



# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 29 NO. 7

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2017



## Hughes wins pole vault; two others medal

By Jackson Baird

Three BCS athletes medaled at the TAPPS state track meet on May 5-6 in Waco. A total of eight Brentwood students qualified to compete in 11 events at the 4A level.

Sophomore Jane Hughes is the state champion in pole vault, reaching her season-best 10 feet even, which also tied her personal best.

Junior Tyler Hughes (not related to Jane) placed second in the 300 hurdles with a school-record 40.96; and sophomore Jaclyn Wishard placed third in high jump at 4-10.

"From getting eighth freshman and sophomore year to getting second this year is pretty amazing," Tyler Hughes said.

Wishard also competed in the long jump and 100 hurdles, and Tyler Hughes was also

see **TRACK**, page 6

## Formal features Hollywood theme

By Kaitlyn Baird

The red carpet was rolled out, cameras were flashing, and everyone was dressed in the finest formal attire. This might sound like the Academy Awards, but it was actually Brentwood Christian's annual Junior/Senior Formal.

Brentwood students enjoyed the glamour of classic Hollywood at Junior/Senior Formal on April 28 at Avery Ranch Golf Club. With a theme of "The Golden Age of Hollywood," students got to walk down the red carpet, take pictures by Oscar statues, and watch the entertainment for the evening provided by a comedy hypnotist.

Senior Hope Hutson said she loved the theme of Junior/Senior, and the event had a "nice atmosphere" to it.

"It was the best Junior/Senior I've been to," Hutson said. "My favorite part was there was an actual band playing jazz music."

The evening began at 6:30 p.m. Students arrived and took pictures outside while enjoying the warm and clear night and the sound of jazz



photo: Celeste Scarborough

**Lucky guy** Jonathon Spencer is surrounded by fellow seniors Kristyn Chambers, Abby White, Claire Polasek, and Lindsey Scarborough during the Junior/Senior Formal at Avery Ranch Golf Club on April 28. The evening had a Hollywood theme.

see **HYPNOTIST**, page 7

## Grandparents' Day has new features, old happiness



photo: Julia Hwang

**Entertainer** Kindergartner Lanna Worley strums her ukulele while singing for grandparents under the direction of choir teacher Amanda Stanglin.

By Hannah Odom

Ukuleles were played by tiny hands, water balloons were launched from impressive catapults, humorous duets brought laughter to their audience, and grandparents were left smiling with their grandchildren.

Brentwood Christian entertained hordes of smiling visitors with the annual Grandparents' Day events, including the evening Way Off Broadway show, on May 12.

Grandparents' Day underwent a "Big Change," as StuCo's informational video filmed in the style of *The Office* explained it during recent chapel services. Students not participating or volunteering with NHS went to their first two classes, joined their grandparents for three

activities, and were dismissed at noon.

"It's nice to give back to them and connect to previous generations of faithfulness," secondary math teacher Kaleen Graessle said. "It's great for them to see what their grandchildren are doing on a daily basis."

The morning began with grandparents being honored by a special breakfast of fruit, biscuits, and muffins served at 7:30 a.m. by NHS volunteers. The breakfast was accompanied by Brentwood's string orchestra.

After breakfast, grandparents went to the auditorium to watch all of the elementary classes' musical acts as well as performances by the middle school and high school in Brentwood's annual Grandparents' Day program.

Much of elementary wore leis and played ukuleles and maracas while they sang songs like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

After the program, grandparents joined their grandchildren and went to three 25-minute activities. These included viewing art, testing the

Geometry class's spaghetti bridges, launching water balloons with the AP Physics students' catapults and trebuchets, flying kites with third graders, and witnessing a sneak peak of Way Off Broadway, and much more.

After Grandparents' Day was over, students, family, and friends went over to the theater at 7 p.m. for Way Off Broadway, which was hosted by juniors Merideth Mallett and Katie Griffith. The show included a short comedy called *Y'all*, a dramatic monologue called "Lost in Yonkers" by senior Camille Sunshine, a humorous duet called "Flight 212 to L.A." by junior Lauren Weilemann and freshman Adrie Gruis, a humorous duet called "Spies" by freshman Addie McDaniel and sophomore Eric Glindemann, and more.

After the show, seniors were called to the stage and were honored with roses for their work in the fine arts department. Fine Arts teachers were honored as well.

Lighting the Darkness: Camille Sunshine

# Editor closes year with advice from self, friends

When you are looking through this paper absent-mindedly, the seniors will be finishing up their finals. Many of us have been here since kindergarten, whereas someone of us (by that I mean one of us) has only been here one year. Most of us are insanely excited for the next

step that life is throwing at us, but some of us, myself included, are also terrified and sad. I’ve made a wonderful beautiful family here, and I’m going to miss them a lot. However, with the help of my family and some dear friends, I’m slowly learning how to accept the fact that change is good, that new does not mean bad, and although leaving something or someone can feel like a death, it doesn’t have to be. Here are some things my classmates and I have learned along the way.

People are way more broken than you’d ever expect. Sometimes when we look at the people around us, everyone looks perfect. But deep down inside, everyone has stuff going on you would never dream of. When someone is snarky, rude, or just plain neglectful, remember that there’s a whole complex and hurt person under that. Nobody’s body, family, relationships, personality, ability, faith, or confidence is perfect. Everybody’s messed up. If we approach each other with that in mind, we are less likely to judge and more likely to forgive.

Food goes a long way. Anytime someone is sad or tired, bringing them food will automatically make their day.

Sometimes sacrificing sleep is good. Go out with friends and have some fun. Some of the best memories I’ve made were when some friends and I decided to go eat Taco Bell and watch a movie in the Round Rock library, and then go run around in the fountain next door. Completely unplanned until approximately five minutes before.

Tell people how you feel. If you’re an awkward duck like me, this can be accomplished through a letter or a video. Or if you’re more bold, just sit the person down and tell them what they mean to you.

Don’t be afraid to say sorry or be wrong. It’s not worth losing a friendship over most of the time. Allow yourself to be humbled, and let someone else win for once, even if it hurts. Be quick to apologize and quick to forgive. Don’t let an awkward relationship stay that way.

Talk to each other when you’re in different places doing homework. Late nights get so much less boring when you’re FaceTiming

or Facebook video messaging. It’s like being able to hang out without hosting or having your personal space invaded. Texting is also an amazing way to have a deep conversation even when there’s no time to get together.

Try to stop caring what people think. It’s one of the hardest things to do, but according to Hannah Odom, being a senior means being as obnoxious as you want but without anyone stopping you. It’s kind of true. I walk the hallways singing and and screaming at my friends, and I spend my NHS parties lying in a creek. At some point, we all have to accept that we’re weird and we might as well be ourselves.

Get out of your house, but learn to say no. Spend time alone doing your own thing, but get involved in stuff at school. Leave time for relaxation, but keep yourself busy. It’s hard.

Never, ever, ever underestimate your senioritis. Think long and hard before taking all the hard classes senior year. I did it, and you’ll be fine, but you are going to want to die.

Always put God first. If you’re too busy for God, then you’re too busy and you need to stop doing something. God’s much more important, and God will still matter in fifty years, whereas what part you get in a play or which team you make will not. Don’t be afraid to ask for or offer prayer. It’s a really beautiful thing to tell someone what’s wrong and have them pray for you right there. Without being asked to. God is very active in your life whether you can see him and feel him or not. You’re never too far gone for his love, you always need his care, and things are never too boring to talk to him about.

You are not defined by anything you do or don’t do in high school or in college. You are God’s, and that’s all that matters. With all the problems there may or not be, Brentwood is an incredible place, and it will always be a part of you. Study, play, create, work, laugh, and cry, but most of all, remember that you are loved.

Well, that was my advice. Here’s some advice from my classmates:

**Daniel Ayala:** No matter how bad times get, make sure you always look to the sky and remember all the blessings you have been given.

**Rachel Beggs:** Don’t stress so much! You will do the same amount of work and feel better about it.

**Alicia Dixon:** Embrace your qualities, because comparison is the thief of joy.

**Nicholas Dunagan:** Go to school.

**Addy Hardin:** When making a decision, pick the option that scares you the most. It will likely take you further than the choice within your comfort zone.

**Hope Hutson:** Like the Israelites around Jericho, keep marching with God at the front.

**Sean Lee:** Have fun. Enjoy your life. The world is big and there are so many things you can challenge yourself to do.

**Tim Lee:** If you’re gonna fail, at least make a joke out of it.

**Sam Mack:** Take naps. Every day, if you’re tired, just take a nap. Thirty-minute ones are great. That way, no matter how late you go to bed, you still got some sleep beforehand.

**Claire Nestor:** Take the chances you can to do something fun and out of the ordinary. Whether that means deciding to go to a concert at the last minute or eating out in the middle of the night, do it! It leads to memories that you’ll treasure when you look back on high school.

**Gabie Nguyen:** Don’t neglect your neck in your skincare routine. It’ll be awkward when your face looks 20 and your neck looks 500.

**Hannah Odom:** Do as much as you can. Push yourself to the very end. Do your best academically, socially, morally, and in all of life.

**Nick Pedroza:** Go to Wienerschnitzel if you want to strengthen your digestive system.

**Uyen Phan:** Don’t pull all-nighters, but when you have to, drink green tea. You won’t be able to sleep even if you try. Plus it helps your skin.

**Jonathon Spencer:** When people tell you that you can’t, just dab when they turn their back.

**Claudia Torres:** Be a part of anything and everything. Enjoy every moment, because soon it will just be a memory. Keep God at your center and focus on him, because he will provide and bless you more than anyone else can.

**Thomas Yates:** Don’t share a document with others and allow them to edit someone else’s responses. It breeds mischief.

## THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of BCHS. The paper is a learning tool which informs the student body while teaching students to become critical observers of their environment and to validate Truth within the context of the Christian world view.

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The Bear Facts is available online at [www.brentwoodchristian.org](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org).

## THE DEAR EDNA COLUMN

by the lovely Ms. Edna

**READER:** If you could be an edible root, what kind would you be?

**EDNA:** The root of all evil.

**READER:** How do you dodge raindrops?

**EDNA:** Stay inside.

**READER:** What is the stupidest thing you’ve done on a one-to-ten?

**EDNA:** I want to talk to my lawyer.

**READER:** How do I impress people around me?

**EDNA:** I find doing spontaneous back

flips will do it. And if that fails, they will be impressed with your dedication to floor cleanliness.

**READER:** How can my potato reach its full potential in life?

**EDNA:** Many people are influenced by their names. Give your potato a nice starchy name,

like Starchy for example. That’ll steer it in the right direction.

**READER:** What should I name my new pet plant?

**EDNA:** Planty the Potted Plant! \*insert theme song\* Or maybe get a different plant, like a rock.

**READER:** Is a hotdog a sandwich?

**EDNA:** Maybe if you turn your head sideways to eat it it is.

**READER:** What’s your favorite color?

**EDNA:** Freedom. It’s a mix of red, white, and blue. So basically, light purple is the color of freedom and my favorite.

**READER:** What is your shoe size?

**EDNA:** Are you attempting to steal my identity?



THE BEAR FACTS MAY 2017

# Seniors close chapter; most head to STEM fields

By Uyen Phan

“By ‘STEM,’ you mean studying plants, right?” deadpanned senior Rachel Beggs.

In reality, Beggs has a full-ride scholarship to Angelo State University, where she will major in biology. She even expressed her desire to study abroad sometime during college, but has yet to formalize any plans.

Seventy percent of the Class of 2017 decided to go into STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. Eleven chose some form of biology, ten are pursuing social science, seven favor engineering, eight went with health-related majors, and five prefer technology.

Texas Tech, UT-Dallas, and Texas A&M are the top choices, with seven students enrolling at Tech and six to the other two, building a total of more than 30 percent of the class. Eleven of the students chose to go out of state, while 16 of them will be attending Christian schools.

Moving farthest away from BCS is Nhat Do, who chose to attend the University of Ottawa in Canada. Do will major in computer science with an emphasis on animation. He said that he was able to join the school’s co-op program.

“I’m ‘about’ to figure out if all the Canadian jokes are true,” he joked.

Second farthest away will be Uyen Phan. She decided to attend Drexel University in Philadelphia, Penn., where she is in the honors and co-op programs for her biological sciences major.

“I applied at Drexel because I didn’t want to write two essays for A&M,” she stated. “Nevertheless, I’m all fired up to be a Dragon next year.”

Others chose to go to as far west as Malibu, Calif., and as far east as Savannah, Ga. The most-chosen out-of-state school is Harding University in Searcy, Ark., with four seniors planning to attend next year. One of them, Hope Hutson, said she chose the university due to its campus and community.

“The people I have met there are friendly and positive people,” Hutson said. “Plus, since all of their programs are good, I don’t have to worry if I decide to change my major.”

Jessica Bruce, on the other hand, stated that her choice of major, kinesiology, was inspired by her brother who has special needs. In the future, Bruce said she hopes to find a way to combine different types of therapy “to provide a fun and encouraging atmosphere for patients.”

Some have even more ambitious dreams. Tim Lee will be learning computer engineering with an emphasis on virtual and augmented reality at Texas A&M at Galveston, then moving to College Station the following year as part of A&M’s overflowing program. He shared that

he intends to tear down the veil between computer simulation and real life.

“I hope to advance the human evolution by creating machines with the capacity to send us virtually and in reality to different worlds that we wish to live in,” he said.

Megan Crawford, who plans to become a labor and delivery nurse, said that she wanted to apply everywhere around the nation and go wherever it takes her, “for a little bit of adventure.” If her situation permits, she said she would like to become an OB/GYN and the first

doctor in her family.

With a passion for mathematics, Hannah Odom said she intends to pursue the major of marketing right at home, and thanks to inspiration from teacher Kaleen Graessle, she is considering a minor or second major in math. She is planning to enroll in Austin Community College, but she will transfer to the University of Texas eventually.

“I am beyond excited to broaden my horizons and expand my mind at the prestigious College of Austin Community,” she declared.

The Class of 2017 is Brentwood Christian School’s largest ever graduating class with 59 seniors, almost half of them having been a Bear since kindergarten.

As the seniors are saying goodbye to their second home, class sponsor Cindy Nestor was almost moved to tears as she reminded the graduates to welcome God’s presence in their lives, and to stand up for what is right “even though it means (they’re) going to stand alone.”

“I hope y’all know that you have a place here, if you ever need us,” she beamed.

## Oh, the places the seniors will go!

**Abilene Christian University**  
Elayna Bruce - biochemistry (pre-med)  
Jessica Bruce - kinesiology (pre-occ. therapy)  
Lindsey Scarborough - undecided  
Mary Womack - criminal justice

**Angelo State University**  
Rachel Beggs - biology  
Daniella Mendez - behavioral analysis

**Austin Community College**  
Hannah Odom - marketing  
Thomas Yates - computer engineering

**Baylor University**  
Austin Greene - computer science  
Claire Polasek - early childhood education  
Abby White - speech pathology, audiology

**Clarendon College**  
Nicole Dobos - engineering

**Drexel University (Philadelphia, Pa.)**  
Uyen Phan - biological sciences

**Harding University (Searcy, Ark.)**  
Hope Hutson - kinesiology  
Jordan Johnson - accounting  
Claire Nestor - finance, minor in leadership  
Brandon Patterson - undecided

**Hardin-Simmons University**  
Hillarie Carpenter - art and psychology

**Lipscomb University (Nashville, Tenn.)**  
Kristyn Chambers - early childhood education

**McLennan Junior College**  
Garrison Ryberg - accounting

**Moody Bible Institute (Chicago, Ill.)**  
Camille Sunshine - TESOL

**Pepperdine University (Malibu, Calif.)**  
Addy Hardin - business management

**Savannah College of Art and Design (Ga.)**  
Charlie Vazquez - industrial design

**Texas A&M at College Station**  
Alicia Dixon - public health  
Michelle Emmel - biomedical science  
Sean Lee - mechanical engineering  
Sam Mack - mechanical engineering  
Will Moncure - mechanical engineering  
Gabrielle Nguyen - public health, microbiology

**Texas A&M at Galveston**  
Tim Lee - computer engineering

**Texas State University**  
Macy Kidwell - nursing  
Fiona Wang - undecided

**Texas Tech University**  
Abbey Alcantar - general studies, pre-law  
Daniel Ayala - civil engineering  
CJ Eno - animal science  
Kayleigh Lawrence - early childhood ed.  
Jaime Lopez - geosciences  
Joseph Mohrmann - mechanical engineering  
Mary Ruiz - psychology, pre-law

**Tyler Junior College**  
Graham Marks - business management

**University of Mary-Hardin Baylor**  
Morgan George - English, ed., church music

**University of Oklahoma (Norman, Okla.)**  
Megan Crawford - nursing

**University of Ottawa (Ottawa, Canada)**  
Nhat Do - computer science

**University of Texas at Arlington**  
In Young Choi - undecided

**University of Texas at Austin**  
Julia Hwang - sociology  
Ruth Kim - undecided

**Alex Mathew** - biology (pre-med)  
**Khue Tran** - biochemistry

**University of Texas at Dallas**  
Nicholas Dunagan - mol. biology, biochem.  
Michael Hickl - business  
Harry Park - computer science  
Nicholas Pedroza - criminology  
Claudya Torres - speech pathology, audiology  
Daniel Torres - biology

**University of Texas at San Antonio**  
Jonathon Spencer - mechanical engineering  
Sam Stone - computer science

**Undecided**  
**Aidan Bartos** - biology  
**Thomas Leung** - undecided  
**Yunxi Wei** - undecided



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Camille Sunshine*  
Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2017.

# Missions-minded actress cherished for warmth, brilliance

By Mary Womack

Sunshine is warm, brilliant, and comforting. It is also approachable, steadfast, and the sign of a good day.

Sunshine lights the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it, as it illuminates true pathways and extinguishes the darkness.

Coincidentally, these words do not only describe the sunshine, but they also paint a picture of Camille Sunshine.

Around the Brentwood Christian campus, Camille is known for her for her funky sense of humor, small stature, and often bringing an entire carrot to munch on during lunch.

She is also recognizable for her friendly demeanor and her involvement in activities including theater, choir, newspaper, AP classes, Bible studies, Spanish lunches, and much, much more.

All of this began when she arrived at BCS in sixth grade on Valentine’s Day. And ever since then she has worked her way into the hearts of friends, teachers, and the BCS community as a whole.

Her kindness and intellect are widely recognized around campus and beyond.

“She’s kind to everyone she meets, and if you ask her about pretty much anything, she’ll probably know something about it,” close friend Sam Mack says.

Many other friends agree with Sam. In fact, senior Hannah Odom calls Camille “the most amazing person on the planet,” who is “already perfect yet striving to make herself better.”

This is not all Camille is known for though. Her closer friends appreciate her self-proclaimed “weirdness” and love of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and all things retro. She is never afraid to be herself and let loose.

“She is so good at following the rules, but she has learned to let loose now and then,” Hannah says.

Camille is always ready to strike up a deep conversation about life, or share a goofy but relatable “dad joke.” Her unique personality can also be seen when she wears one of her lovely 1940s-style dresses or eagerly talks about a book she found at an estate sale. She’s never afraid to share a laugh with a stranger or a close friend.

“Camille is cheerful, a smile graces her face, and laughter always comes easily,” Dr. Paul Robison says.

Much of this positivity and wacky humor can be credited to her family. Her parents, Gaye and Steve, are close with multiple students and are also known for their friendliness

and fun sense of humor.

Friends have noted that “everything made sense” after meeting Camille’s family. They have been described as enthusiastic and fun, but also very caring and kind. Her younger brother Meyer, a BCS seventh grader, also reflects all the joy that the rest of the Sunshine family has, and he is never afraid to poke fun at his beloved sister.

All of these individualities and her evident gift for performance have aided Camille in the fine arts at BCS. The choir was one of the first things she joined in the sixth grade, and she has treasured her four

Hope Hutson says. “She is always willing to help out anyone with anything relating to theater, simply because she loves it.”

According to Camille, she caught the “theater bug” early on and couldn’t get enough.

“I love telling stories through drama. Historical plays are especially fun because you get to present the life of someone who made a difference in the world,” Camille says.

Theater director Michelle Alexander has enjoyed working with Camille for two years.

“She’s an amazing actress because she’s smart and knows how to

“Camille’s best qualities include her commitment to do her best even in fields she doesn’t particularly like. Her dedication is extreme,” classmate Gabie Nguyen says.

This devotion also translates into her faith and how she acts it out. Camille worships at Christ Church in downtown Austin and has gone on two mission trips to Guatemala. The first was a one-week trip she took with her father before her sophomore year. On the second she went on her own and stayed for two weeks. This broadened her cultural perspective and showed her passion for service and missions.

She plans to carry out this gift by majoring in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill.

“I love Chicago because of my midwestern roots, the big city vibe, pizza, and Wrigley Field,” Camille says.

Many are sad to see Camille move so far away, but they know that she will succeed in the future not only because of her intellect but also due to her incredible faith. The most common word students around campus used to describe her was “Christlike” and this is evident in her daily interactions. Her faith is the lens through which she views everything – people, places, and even school. She often organizes spiritual activities around campus such as a Bible study in Dr. Robison’s room.

Robison tells a touching story of when Camille invited his family over for a meal. Robison brought his autistic son, Nathan, who is often misunderstood and can sometimes frighten others. But Camille looked past this and loved him for his warm, lovable, and humorous character.

“You don’t often find such people who are willing to give up their time just to help someone who is abnormal and must be viewed with compassionate eyes,” Robison says. “My wife and I will ever be grateful for how Camille and her family blessed our lives.”

Camille’s faith is so evident and pure that it’s never hard to recognize whom she serves. Her love for others, and passion for “getting things right,” stems from her dedication to Christ.

“The most important thing to me is my faith,” Camille says. “I put myself up to high standards and struggle with self-esteem. But I’ve been found by a God that loves me and sees beauty even in failure.”



years in it since. Camille will volunteer her help in any way necessary, even if that means singing with the tenor section.

Her commitment and willingness to help have aided her well in her theater career. Beginning in seventh grade when she played the character of Phyllis in *Wanted: One Groom*, Camille has starred and worked in the cast of 12 different BCS productions and is a Thespian.

“Camille is everyone’s theater mom,” friend

bring out the character,” Alexander says. “She has good intentions and she’s a perfectionist, and both of those translate well on the stage.”

Through her role as Bear Facts editor-in-chief, Camille has been able to utilize her skill of telling a good story in her editorials. She is well recognized for this ability and for her academic excellence. Many of her classmates are often asking her for help on homework of all sorts.



# Bennett, Wick among seven teachers not returning

By Lauren Weilemann

Seven of Brentwood Christian’s teachers – two of whom are elementary teachers and the other five secondary teachers and coaches – will be leaving after this school year. Whether they are pursuing other occupations or just moving to a different school, many of their students and former students will miss them greatly.

One of these teachers is Whitney Wick, who teaches choir for students from fourth grade through high school. Senior Morgan George said Wick is known for her positivity, dedication and friendly demeanor.

“I feel genuinely sad for generations to come who won’t get to experience her teaching,” George said.

Her students have remarked that they will miss her willingness to tackle the challenge of more than 70 high schoolers at once.

“I’m going to miss her and her enthusiasm so much,” junior Bellini Ha said.

Wick says she will hopefully be teaching choir at another school in the area after she leaves Brentwood. She has been at Brentwood for a year and a half and says she wishes to leave her cherished students with some advice.

“Stay in choir,” Wick said. “Work hard for what you want, and never settle for mediocrity.”

Another adored and departing teacher is middle school math and Bible teacher Paula Bennett.

Bennett has been teaching for 25 years, three of which have been spent at Brentwood. She has a reputation for being understanding, ap-

proachable, helpful, and kind hearted, according to sixth-graders Abbie Burcham, Elizabeth Hughes, Carolyn Morgan, and Sage Talley.

Bennett will be moving to Denver, Colo., with her husband Jason, who works as an engineer with Charter, the company that recently bought out Time Warner Cable. But first she plans to take a year off to travel to places like Disney World and Hawaii.

“She’s the best teacher ever, and I love her so much,” Morgan said.

BCS will also be losing fourth-grade teacher Abbie Boyd.

Boyd plans to start her own floral design company, called Blumen Floral Co. She said her inspiration came from working at a small florist shop in downtown Austin during the summer after she graduated from Brentwood.

Boyd still has a passion for teaching and says she will most likely return to education in the future.

“I’m 24 years old, and it simply feels as if now is my chance to chase after my more uncertain or unforeseeable dreams,” Boyd said. “Teaching will always be an option, but starting my own florist business, probably not so much.”

The following teachers will also not be returning next year: kindergarten teacher Sharon Howard, high school computer teacher and football coach Eric Thomason, high school English and Bible teacher Mark Cotham, and varsity basketball coach Jan Jernberg.

“Coach Jernberg did a great job of motivating our team,” athletic director Stan Caffey said. “He is an excellent X’s and O’s coach.”



Do re mi Choir teacher Whitney Wick, known by students for her friendliness and enthusiasm, is one of several teachers who will be saying goodbye to BCS this month.



photo: Kristyn Chambers  
**Lovin’ it** Senior Austin Greene makes friends at Ronald McDonald House.

## NHS students volunteer at five charities

By Blake Benton

NHS isn’t all just about good grades and being an honor roll student. It’s also about service and sacrifice. The Brentwood NHS members are no exception. These select students volunteered to hop on a bus and head out to some charity organizations on a hot Texas day and serve the community with a few selfless acts.

On Friday, April 21, 100 members of National Honor Society and several adults traveled around the Austin area to five different locations for their annual service day. They did everything from working on a farm, to running a track and field day for kids, to a whole lot of cleaning.

This year, students traveled to Crowe’s Nest Farm, Ronald McDonald House, St. Vincent de Paul, Rosedale, and Community First. Students signed up individually for specific sites.

All volunteers, wearing jeans and a BCS shirt, assembled at Brentwood before school

and left shortly after the first bell rang. They returned that afternoon during eighth period.

The crew at Crowe’s Nest Farm was one of the smaller groups but worked hard in the heat removing weeds and beautifying flower beds as well as a walkway and elevated gardens.

“It was a good combination of hard work and fun,” junior NHS historian Jenna Beggs said.

From cleaning hallways and windows to organizing toys and picking up trash, the Ronald McDonald house service group made a difference in the lives of those who depend on the charity by showing God’s love in small, yet meaningful acts.

St. Vincent de Paul is a charity-based organization that donates a portion of funds to food banks and charities. Students there organized books and picked up trash.

“Seeing the conditions of many of the customers humbles me and makes me want to help,” sophomore Adrian Battle said.

In between playing games and hanging out with kids, the group that traveled to Rosedale found ways to serve at the school’s annual Track and Field Day.

“It was so cool to be able to make it a fun day for them,” senior Morgan George said. “Serving there really showed me how blessed we are and how we can bless others.”

NHS members volunteering at Community First had their hands full cleaning and organizing a shed. When they had completed the shed, a worker there broke into tears of gratitude when she told the group how much she had really needed this chore done and how much of a struggle it had been trying to use the shed when it was cluttered.

After working for several hours, everyone broke for lunch and then headed to Pfluger Park, where they enjoyed popsicles, desserts, and drinks. Students waded in the creek, hung out, and relaxed after their hard work.



# Baseball ends in playoffs; young team’s future bright

By Nicholas Hunka

Brentwood Christian was defeated by Cypress Christian 18-8 in the first round of baseball playoffs on May 4 in Houston. The Bears finished third in district with a record of 11-3 and were 13-5 overall.

In the playoff game, the teams were evenly matched in the first half of the game. BCS scored three in the top of the fourth inning with walks from junior Diego Escobedo and senior Michael Hickl, a double from sophomore Jack Oberwortmann, and a single from freshman Isaac Copeland to tie the game at five runs each.

But Cypress took the lead in the bottom of the fourth, scoring six runs on a combination of singles, walks, and a double, making the score 11-5. Brentwood tried to come back in the sixth inning with a home run by Escobedo, pulling to within four, 12-8. However, Cypress was too strong in the bottom of the sixth, scoring six more runs to end the game.

Senior Garrison Ryberg, junior Dillon Smith, and Escobedo led BCS with two hits each. Those same three players all pitched in the game, but could not overcome Cypress’ strong hitting.

Head coach Mike Bando said losing the first playoff game was not where he wanted the team to be at the end of the year, but he was satisfied with the team’s effort. He felt they gave everything they had, and he said the team has a lot of potential going forward.

“It’s always encouraging when you have a young team that is predominantly freshman and sophomore players to make it to the playoffs,” he said.

Ryberg and Hickl led in hitting for the sea-

son. Ryberg batted .458 with 29 RBIs and 10 doubles. Hickl ended the season with a .484 batting average, 14 RBIs and a home run. Ryberg also led in pitching with 47 strikeouts, followed by Escobedo with 41.

Bando said the graduating seniors laid the foundation for programs to come with their hard work, character, and example.

“I am excited for what the future holds for this program,” he said.

Following are recent game results:

**4/21: Boerne Geneva 2-1 W**

Senior night against Geneva was a close game and a hard fought defensive battle. Copeland scored the first run of the game in the third inning. Escobedo hit a double in the fourth inning and scored the Bears’ other run. Geneva tried to come back in the seventh inning, but could only score one run. Ryberg pitched six innings, striking out eight batters and allowing only two hits. Escobedo pitched the final inning securing the victory.

**4/25: @ San Juan Diego 17-0 W**

Hickl and his brother, freshman Daniel Hickl, combined to pitch a no-hitter. Brentwood scored 10 runs in the third inning with six walks and triples by both Daniel Hickl and Smith. Ryberg and freshman Travis Whitaker led the team with two hits each.

**4/29: San Juan Diego 16-1 W**

Brentwood scored six runs in the first inning and another six runs in the second inning to run-rule SJDC 16-1. Copeland and Michael Hickl got two hits each, with Hickl hitting an inside-the-park home run on a long fly ball to right field. Daniel Hickl pitched the three-inning game with three strikeouts.



photo: Mark Hickl

**Close play** Senior first baseman Michael Hickl prepares for the catch as the Boerne Geneva runner approaches. The Bears lost the game but won the rematch in April.

**4/29: John Paul II 3-1 L**

Brentwood took the lead in the first inning when Michael Hickl singled on a line drive to the right fielder, driving in one run. Brentwood held the lead 1-0 for most of the game until John Paul hit a fly ball to right field in the seventh inning to tie it up and send the game into extra innings. In the top of the eighth inning John Paul hit a two-run home run. The Bears were unable to score in the bottom of the

eighth, taking a loss that dropped them to third place in district.

**5/1: @ San Marcos 12-3 W**

The Bears pulled ahead early and never lost the lead. Brentwood scored three runs in the first inning and four runs in the seventh inning to win the game 12-3. Michael Hickl pitched six innings, striking out five batters, and Escobedo pitched the last inning to seal the win. Michael Hickl led the Bears with three hits.



photo: Kevin Wishard

**Yay!** Sophomores Jane Hughes and Jaclyn Wishard celebrate after the state track meet on May 6. Hughes took first in pole vault, and Wishard was third in high jump.

## Track finishes year with seven school records

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in the long jump. Other BCS state competitors were sophomore Mackenzie Gatlin (100 meters), junior Trinity Ragsdill (discus), junior Aedan Acheson (800), junior Hunter Burcham (discus), and senior Jordan Johnson (high jump).

This was a record-breaking year for the varsity track teams, who broke a total of seven school records this season. For the girls, Gatlin broke the school’s 100 meters record of 13.49 with a time of 13.3 seconds.

For the boys, Hughes broke the 100 record of 11.66 with a time of 11.60 seconds, and he

also broke the 300 hurdles record of 41.79 with a time of 40.96. Johnson broke the high jump record of 5-8 with a height of 6-0.

Acheson ran a 2:06.60 in the 800 at the state meet, breaking the old record of 2:11.00. Burcham broke the discus record of 118-7.5 with a throw of 122-03 feet. Hughes, Johnson, Burcham and junior J.D. Bailey set the 4x100 record with a time of 44.38 seconds, breaking the old record of 46.45.

Girls’ head coach Katie Smith, who also coaches all distance runners, said she was not surprised that so many records were broken.

“We have a talented team, and I expect more records to be broken in the next few years,” she said.

In the regional track meet on April 28, the boys placed ninth overall, and the girls finished seventh.

For the boys, Acheson took fifth in the 800 (2:07.96). Hughes placed third in the 300 hur-

dles (42.98) and fourth in the long jump (19-07). Johnson was third in high jump (5-08), and Burcham placed fourth in discus (122-03). Bailey, Burcham, Hughes, and Johnson were sixth in the 4x100 (45.53).

For the girls, Gatlin took fifth in the 100 (13.68) and seventh in long jump (15-00.25). Wishard was first in the long jump (16-03.25), second in the 100 hurdles (17.75), and fourth in the high jump (4-08). Sophomore Jane Hughes placed third in pole vault (7-06), and junior Trinity Ragsdill was fifth in discus (87-05). Hughes, Gatlin, Wishard, and freshman Kelli Tindel placed sixth in the 4x200 (1:59.27).

Boys’ coach Correy Washington said this was the first time in more than 10 years that the boys’ team has placed in the top three at district, which they did on April 12.

“The weight room is a great reason for our success this season,” he said. “We work very hard in there daily, and it is finally paying off.”

# Varsity golf teams finish strong at state

By Benjamin Helyer

The BCS golf teams competed at the TAPPS state tournament on May 1-2 at Cottonwood Creek in Waco, where the girls placed fourth and the boys tied for sixth.

Senior Nicole Dobos placed eighth individually in the tournament, shooting a 104 on the first day and a 94 on the second, and thus earned the title of “all-state.”

Senior Graham Marks led the boys by shooting 83 on each day. Junior David Tiner followed with an 89 on the first day and a 90 on the second day.

The teams advanced to state after competing at the regional tournament at Quail Valley Golf Course near Houston on April 25. Being the fourth year in a row that the boys team has made it to state, head coach John Vandygriff expects to improve in future years.

“We’re knocking on the door and we’re getting better each year,” he said. “The boys team is getting deeper in talent every year.”

Vandygriff also complimented the girls team, but stated that an increase in numbers is needed to improve in the future.

“The girls team did great all year, especially since this was only the second year for having a girls team,” he said. “We need more girls to participate next year.”

Reflecting over the entire season, Vandygriff said he enjoyed coaching the teams and hopes for continued individual improvement during the summer.

“It was a fun year for Coach (Brant) Troutman and me – lots of work, but it is a great group of kids to work with and fun to see the improvement of the players throughout the year,” he said. “Hopefully the returning players will devote some time over the summer to improve their games.”

# Hypnotist entertains at Jr/Sr Formal

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music from the David Guidi Quartet playing in the background. Refreshments and popcorn were also available for guests to enjoy outside.

Everyone was invited inside at 7:15 p.m. to begin dinner. Framed movie posters decorated the walls, and two Oscar statues stood at the front of the room. Each table had a movie clapboard with the name of a classic Hollywood film ranging from *Casablanca* to *Frankenstein*.

“I thought the decorations looked great,” junior Tara Whitaker said. “The movie themes were cool and really creative.”

Teacher Jimmie Harper called up each table by the name of the movie on their clapboard to get their dinner, which included pasta, grilled vegetables, salad, and breadsticks. Dessert and candy bars were set up in the room, so students could eat chocolate chip cookies, brownie bites, Krispy Kreme donuts, and candy when they finished dinner.

Once students finished dinner and dessert, hypnotist and comedian Jon Taylor began his show. He told the audience everything was voluntary and nobody would be forced to do anything they did not want to do while they were hypnotized. Many student volunteers made their way to the front of the room and sat down in chairs, and several of them were quickly hypnotized.

During the show, those who were hypnotized



photo: Hunter Burcham

**Three Amigos** Juniors Elijah Cunningham, David Tiner, and Benjamin Helyer venture into the weeds in an effort to make the worst Jr/Sr picture ever. The April 28 event featured a Hollywood theme and a hypnotist.

pantomimed playing the piano or driving a car, and many of them danced around the front of the room. If anyone woke up during the show, Taylor either told that person to fall back asleep or to return to their chair.

“You feel like you’re a little bit hazy and really relaxed,” said junior Alex Pittner, who volunteered to be hypnotized. He added, “You just hear him and really want to do what he says.”

After the show, a presentation with pictures of seniors was shown to everyone. There were

also videos of juniors talking about things they love and will miss most about the seniors.

Once the presentation finished, students gathered outside by Avery Ranch’s reflection pool, where Harper spoke about the seniors. The Class of 2017 used the time to reflect on their high school experience and pick up paper lanterns that would float around the reflection pool.

“I really liked it,” senior Rachel Beggs said. “I liked the part at the end with the lanterns.”

After watching the lanterns float away, the seniors went back inside to pick up gifts made for them by the juniors. Each senior received a wooden letter with their first name initial, and each letter had a collage of pictures of that senior.

“The senior gifts were so cool,” Hutson said, adding that they were “something I’ll keep for a long time.”

Once Junior/Senior was over, many students went to the after party hosted by seniors Elayna and Jessica Bruce. The party had fun activities and a DJ so students could listen to music and dance.

Junior class officers planned the formal with the help of class sponsors Diann Sloan and Harper and many parent volunteers.

“I think it went fantastic,” president of the junior class Katie Griffith said. “It was so much better than how I originally envisioned.”

# Softball season filled with disappointment, hope for future

By Savannah Jowers

The Lady Bears’ softball team finished the season without a district win, playing against what head coach Paul Sladek called some of the best teams in state. The girls not only faced tough teams, but tough weather and many game postponements. Sladek, like many of the players, was disappointed with the ending.

“The softball season didn’t go according to plan,” he said. “I thought we’d make playoffs

and celebrate our school’s first playoff win, but neither came to fruition.”

In spite of his team’s performance, Sladek praised the effort of the girls.

“What most lacked in experience they didn’t lack in resiliency, and that is what is going to make us really good in the future,” he said.

With the unfortunate season behind them, Sladek has big plans and high expectations for next year and has given the girls optional camps and practices over the summer to keep the en-

ergy high and softball fresh on their minds.

“As far as next year’s outlook it’s simple,” he said. “If our girls put in the work getting help with hitting, working on their defense, and working out, and doing that with 100 percent energy and effort, we’ll be as good as anybody.”

The team’s only senior, Hillarie Carpenter, who will play for Hardin Simmons next year said she is confident the Bears will have brighter days ahead. She also expressed thankfulness for the time she spent with her teammates.

“We’ve had our ups and downs as a team, but they were family,” she said. “I am blessed to have played with such a great group of girls and will miss playing with them next year.”

Once again there will only be one senior next season, Kira Juranek, but there will be many juniors.

“I’m excited to lead my team next year,” Juranek said. “I love all these girls. With a little more effort and practice, I anticipate an amazing season.”



# BCL Fest has live music, recreation

By Michael Milicia

People of all ages ate watermelon and talked to friends or played soccer on a nice warm Friday while live music played in the background. Little girls chased each other around with dif-

ferent designs painted on their faces. Older kids stood around, talking about the music or throwing footballs.

All of these things happened when the BCS Student Council presented Brentwood City Limits, or BCL – a family-friendly event with music and fun activities, on the athletic field on Friday, April 21.

“I think it was a huge success, and it seemed like everyone who came had a wonderful time,” said senior Addison Hardin, the StuCo president. “StuCo had a blast planning it, and we all truly got to enjoy the night. It was such a blessing for us as a group to start a new Brentwood tradition.”

Hardin had always wanted to bring the Austin music element to Brentwood, so she pitched the idea of BCL to StuCo, and they loved it. Different ideas sprang up, and they worked very hard to make it all happen.

The live music lineup started with freshmen Adrie Gruis and Addie McDaniel, the winners of the school talent show in March. Their songs included “I’m Yours” by Jason Mraz and “Black-

bird” by the Beatles. Next came Brentwood grads Abbie Boyd (’10) and Elena Coggin (’04).

“It was super fun to be a part of the first of many BCLs to come. I was impressed by how organized it was, and how there were things for people of every age to enjoy,” Coggin said.

The headliner was a local Austin band called Ms. Mack and the Bros. They played an assortment of well-known songs from the past. Dozens of adults laid down their blankets and sat down in front of the stage, mingling and eating snacks, while their children ran around with friends or played soccer with the older kids.

The music started at around 6:30, but the crowd was small until the end of the Brentwood baseball game, when many more people filed into BCL and walked around, deciding what to do first.

Lots of kids got flowers and stars painted on their faces by seniors In Young Choi and Lindsey Scarborough, and some had a few decorative tattoos or wore flower crowns. Near the end of the evening, fireflies blinked in the field and people caught and chased them around.

Before the event, BCS dad Mark Hickl made a large wooden frame for students to take pictures in, and he gave it to Hardin, junior Grace McDaniel, and senior Lindsey Scarborough to paint it.

“We are hoping they can use this frame for years down the road, because it is super cool,” Hardin said.

Admission was \$3 per person and \$10 for a family of four or more.



photo: Eric Glindemann

**Senior pride** Several BCS seniors (and one former student) pose with the wooden frame made by Mark Hickl for the Brentwood City Limits festival on April 21.

## Stewart tours France as retirement gift from BCS

By Zack Haswell

Former sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart, who retired last year after 38 years at Brentwood Christian, decided to live it large and explore even more of the world. With her retirement gift that she received a year ago, Stewart enjoyed a Viking River Cruise on the Seine River in France with two friends from Houston last month.

Stewart said she is very grateful for the generosity of those who contributed to the gift.

On her journey that lasted from April 16-23, Stewart saw the most famous parts of Paris including the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, Versailles Palace and Gardens, and the Champs Elysees. She also saw lots of the French countryside while cruising the Seine River from Paris to Rouen and back during the week-long trip.

From the docks, Stewart was able to visit

the beaches of Normandy, where the fierce battle between the Allied forces and the Nazi forces took place on June 6, 1944. More than 50,000 confirmed allied deaths occurred in this invasion. While Stewart was at the beach, she saw the remains of German bunkers and artillery and also Allied bridge and harbor parts that were brought across the English Channel to supply the allies in their attacks.

Stewart said she was greatly moved when she was at the American cemetery on a cliff above the Allied landing site called Omaha Beach. Each tourist was given a rose to place at any of the 9,400 graves of the American soldiers.

“There wasn’t a dry eye among us,” Stewart said.

Stewart says one of her favorite parts was the visit to the impressionist painter Claude Monet’s House and Gardens in Giverny.

“Lots of tulips, lilacs, and many other flowers were lushly blooming throughout his gardens in an array of colors,” Stewart said. “It

was easy to see the motivation for so many of his paintings. Really, it felt like I was walking through one!”

Stewart and her friends followed that by eating traditional French food such as croissants, crêpes, beef bourguignon, coq au vin, and french onion soup.

“I passed on the escargot,” she said.

Through the course of the trip, Stewart said she gained a greater appreciation for French heritage as well as an understanding of the French revolution and how the French felt under the rule of the king. Stewart was impressed by how often the French people mentioned their gratitude to the allies for liberating them from Hitler’s regime in the Second World War.

Stewart’s next planned journey will be to Germany for the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s protests. She said she has done mission work in Germany before but would like to see it in winter.

## Music students wrap contests ranked highly

By Benjamin Helyer

The BCS choir came in third in 4A at the TAPPS state contest after competing in the vocal competition on April 22 at Midway ISD. The band came in fifth in the same contest after competing in the large ensemble competitions on April 18 at the Temple Cultural Activities Center.

Band director Travis Pollard said that the placement was as he expected, and he explained that TAPPS placement is influenced heavily by the number of entries. He noted that Brentwood will most likely stay in third through fifth for the next several years, but he hopes to improve and said that the band could easily move up to third next year.

“I think we are doing well in numbers,” he said, but emphasized that more superior ratings are needed in order to place higher.

With identical results to last year’s competition, the band received a “1,” the highest rating, in sight reading but a “2” in large ensemble and jazz ensemble.

The choir received a “1” in large ensemble and a “2” in sight reading.

The final score of both TAPPS competitions was calculated from their respective placings at the large ensemble contest added to the points earned from the solo and ensemble performances on March 29 for band and choir students.

On April 20, secondary choirs performed for a Brentwood audience at the annual 6th-12th grade spring choir concert. The respective concert for the BCS band was held on May 4. Additionally, a BCS strings concert took place on May 5, which featured both the beginner and advanced string ensembles.

## StuCo election results

- President:** Grace McDaniel
- Vice president:** Connor White
- Secretary:** Genevieve Graessle
- Treasurer:** Cade Young
- Historian:** Christine Jo
- Senior rep:** Hannah Lewis
- Junior rep:** Jaclyn Wishard
- Sophomore rep:** Addison Alberda
- Freshman rep:** Mason Hejl
- Upper rep:** Nyna Vazquez
- Lower rep:** Caroline Griffith
- At-large rep:** Dillon Smith