

Killeen High School valedictorian Michael Tran, right, and salutatorian Joseph Denton pose in the stairwell outside the school’s International Baccalaureate office and classrooms.

he said, end up with one test that determines how much credit you receive.

He credits his parents, Zizi Nguyen and Jason Tran, along with school counselors and teachers for allowing him to break out of the typical mold in challenging himself academically.

He plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and study neurosci-

ence in hopes of becoming a physician and a university professor.

The class salutatorian also comes at life outside the traditional mold.

“I wasn’t focused on class rankings, but I pushed myself harder to challenge myself and just kept going,” Denton said. “I was surprised (at the final rankings). It was like icing on

the cake. Really, I was just trying to further myself.”

The IB path requires significant community service and while pursuing that aspect, he found that those he wanted to help inspired him. Working in a local food bank and delivering food to residents, Denton developed an easy rapport and clients became friends.

“The smallest efforts on my part made a difference and inspired me and made me want to do more,” he said. He plans to go to the University of North Texas and study social work.

He has also considered his speech to his peers. “I want there to be humor,” he said. “I think a lot of us take life too seriously. You can only control yourself and it’s important to laugh instead of just complain.”

The salutatorian praised his teachers and said the IB program pushed him to learn time management skills, to embrace community service and to pursue well-rounded studies.

Killeen High School graduation is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, June 2 at the Bell County Expo Center.



QUANTIS DANIELS

CLASS OF 2019
Killeen High School

Quantis, we are so proud of you and the amazing young man you have become. Continue to work hard and keep the faith. The best is yet to come! We can’t wait to see your greatness. We love you son, Congratulations!



CIERRA PENN

CLASS OF 2019
Killeen High School

Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your next adventure, may you always dare to do great things with your life.

We love you!



CHRIS INGRAM

CLASS OF 2019
Killeen High School

You have obtained your first major goal now go for the 2 point conversion. Remember, there is more than one play to choose from to get those 2 points.

“It always seems impossible until it’s done”- Nelson Mandela

Top Ellison grads attribute success to diligent time management

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

After jockeying for position among the top three for four years, Chantelle Cancel and Laiba Khan said it was a relief to settle in as Ellison High School's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the Class of 2019.

In the highly competitive top academic rankings where fractions of points matter, Cancel said she figured she had tumbled from the top following a single disappointing chemistry test, but she maintained her top ranking through four years of stellar performance.

"I had a little bit of a scare and thought I might drop, but I didn't," she said. "Of course, I'm excited and my parents are ecstatic."

"There was some uncertainty," said Khan, who tied with Cancel at No. 1 in the first class ranking report their freshman year, before wavering between the second and third positions. "It's something we've been fighting for: I wanted to be first or second."

The pair have known each other since attending Patterson Middle School together first as seventh-graders and while they acknowledge the competition among the top students, they said it is friendly and they all count on one another for support.

The top graduates have stayed extensively busy and both say their active schedules have motivated them to stay organized and to perform at their best.



TODD MARTIN | KISD

Ellison High School valedictorian Chantelle Cancel, left, poses with salutatorian Laiba Khan in front of a mural of the Ellison Eagle.

Cancel played volleyball all four years, including three years on varsity. The past two years, she has attended the Texas Bioscience Institute at Temple College and is set to receive an associate's degree through that program.

That's not all. She is part of Ellison's Leadership Academy and chaired the group's annual leadership conference this year. She is president of the National Honor Society and was a student council officer her junior year.

She also has two jobs, coaching children's volleyball and working

at H-E-B. Incredibly, as a senior, she decided to join the varsity softball team, too.

When asked how in the world she does it all, she smiles as if she's accustomed to the surprise. "It helps me," she said. "All those activities force me to manage my time. Staying busy has helped me."

Khan is similarly engaged. She also completed the TBI program and will earn an associate degree from Temple College. She also took part in Ellison's Leadership Academy and played a large role in this year's student leadership conference and

she played tennis.

She agreed that the full load forced her to take steps to stay prepared. The diligent student said she developed a routine, giving herself Friday night off, knowing most of her weekends would be consumed with academic pursuits.

"I learned how I study," Cancel said. "I got to where I felt guilty if I was on my phone because I knew I needed to study. It kept me going."

"TBI helped tremendously," Khan said as Cancel nodded agreement. The pair said the early college experience gave them a needed push and exposed them to a taste of what awaits them at the university level.

The daughter of Jose and Yuneisy Cancel is headed to the University of Texas to study biology in a premed program.

The daughter of Abdul and Perveen Khan is going to Texas A&M University to study biomedical science in a premed program.

The Ellison High School graduation is Sunday, June 2 at 7 p.m. at the Bell County Expo Center.



**K'ZARRIAH
DENISE OWENS**

CLASS OF 2019
Ellison High School

There are not enough words to express how proud we are of you and all that you have accomplished. Always remember Joshua 1:9 and your manners and you will go far in life. We love you! Dad, Mom & Kennedy!

Graduation season is a special time of the year

BY BARTON GOLDSMITH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's that time of year again. Graduation. Finals have been taken (and hopefully passed!), and thoughts of the future can loom large, whether you are mov-

ing on from high school or from college to be let loose on an unsuspecting world.

Graduating from high school and going to college or to your next level of education is usually pretty exciting. But the feelings of those who have completed

their education can be more complex. These days, over 80% of college graduates will move back home.

Some will go straight into their first jobs, others will elect to take a little time before they accept an offer, and still others will decide

to return to school for a higher degree. All of these new opportunities and adventures are potentially wonderful. But this stage can also be challenging.

Sometimes we can't tell

PLEASE SEE **SEASON, 5**

Shoemaker valedictorian, salutatorian came out of shells during high school

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The top two graduates of this year's Shoemaker High School class are naturally reserved and quiet, but found their places in the large school and maintained a strong, steady course to the highest academic rankings.

Valedictorian Melissa Lane said she has been the top-ranked student in the Class of 2019 since her sophomore year, but barely believed it until the final ranking report.

"It's still kind of shocking," she said. "My dad really pushed me and challenged me to take difficult classes."

She took a full load of Advanced Placement courses and dual credit through Central Texas College, always favoring math, which she said "makes sense to me."

Both her dad, Rodney Lane and her older sister, Patricia Lane, have been strong influences in her life.

Acknowledging she is naturally introverted, Lane said she found



TODD MARTIN | KISD

The Shoemaker High School Class of 2019 valedictorian Melissa Lane, left, and salutatorian Isabella Sibrian pose at the school.

broader circles of friends through the school's book club and the Science National Honor Society.

She is planning to attend Texas A&M University and study applied math to become an actuary and eventually to teach.

When asked what it takes to finish

at the top of the class, she said it's about working hard, challenging yourself and knowing your own limitations.

Shoemaker salutatorian Isabella Sibrian moved to Texas with her family from California as a 13-year-old and was not happy about the move

until she got involved with Student 2 Student, an organization that helps new students acclimate.

She attended the organization's national training conference in Washington, D.C. "S2S has influenced me a lot," she said. "It's expanded my boundaries. I am reserved, but I've become more outgoing."

Sibrian competed on the Shoemaker varsity swim team and took classes at the Career Center and earned emergency medical technician certification.

When she addresses her classmates, she said she will express gratitude to her many supporters and urge her peers "to be OK with yourself" and not to listen to negativity.

The daughter of Siomara and Jose Sibrian and granddaughter of Jose Rosales Soto plans to attend the University of Texas and study neuroscience with plans to be a neurosurgeon.

Shoemaker High School graduation is scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday, June 1 at the Bell County Expo Center.

SEASON

FROM PAGE 4

the difference between excitement and anxiety, and it's important to remember that feelings aren't always facts. Remind your kids to tread lightly when they first step out into the real world. School and home are protected environments. The workplace is not.

Gaining a skill set is different from gaining knowledge. Skills come as you enter the workforce. Hopefully the education your children have received will prepare them for what lies ahead, and even if they aren't really prepared, a lot of enthusiasm can make up for any shortcomings you may perceive.

Whatever lies ahead, graduation is a time to celebrate with your child.

It's the culmination of their education, and seeing their name on a diploma is something that can never be taken away from them.

If you are the parent of a graduating senior, whether from high school or college (or even elementary school!), be sure to share your joy loud and clear.



**TYLIAH JÉH
SYMONE WILLIAMS**

CLASS OF 2019
Shoemaker High School

Tyliah Jéh, you are an amazing and beautiful young lady. I am so proud of you and the accomplishments you have made. You will succeed with excellence in everything. I love you and I am proud to be your Mom.



**DONJANA' DORISE'
ALLGOOD**

CLASS OF 2019
Shoemaker High School

Daddy, Mommy, Nanny and the family are proud of your academic achievements. Watch out Texas Southern University; here she comes. You are set to be a light in the darkness. Keep GOD first and there are no limits. We love you; best wishes in all your endeavors.

Harker Heights' top graduates headed to Texas universities

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The top two seniors set to graduate from Harker Heights High School have known each other since elementary school, attended the Texas Bioscience Institute together and value time spent outside the traditional classroom.

Valedictorian Jeesoo Min and salutatorian Rana Radwan have excelled in the competitive arena of academic success and emerged as friends ready for life's next challenge.

They came at it differently.

Min spent her early years in Korea and learned, along with her family, the English language and the American education system.

Academics has always been important to her, but not at the expense of the rest of life.

"I have a competitive spirit, but I really wasn't going for No. 1," she said. "I've been well-rounded. I never focused on one area of study and that has given me a good foundation."

She completed the TBI dual credit program and she's one of two students who became the first in Killeen ISD history to earn All-State Orchestra honors.

Radwan is also impressively accomplished. She is a state winner in UIL student congress, which mimics legislative debate and also completed the TBI program. She's also been active in theater the past two years.

As a freshman, the salutatorian said she found out she was ranked No. 10 in her class and at that point began to



TODD MARTIN | KISD

Top graduates for the Harker Heights High School Class of 2019 are valedictorian Jeesoo Min, right, and salutatorian Rana Radwan. The Harker Heights High School graduation ceremony is Saturday, June 1 at the Bell County Expo Center.

learn about class ranking and worked diligently on her grades and course choices.

"TBI and debate helped shape me," Radwan said. "Those experiences put me outside the regular learning environment. I learned how to be a good writer and how to present myself well."

The experience at TBI, which affected her draw to the STEM fields, also was important in building a peer network throughout Central Texas. "We came from different high schools and worked together."

Another important growing experience, Radwan said, was diving into theater productions her last two years, what she called an "unconventional challenge outside the normal learning

environment."

The busy, active schedule between Harker Heights and Temple and including extracurricular competition helped the driven student to learn more about herself, test her limits and set boundaries, she said.

"I do a lot with passion and I am a perfectionist," she said. "I find joy in doing it all well. It does take some will power to continue." She is headed to Texas A&M University to study biomedical sciences.

Min found out as a freshman that she was ranked third in her class. She bumped up to the top rank her junior year.

Like Radwan, the valedictorian found experiences outside the typical classroom setting important and

influential.

As an orchestra student, she performed at the high school graduation ceremonies and the Starmakers banquets that honors the top-10 seniors from all the KISD high schools. Those experiences exposed her to older, high-ranking students and to TBI.

"I met older kids in TBI and saw that it was a great program," Min said. "I saw it as a great opportunity. I think the isolation helps our focus and the instructors at the college do a great job interacting with students."

"Being involved in school organizations has allowed me to build a lot of connections and find other people. I love the school community, but honestly, I'm ready to go."

Following a summer trip to Korea to visit family and friends, Min is headed to the University of Texas at Austin to study electrical and computer engineering. She is the daughter of Hae Kyung Kim and Robb Kubiak-Cherkaski.

Harker Heights High School graduation is 3 p.m. Saturday, June 1 at the Bell County Expo Center.



JILLIAN BENNETT

CLASS OF 2019
Harker Heights High School

Congratulations! Now go forward and live your dreams! Remember wherever you are, whatever you do, wherever life takes you, I will always love you, be proud of you, and always believe in you! Te amo mucho, LYTTMABAMT. Love ya! Grandma

The best graduation gifts that can make a first apartment home

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Commencement, of course, is not an end, but a beginning. And one of the things that commences after commencement is finding a new place to live. Which will need to be outfitted

in some of the latest modern conveniences. Here, gift giver, is where you can pitch in. These are four of CNET's top picks for tech gifts that any recent grad can put to good use.

- Lenovo Smart Display 10
CNET rating: 4.5 stars out of 5

(Outstanding)

The good: The Lenovo Smart Display is a great kitchen assistant with an elegant design and a high-resolution touchscreen. It multitasks

PLEASE SEE **GIFTS, 7**

Early College top students share thoughts on first graduating class

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The top graduates of the first Early College High School senior class in Killeen ISD are aware of their historic status and hope to inspire others to follow their impressive lead.

Mohammad Khan is the valedictorian and Joshua Munroe is the salutatorian of the Class of 2019 for the KISD Early College High School, now completing its fourth year and graduating its first class.

Both attended Reeces Creek Elementary School and Patterson Middle School before applying and receiving selection through lottery in the inaugural ECHS class.

Khan was ranked first academically from the start, but said “I knew I would have to work hard among my peers.”

“It’s really a prestigious honor,” said Munroe, who was at one time tied for the top spot and as low as fourth, before finishing second. “This is such a supportive network. People guided me along the way.”

“It’s so important,” said Khan, “to represent Early College High School with humility and integrity as the first valedictorian.”

The son of Ausaf and Shabnam Khan immigrated to the United



TODD MARTIN | KISD

Killeen ISD Early College High School’s first valedictorian is Mohammad Khan, right, and the first salutatorian is Joshua Munroe. The school, a partnership between Central Texas College and Killeen ISD is celebrating its first senior class this year with graduation scheduled May 31 at the Bell County Expo Center.

States with his family as a 6-year-old from Pakistan. He considers English his third language after Urdu and Hindi.

He praised his close-knit family and the Muslim community in Killeen for providing him support. “I wouldn’t be in this position without them,” he said.

Munroe grew up with grandparents Raymond and Amy Santos, natives of the Philippines, his mother Aimee Munroe and aunt Jasmine Santos. His family also gave key support and nurtured an open-minded environment.

The two top seniors spoke highly of friends and educators and said they

hoped to bring encouragement to their peers when they deliver speeches during graduation ceremonies.

“Really my motivation has been to make myself and my family proud,” Munroe said. “In middle school, I didn’t really think something like this was possible. It was important for me to keep telling myself and hearing that I could do it.”

“I always wanted to finish No. 1,” Khan said. “It will make my family and the Muslim community proud. The school has provided support and structure and broadened my worldview.”

“I want to share my journey, to encourage my peers to strive for success and don’t let high school be your biggest win,” the valedictorian said of his speaking plans.

“I want to push the idea that we will make history for the whole planet,” Munroe said. “We can make a positive change in the world.”

Munroe plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio to study English in a pre-medical program. Khan is headed to Texas A&M University to study biomedical science in pursuit of a career in radiation oncology.

Killeen ISD Early College High School graduation is set for 1 p.m. Friday, May 31 at the Bell County Expo Center.

GIFTS

FROM PAGE 6

well, responds quickly to both touch and voice commands and offers a rich, personalized home screen and a customizable ambient mode.

The bad: The screen could do more when you play games or listen to music. You’re limited to Google Duo for making voice calls. Scrolling through content with your voice can be tedious.

The cost: \$199.99 to \$249.99

The bottom line: If you’d like visual recipe help in the kitchen, the Lenovo Smart Display performs that task exceedingly well and everything else well enough that it deserves your consideration.

• Belkin WeMo Mini Wi-Fi Smart Plug

CNET rating: 4.0 stars out of 5 (Excellent)

The good: At \$30 (or less), the new WeMo Mini is competitively priced, and the smaller design won’t block adjacent outlets. Native compatibility with IFTTT, Google Home, Apple HomeKit and Amazon’s Alexa make

it one of the most well-connected smart plugs you can buy.

The bad: The WeMo Mini won’t track energy usage like other smart plugs will. And, though you probably won’t use it very much, the WeMo app is sluggish and glitchy at times.

The cost: \$24.99 to \$29.99

The bottom line: There’s plenty of new competition out there, but the WeMo Mini is still one of the easiest smart home gadgets for us to recommend.

• Bonavita Metropolitan 8-Cup coffee brewer

CNET rating: 3.5 stars out of 5 (Very good)

The good: The Bonavita Metropolitan brews excellent coffee for a very reasonable price.

It’s simple to use, compact and easy to clean.

The bad: It doesn’t have a thermal carafe. Coffee in its glass carafe cools quickly. Its body is all plastic.

The cost: \$68.76 to \$79.99

The bottom line: Buy the Bonavita Metropolitan coffee maker for its low price and excellent drip, but slow drinkers should save up for a thermal carafe model.

AREA GRADUATION TIMES & LOCATIONS

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

The following are the times, dates and locations of area high school graduation ceremonies in chronological order:

- Lampasas High School graduation will be at 7:30 p.m. May 24 at Badger Stadium. (In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at Lampasas High School.)
- Copperas Cove High School commencement will be at 2 p.m. May 25 at the Bell County Expo Center.
- Cove ISD's Crossroads High School graduation will be at 6 p.m. May 24 at Lea Ledger Auditorium, 400 S. 25th St., in Cove.
- Belton New Tech High School graduation will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 30, at the Bell County Expo Center.
- Belton High School graduation will be at 7 p.m. May 30 at the Bell County Expo Center.
- Florence High School graduation will be at 8 p.m. Friday, May 31, at the

Florence High School Stadium.

- The first graduation ceremony of Early College High School will be 1 p.m. Friday, May 31, at the Bell County Expo Center.
 - Temple High School's commencement will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 1, at the Bell County Expo Center.
 - Shoemaker High School's graduation will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 1, at the Bell County Expo Center.
 - Harker Heights High School's graduation will begin at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 1, at the Bell County Expo Center.
 - Killeen High School will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at the Bell County Expo Center.
 - Ellison High School graduation will be at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at the Bell County Expo Center.
- Several districts offer live-streaming for those who can't attend ceremonies. Visit the appropriate school district's website for more information.



TODD MARTIN | KISD

Top graduates of the Central Texas College Class of 2019 wait for the rest of their 430 classmates to make their way into the Bell County Expo Center arena Friday for the school's commencement ceremony. Killeen ISD Early College High School students wear gowns with gold on their sleeves and an ECHS logo, while the other CTC graduate candidates wear the traditional plain black gowns.

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Copperas Cove's top graduates ready for next stage in their education

BY DAVID PERDUE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Both the valedictorian and the salutatorian of Copperas Cove High School believe their experiences as military kids have helped prepare them for the next stage in life.

"It really helps you adapt to change and changing environments," valedictorian Noah Gonzales said of moving to different cities and different schools before winding up in Copperas Cove for his last three years of high school.

"Which I think both of us can agree is essential to college," salutatorian Abdiel Hernandez-Lopez chipped in.

The top two graduates at Copperas Cove High School share a love a science, though they'll be studying different disciplines.

Gonzales is the son of Erica and Vincente Gonzales of Copperas Cove. He plans to study computing at the University of Texas at Dallas.

"It has one of the best computer science programs," Gonzales said, "and it gave me a lot of money." He didn't quite get a full ride, but will wind up paying a lot less than he would have at another college.

His four years at UT-Dallas are



Valedictorian Noah Gonzales

just the first step on a long educational journey for Gonzales. He plans to use his degree in computer science to start his career, then continue his education in hopes of getting his Ph.D. Eventually, he'd like to study more theoretical forms of computer science such as quantum computing.

"Those are the interesting fields," Gonzales said.

Hernandez-Lopez is the son of Glenda Lopez and Jose Hernandez. He plans to become an aerospace engineer, and he's already taken steps to reach that goal. He participated in the NASA High School



Salutatorian Abdiel Hernandez-Lopez

Aerospace Scholars program, building a model Mars greenhouse as part of the rigorous coursework he completed.

"The opportunity to take a course that was created by NASA that met educational standards ... that just wasn't an opportunity that I could pass up," Hernandez-Lopez said.

While the salutatorian talked very enthusiastically about his future focus on science, he's also filled his high school years with sports and community service. He's participated on the swim team, worked on projects at local nursing homes and at Fort Hood and served as a mem-

ber of the Copperas Cove Youth Advisory Council.

Hernandez-Lopez plans to go to the Georgia Institute of Technology, more commonly known as Georgia Tech. He's excited about the possibility of joining a team of other engineers-in-training to design, build and fly their own plane as part of their studies.

Both students are very grateful to their parents and their teachers for all they've done to help them toward success.

They've started working on their speeches for graduation, though both admit it's not an easy task.

"For me, at least, it's difficult to find a topic that ... I feel is pertinent enough and impactful enough," Gonzales said.

They both are looking forward to starting college and beginning their journey toward their goals, whether that's advancing computer science or one day heading into outer space.

Hernandez-Lopez had a very short answer when asked if he would join the Space Force if it meant a trip to the moon or to Mars.

"Sign me up," he said, smiling.

Copperas Cove High School's graduation will be at 2 p.m. May 25 at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton.

Five tips to help the Class of 2019 get ready to pay back student loans

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

May is officially graduation season for college students, marking that pivotal transition from academia to adulthood. Navigating what's next often includes finding a job, deciding where to live, and preparing for other responsibilities like paying back student loans.

Sallie Mae has tools and

resources to help recent graduates get on the right track. The company's "Manage your student loans" is a one-stop source of straightforward, comprehensive information. It features practical tools, including a monthly budget worksheet and a loan payment estimator, as well as easy-to-understand explanations of complex subjects, like how interest accrues,

how payments are allocated to principal and interest, and how to build a strong credit history.

Whether student loans are federal or private, Sallie Mae recommends the following tips to help recent grads manage their payments:

- Get organized. Students who borrowed to pay for college are given a six-month grace period after gradua-

tion when no payments are required. This is the ideal time to get prepared. Start by understanding what you owe — whether loans are federal or private — and how much you owe, including interest rates and any accrued interest. Think about other expenses, too. Using Sallie Mae's budget worksheet can help you get organized.

- Check your inbox. Open any mail you receive from

your lender or student loan servicer and read it carefully. Update your contact information when you leave school — including your e-mail address. If you run into trouble, don't ignore it. Touch base with your cosigner if you have one or contact your lender or servicer.

- Make payments automatic. Sign up for automatic pay-

PLEASE SEE **LOANS, 10**

Gatesville's top students will miss their close friendship as they head to college

BY DAVID PERDUE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Gatesville High School valedictorian Alison Holden thinks she may have destined to wind up at the top of her class.

"When I was in the fifth grade, my English Language Arts teacher ... looked at my parents and said, 'Your daughter could easily be valedictorian,'" Holden said, laughing.

But she still had to put in the work to secure that outcome, and Holden said learning she was valedictorian was actually kind of a relief.

"All these years of hard work actually culminated in me actually achieving this goal that I had for several years,"

Kennedy Berry was excited to learn that she would be giving a speech to her class as salutatorian.

"I just want to be able to talk to my class and hope that I leave an impact on them with what I can say," Berry said.

The pair of graduating seniors have had an impact on their class through their academic achievement and school activities. Both are drum majors in the high school band, providing leadership for their classmates while supporting each other and maintaining a close friendship that formed when they were young.



Valedictorian Alison Holden

Holden and Berry will be going their separate ways after graduation. Holden will be attending Baylor University and will major in music education, with hopes of becoming a band director or an elementary music teacher.

Berry will be heading to Tarleton State University and plans to major in geosciences, with an aim to become a paleontologist.

"I was watching a YouTube video that related the Bible to dinosaurs," Berry said when asked why she chose paleontology. "I just found that really interesting and (when) I got to looking more into it ... I thought how cool it looked to do that."

Berry plans to try out for the col-



Salutatorian Kennedy Berry

lege softball team once she gets to Tarleton State.

Both Holden and Kennedy realize they will face some new challenges once they reach college.

"I'm really going to have to ... balance my time between doing my homework and socializing," Holden said. She feels she didn't socialize enough in high school and hopes to remedy that in college.

Berry agreed that time management might be an issue in college, but doesn't think she has any problems making new friends at Tarleton State.

Holden said her parents, David and Betty Holden, deserve a great deal of credit for achievement.

"They've really pushed me to grow

and to challenge myself intellectually, and they've raised me to be at least what I consider a decent human being."

She also credits her band director Jose Sanchez and the band staff for helping her deal with rough patches by listening when she needed to talk.

Berry said her parents, Donna and Jeff Berry, are a key part of her success in high school. But she also credits her teachers for their influence. She is especially grateful for the guidance of softball coach Jaime Villarrial, saying he's been a big part of her support system at the school.

Holden and Berry have been a big part of each other's support system as well.

"Alison is the person that I could turn to if I had a problem," Berry said. "She's the first person if I had a problem to show up. It means a lot to have a friendship like this."

"Kennedy and I (were born) 12 days apart," Holden said, noting that she is the older of the two. "Our dads actually went to school together. So many things have just tied us together in our lives up to this point."

"Sometimes, as it's getting near to the end of the year, I'll just look at Kennedy and I'll start tearing up. It's going to be difficult, going and making new friends and not being able to see her all the time."

LOANS

FROM PAGE 9

ments, and you'll never have to worry about missing a payment, you'll avoid late fees, and you might qualify for a discount on your interest rate. Sallie Mae customers may be eligible to receive a 0.25 percent interest rate reduction when they pay on-time via auto-debit. Paying on time also helps establish and build a favorable credit history, and that can make a big

difference when you apply for a car loan, credit card, lease, mortgage, or even a job.

- Consider paying a little extra. If you can, make more than the minimum payment each month. You'll pay off your loan faster, and you'll pay less interest. Sallie Mae's accrued interest calculator can estimate how much you might save.

- Use Sallie Mae Mobile App to make payments. If you are a Sallie Mae customer, you now have the ability to make and manage payments

anytime, anywhere, including from an Apple Watch or by using Siri, and the App is available for iPhone and Android.

To help with the transition to repayment, Sallie Mae also offers a Graduated Repayment Period, which allows graduates with eligible Sallie Mae loans in good standing to make 12 months of interest-only payments before they transition into making full principal and interest payments. Sallie Mae is the first private student lender to offer a Graduated Repay-

ment Period option.

"Research tells us that young adults are hungry for more information about how best to manage their finances, and for many, paying back student loans is one of their first experiences in doing just that," said Martha Holler, senior vice president, Sallie Mae. "Of course, it's critical to start out on the right foot, and that means getting prepared. Doing a little bit of homework in advance will set students up for success in the long run."

Hard work, study pays off for top Lampasas graduates

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

High school — and especially senior year — can be a difficult time for even the best of students.

In addition to taking end-of-course exams, there is pressure to get into a first-choice school, as well as finding time to spend one last summer with friends before everyone starts moving away.

While juggling all of this, some students still manage to go above and beyond, rising to the top of their class as valedictorian and salutatorian.

At Lampasas High School, those titles were claimed by Macey Pace and Brandon Longoria, respectively, for the 2018-2019 school year. Both Pace and Longoria spent their entire school careers in the Lampasas Independent School District, and years of hard work and diligent study eventually paid off in spades.

The two students were not officially told they were the valedictorian and salutatorian until the first week of May — barely one month before school ended.

Pace is set to end the school year with a 5.562 grade-point average, and Longoria will graduate with a 5.335 GPA.

“We had an idea before they told us that we were at least probably in the top five,” Pace said. “When they finally told us, it felt like a weight had



Valedictorian Macey Pace

been lifted off my shoulders. When I was in 7th grade I actually told my 7th-grade teacher that I wanted to be valedictorian.”

Longoria said being named salutatorian gave him an immense feeling of satisfaction.

“It just felt so good to know that my hard work had paid off,” he said. “I immediately told my mom, and my whole family was excited, they are all very supportive of me and of what I do.”

Both Pace and Longoria have big plans for their college years and future professions, as well. Pace said that she is going to attend Texas A&M University-College Station and she will be studying public health.

“I actually had no idea what that was until I got recruited for it this



Salutatorian Brandon Longoria

past fall, all I knew was that I wanted to do something medicine-related, and this seemed like a perfect fit,” she said. “My entire family has gone to the (University of Texas) and I was all ready to go UT, too, when I got an email from A&M asking me to attend a public health day event.

“I went, and it was basically only 22 kids who had been selected to go, and they offered us admission to their honors program, and that convinced me to attend. I want to end up doing some type of surgery, whether it be trauma or neo-natal surgery.”

Longoria has plans to attend Texas State University, where he will be majoring in communication design.

“I didn’t actually know communication design was a thing until a few months ago, and it actually encom-

passes everything I want to do with my life,” he said. “Communication design involves color placement and just the whole intent of art and what it does. In the long-term I would like to eventually have a functional art exhibit company, maybe starting in an area like Austin and working my way out from there.”

Of course, before the college semester starts, Pace and Longoria have to make it through the summer, and both of them are planning on taking plenty of time to relax.

“In all of my past summers I’ve been working or prepping for school, so for the first time I want to have fun, and my family and I actually have a big trip to Hawaii coming up,” Pace said.

Longoria said his goal is to just spend as much time with friends as possible before school starts.

“I want to spend as much time as I can with family and friends before I end up being busy with school work again,” he said. “That is a pretty traditional summer for me.”

Neither Pace nor Longoria had written their graduation speeches by the second week of May, but they said the school had at least given them their themes: Pace said she is supposed to talk about the future, while Longoria is meant to focus on the past.

The Lampasas senior class is set to graduate at 7:30 p.m. May 24 at Badger Stadium.

Make sense of your summer travel preferences with these tips

FAMILY FEATURES

Seasoned travelers know that no two trips are exactly the same, even when revisiting the same location. The weather changes, your personal life and perspective evolve and any combina-

tion of factors makes each experience unique. However, if you’re like most travelers, your preferences guide your journeys no matter how far you venture from home.

According to a survey of American travelers from vacation rental app and website

Vrbo, people are united by a common desire to travel with friends and family. In fact, 52% of respondents said a family vacation is their reason for travel in 2019, and more people said they will travel with a group of four or more this year than last year.

That’s where the generational similarities end, however.

Determining where to go and what you’ll do depends quite a bit on your age. Your stage of life significantly impacts the places you dream about visiting, the reasons you travel and what you look

for when you get there, according to the survey.

CHOOSING A DESTINATION

Your definition of a dream vacation is likely to shift along with variables like

PLEASE SEE **TRAVEL, 12**

Florence High School valedictorian and salutatorian look toward the future

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The two top academic achievers from Florence High School this year both count their fathers as their heroes and both are hard-working students looking toward the future.

Adrian Nimeh, Florence High School's valedictorian, said his family has struggled through the years, but his father kept everything together.

"Every day has been spent in uncertainty of what may come," Nimeh said. "With Mom being ill, Dad takes care of her. I look up to him because through all the hardship over the years, he's managed not only to keep us afloat but to encourage me and my siblings to keep going and be the best we possibly can."

Nimeh, who was homeschooled until his freshman year of high school, learned to do things his own way.

"My success has hinged on me taking things into my own hands and working at it," he said.

He said he has always enjoyed STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, math) and excelled on the school's robotics team. Nimeh will be attending the University of Texas at Dallas to study neuroscience with the goal of becoming a professor



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence High School Salutatorian Terry "TJ" Strong, Jr., left, and Valedictorian Adrian Nimeh both are looking toward the future but will cherish their memories from high school.

or researcher in the field.

He said his personality is summed up in small ways.

"I believe that it's the small acts of kindness and willingness to help throughout the day that show who I truly am," Nimeh said.

He's accustomed to hard work and he expects new opportunities to open in Dallas. "I'm looking forward to the freedom I will gain, but I'll cherish the memories of my friends in the robotics club: they are so fun-loving

and down-to-earth."

Florence's salutatorian, Terry "TJ" Strong Jr., worked hard to earn the academic honor, and he'll keep up the hard work when he attends a trade school to study diesel mechanics and welding.

The future heavy equipment mechanic was active in the Florence FFA program, where he learned the art of time management while competing in agricultural mechanics and wildlife competitions.

"I pulled a lot of long hours studying and had to pass up social activities to get my work done and prepare for exams and contests," Strong said. "It took a lot of dedication not to get distracted by my peers and other activities."

Strong's family is one reason for his success.

"I look up to my dad because he had a rough upbringing, but he didn't let that get in the way of his future and raising my siblings and me in a positive way," he said.

Strong is a determined sort of person.

"When I set my mind to achieve something, I go after it 100 percent," he said. "We were a competitive class, so I definitely couldn't slack off on my school work so I'm proud of this accomplishment."

Leaving high school is a time of anticipation.

"I'll cherish my memories of competing alongside my two best friends in the wildlife competitions, traveling across the state," Strong said. "I'm excited about going out on my own and being self-dependent, and honing my skills in my future profession."

Florence High School graduation will be at 8 p.m. Friday, May 31, at the Florence High School Stadium.

TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 11

your life stage, income and available free time. Limitations in any of those areas may make a certain destination a far-off dream during one stage of life but an attainable retreat during another.

The disparity between dream and reality signals that barriers of time and money are the deciding factors for whether Americans will take that dream vacation. This holds true for

every age group, although millennials (37%) are more likely to go into debt for travel than Generation Xers (27%) and baby boomers (15%).

REASONS FOR TRAVELING

Relaxation is a primary reason for traveling, which can help you disconnect from the stress of daily life and reconnect with family and friends. Whether it's curiosity or a much-anticipated trip to celebrate a special occasion with a family member, many trips have a specific purpose. Understanding why you want to travel can make it much easier to plan.

Although younger travelers are most likely to make exploration a priority on their journeys, the Vrbo survey revealed that travel isn't always about adventure, as 20% of travelers ages 35-54 are likely to travel for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary. In addition, only 6% of baby boomers said they would travel for a hobby or activity like skiing, surfing or hiking, compared with 23% of millennial respondents.

AMENITIES THAT MATTER

The amenities you can access during your getaway may vary greatly

depending on where you go and the type of trip you plan. From electronics and fully stocked kitchens to swimming pools and pet-friendly features, plenty of options are available to help ensure your perfect vacation lodging includes all the amenities you require.

If you're like most travelers, keeping connected is a major requirement. In fact, 75% of respondents listed access to the internet via WiFi as an important amenity when traveling, outranking traditional must-haves like TV and air-conditioning, according to the survey.

Belton High School's top graduates inspired by family members

BY MARIEL WILLIAMS
FME NEWS SERVICE

BELTON — Belton High School's top graduates are valedictorian Jacob Jimenez and salutatorian Marcus Ake.

Jimenez is the son of Amy and Raymon Jimenez of Belton, and Ake is the son of Ania and Arthur Ake of Belton.

Jimenez said the example of his parents and other relatives motivates him to excel.

"My dad always told me to do everything with all my might, and so trying my absolute best in everything I did has always been my mantra," he said. "His parents were Mexican immigrants, and so ... going to college, him going to West Point — education really saved them from the poverty of being migrant workers."

Ake said he has been working to be one of his school's top graduates for a long time.

"It was really important to me because I'm going to be a first-generation college student, and both of my parents have had to work really, really hard for what they've earned, and so I'm just trying to do the same thing — just work hard and do the best that I can do," he said.



Valedictorian Jacob Jimenez

Jimenez did not consider aiming for class valedictorian until seeing his high standing in freshmen class rankings at the beginning of his high school career.

"That was another avenue I could become my absolute best in," he said.

Ake plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to study meteorology. Learning about severe weather has been his passion ever since an incident at his family's former home in Killeen when he was a kindergartener.

"We were all sitting on the couch, and the lights in our house flickered,"



Salutatorian Marcus Ake

he remembered. "There wasn't a thunderstorm; it was kind of just a cloudy day. We turned on the TV to a news station, and they showed a tornado going through a park in my neighborhood."

The tornado was just a few blocks from the Ake family home.

"Since we didn't have any warning, and it wasn't a very strong storm, it's just been my goal to do what I can to help people ... get out of Mother Nature's path," he said.

Ake said he didn't know at the time how dangerous a tornado could be, but once he did, he was fascinated.

"I just kind of didn't completely grasp it — I knew that something good wasn't happening," he said. "After that, I wasn't scared, it was just like something just switched. I felt like this was the reason God put me on earth, for meteorology."

Jimenez will attend Harvard University in the fall. He knows he wants to be an engineer, but is not entirely certain what direction that will take in his college career.

"The engineering mantra is like solving the world's greatest problems," he said. "Even though I'm not passionate about a single problem ... I want to learn the problem-solving techniques."

He tentatively plans to major in engineering sciences.

"The reason I chose Harvard is because it's a way to get a broad education about the broad range of issues you can study ... and have a couple of years until you decide when you concentrate," he said.

Graduation for Belton High will be at 7 p.m. May 30 at the Bell County Expo Center, 301 W. Loop 121.

A few money conversations to have with your college graduate

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Graduating college represents a pivotal point in any young adult's journey. While they may be far from the nest, parents can still help steer recent grads toward financial security.

"Making the first moves in their career or moving to a new city are probably at the front of any graduate's mind," says Michael Sullivan a personal financial consultant with Take Charge America, a national nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency. "While all of these changes are exciting, they need to start saving, avoid more debt and

live within their means to truly become financially independent."

These five conversation topics can give recent graduates the confidence and know-how they need in the "real world."

THE LOW-DOWN ON STUDENT LOANS

Most student loans have a built-in six-month grace period, but this time goes by quickly. The faster the debt is paid down the better, as you avoid accruing more interest or late fees. Further, too much student debt can negatively impact your ability to qualify for other loans, such as an auto or home loan, stalling other post-graduate goals. You

can help recent graduates research the best payment options for their individual circumstances. Overwhelmed? Contacting an experienced student loan counselor may bring clarity.

BUDGETING ISN'T BORING

Gaining the independence that comes with graduating offers the perfect opportunity to learn more about budgeting. There are plenty of smartphone apps and other tools to keep tabs on how much money is coming in and going out. Getting a good grasp on a budget is the first step toward financial security.



**CAMERON
McNIESH**

CLASS OF 2019
Troy High School

You have always been the perfect grandson. We have continued to be so proud of you every year with your excellent grades and attitude towards school. Good luck on your high school graduation day. Love, Honey and Grandpa McNiesh

Top New Tech students heading to University of Texas

BY MARIEL WILLIAMS

FME NEWS SERVICE

BELTON — Valedictorian Sarah Batson and salutatorian Maia Borchardt lead the class of 2019 for Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow.

Batson is the daughter of Jennifer Batson of Belton and Jeffrey Batson of Dallas, and Borchardt is the daughter of Brian and Ana Borchardt of Belton.

Batson said she has worked hard to be at the top of her class.

“For me, school has always been where I’ve considered myself the most dedicated,” she said. “My family really prioritizes education as an important part of our lives, and I just wanted to make sure I was doing my part to make sure my mom didn’t worry about me.”

Borchardt has had similar motivations pushing her through high school.

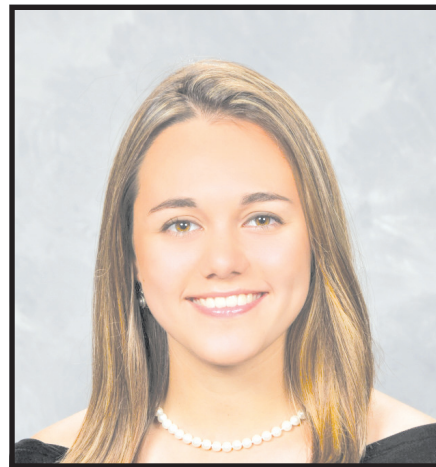


Valedictorian Sarah Batson

“I’ve worked hard because, like Sarah, my parents are big on education, and I always wanted to push myself to do the best that I can do,” Borchardt said.

Both girls plan to attend the University of Texas at Austin. Batson plans to study government.

“For a long time, I really didn’t



Salutatorian Maia Borchardt

know what field I wanted to pursue at all — I found most subjects interesting,” she said. “But I really like the study of government because of how it’s like a confluence of so many different subjects.”

Batson noted that everyone has some kind of relationship with the government in their lives.

“I feel that understanding how all the different things come together in that one organization, and making sure it has the most positive interaction in everyone’s lives as possible is a really important thing, and something that has enough variety and different layers of interest that it could keep me engaged for the rest of my life,” she said.

Borchardt is planning a slightly less traditional college career in terms of picking a major. She wants to join the Plan II Honors program at UT Austin, a flexible interdisciplinary study path.

“I’m not sure exactly what career I’m thinking about right now, but that’s something I’m hoping to explore,” Borchardt said. “I’ve always had a passion for global events and how history and current events and humanity kind of combine to create our world.”

New Tech will hold graduation ceremonies at 2 p.m. May 30 at the Bell County Expo Center, 301 W. Loop 121.

Online marketplaces can be tricky. Here’s how to navigate them

BY HELEN CAREFOOT

THE WASHINGTON POST

Back before she owned her firm, Washington interior designer Kerra Michele ran a blog that chronicled how she made over her small rental apartment with DIY projects and treasures found through Craigslist.

She moved out of that starter apartment, but she still regularly buys secondhand furniture online to add a homey, collected feel to her projects. Craigslist and other online community marketplaces such as Facebook Marketplace, Letgo and OfferUp can be a wallet-friendly way to furnish your pad. But they can be daunting, she says, if you don’t know how they work. Here are some guidelines for navigating these forums.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you see something that’s too good to be true, chances are it is, says Rob Douglas, a former private investigator and security consultant whose expertise is in identify theft. “If that’s just the best price you’ve ever seen, watch out,” he says.

Respond to complete ads that list important information such as dimensions, materials, condition, brand and the age of the item. If any information is missing, ask as many questions as necessary to determine whether the item will work for you.

Orlando Soria, a designer and host of HGTV’s “Unspouse My House,” suggests comparing the price listed in an ad to other retailers to see whether it’s reasonable.

For vintage items, he suggests calling

around and reaching out to stores that specialize in used furniture.

For high-value items such as antiques, Michele recommends asking for certificates of authenticity or appraisal. If a certifiable antique is what you’re after, an antiques store or specialized website might be a better choice than Craigslist or Facebook, Douglas says, because there’s more risk involved with buying and selling higher-priced items and they might have extra measures in place to verify authenticity and handle large payments.

When you see the item in person, Michele and Soria both recommend closely inspecting it from all angles to make sure it’s in good condition (or at least the condition you were

PLEASE SEE **MARKET, 15**



KINSIE HUGGINS

CLASS OF 2019
Cypress Ranch High School

Mr. & Mrs. Roosevelt Huggins of Killeen, TX announce the graduation of their granddaughter Kinsie Huggins from Cypress Ranch High School, Cypress, TX on May 31, 2019. Kinsie will be attending Duke University in the fall majoring in Biology-Pre Med.

Salado's val and sal prepare to walk the stage at UMHB

BY DEBORAH MCKEON

FME NEWS SERVICE

Two Salado students have received top honors as the No. 1 and No. 2 graduates of their class.

Grace Barker attained the honor of being named the valedictorian for the Salado class of 2019 with a 112.37931 grade-point average.

Grace, a Salado student since third grade, is the daughter of Tamara Barker and Thomas Barker. She has four siblings and is the granddaughter of Helen Taylor of Kenedy, Jim Taylor of Gatesville and Dorothy and Donald Barker of Plano.

She is the secretary of the National Honor Society and secretary for ASTRA. A member of Mu Alpha Theta and Student Council, Grace volunteered at Camp Invention as a leadership intern and was the Salado High School representative on the Salado Board of Aldermen.

She was active in speech and debate, qualifying for regional and state competition respectively in Lincoln-Douglas debate and Congressional debate.

At Salado High School, Grace took advanced placement and pre-AP courses.



Valedictorian Grace Barker

Grace plans to study nursing and business at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She wants to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist and someday start her own business.

"Some of my favorite memories of high school are painting my parking spot, wearing senior overalls on Fridays, prom and Corban Mescher's singing," Grace said. "I will remember Señora Kessler's sarcastic comments. She inspires me to do and be my best. Mr. Cook, my debate coach has taught me the value of evaluating more than one point of view



Salutatorian Sarah Umpleby

before making judgments. Mrs. Wentreck always brightened my day and was always smiling. I am grateful for the opportunities that I've had and all of the support along the way."

Representing the 2019 class as salutatorian is Sarah Umpleby.

Sarah, the daughter of Jennifer Umpleby and John Umpleby, graduated with a GPA of 111.154.

She's been a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta and participated in University Scholastic League in mathematics throughout high school.

For two years she was a member

of the Salado High School Band and advanced to the All-State Percussion Ensemble.

Sarah volunteered for programs like Keep Salado Beautiful, Camp Invention and Vacation Bible School.

Attending Texas A&M University in the fall, Sarah will major in statistics and double-minor in computer science and finance. Before she graduates, Sarah plans to complete at least one actuarial science exam to prepare to become an actuary. It is her hope to be hired early by an insurance company and continue to take additional actuarial exams while she works.

Sarah shared this.

"The world is full of unknowns. I aspire to use what is already known to come to terms with and prepare for what it is we as people can never know, both professionally and personally."

The Salado High School graduation is set for 2 p.m. June 1 at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton.

MARKET

FROM PAGE 14

expecting) and that it matches the description. Turn the piece around, look underneath it, open drawers, look at joints and where pieces fit together, and examine the hardware; if there are any discrepancies, say so.

"If they've priced the piece as though it has solid wood construction and dovetail joints and you show up and it has a particle-board back but it's still in good condition, then maybe you can offer them \$100 less," Michele

says. She also administers what she calls the "squeak test" for furniture and the "smell test" for items with fabric: She leans on the piece to see whether it's sturdy and smells any upholstered areas for odors such as mildew or cigarette smoke.

MOVE QUICKLY, BUT HAVE A PLAN

If you see something you want, contact the seller as soon as possible. As a seller, it makes the most sense to offer the item to multiple buyers and see who bites first, which means slowpokes could be left behind. Buyers, arrange to go see items early in the day and be upfront about your interest.

If you're the first to snag a steal of a desk for \$60 but you can't fit it in your car when you get there, however, that's not much of a steal. Make sure you know the dimensions of the item you're buying, and measure any doorways, elevators and staircases you'll need to move through beforehand. If the item doesn't fit, it's likely you won't be able to return it.

"I've had a lot of clients actually buy stuff on their own and then not be able to get the furniture in their house because they didn't measure the stairs, so make sure you do all that prep work in advance before you pick something up," Michele says.



**SHERYSE
MOBLEY**

CLASS OF 2019
Kent State University

SFC (Ret.) Virgil & SSG (Ret.) Lula Mobley of Killeen, TX announce the graduation of their daughter, Sheryse Mobley receiving a Doctorate of Podiatric Surgery and Medicine on May 17, 2019 from Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine.



Congratulations

to our seniors who excelled in their high school careers.



2019 CCHS Valedictorian:
Noah Gonzalez: 5.15 GPA;
Mr. Gonzalez will attend
the University of Texas at
Dallas.



2019 CCHS Salutatorian:
Abdiel Hernandez-Lopez:
5.11 GPA; Mr. Hernan-
dez-Lopez will attend the
University of Texas.



2019 CCHS Senior Shontez
Simmons received the U.S.
Military Academy Prepara-
tory School scholarship and
will attend West Point in
the fall.



2019 CCHS Senior Alexis
Grasso won the Texas
HOSA Competition and
advances to the national
competition for the sec-
ond consecutive year.



2019 CCHS DECA Seniors
Luke Avritt, Nazhoni
Wyss and Parker Freeman
placed 2nd in the world
DECA contest with nearly
20,000 competitors after
winning the Texas compe-
tition.



2019 CCHS Senior theater arts students Vincent
Fauntleroy, Kaitlyn Huston, Tatiana Morales, Logan
Stock, and Tatum Hines earned multiple UIL honors in
their starring roles in *These Shining Lives* that captured
first place in the Zone Competition and advanced to
bi-district, district and regional competitions.



2019 CCHS Senior Devin
Hardy is a 2019 Central
Texas Incredible Kid, one
of only 10 chosen in the
Central Texas region. He
also received the Copperas
Cove Noon Exchange Club
ACE of the Year Award.



2019 Senior Abbie
Wardlow won first place
two consecutive years in
the Texas Agri-Science Fair,
competing at the national
competition. She is also
the Copperas Cove Noon
Exchange Club Youth of
the Year.



2019 CCHS Senior Copperettes Erin Smith, Takara
Stover, Hadiya Gay and Maraya Buendia competed
against hundreds of dancers across the nation to
earn the opportunity to perform in the 92nd Macy's
Thanksgiving Day Parade.



CCHS Seniors Mikayla
Devins and Trevor Troy
were named the 2018-
2019 Copperas Cove High
School Homecoming
Queen and King.



CCHS Seniors Alessia
Smith and Darrion Ramirez
were named the 2019
Copperas Cove High
School Prom Queen and
King.

A FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE - A FUTURE OF SUCCESS.

