



# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 31 NO. 7

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2019



## Class of 2019 ready to 'fly,' some quite far

By Hannah Womack

With one week remaining until graduation, the 49 BCS seniors are on the verge of taking a bold new step into the future.

Brentwood's graduating class has a higher number of graduates pursuing STEM majors than ever before. Approximately 30 students, or just over 62% of the class, are planning to study a science, technology, engineering, or math-related career. Of those 30, seven plan to go into an engineering field, at least two plan to pursue a technology-related career, and 12 seek a health-related profession. Eight others have expressed interest in a science-related career. The rest will study various majors ranging from education to economics.

A total of 16 students will attend colleges in the UT and A&M systems, with eight in each. Five students will be staying in town and attending ACC.

see SENIORS, page 5

## BCS graduations

**Seniors:** Saturday, May 25, 6 p.m.

**Kindergarten:** Thursday, May 30, 10 a.m.

**5th/8th grade:** Friday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.

## StuCo election results

**President:** Cade Young

**Vice president:** Genevieve Graessle

**Secretary:** Sam Benton

**Treasurer:** Aden Mann

**Historian:** Doeun Kim

**Senior rep:** Daniel Kim

**Junior rep:** Joey Seo

**Sophomore rep:** Sydney Cooper

**Freshman rep:** Dakota Johnson

**Upper rep:** Caroline Griffith

**Lower rep:** Alishah Mohammed

## Formal celebrates world cultures

By Natalie Barry

Excitement filled the air as guests fastened their seatbelts and were transported around the globe to explore the many cultures that

have influenced generations.

Brentwood Christian students enjoyed an adventure at the Junior/Senior Formal on April 26 at Avery Ranch Golf Club. The theme being "Adventure Awaits," cultural dances were

the entertainment. Students took pictures at the ornately decorated sculptures of famous monuments around the world, and they participated in the sentimental sending off of the seniors as they enter a new adventure.

"(It) was a beautiful, fun evening of celebration," junior class sponsor Kaleen Graessle said. "The junior class officers had an ambitious vision for the evening and then managed to pull it off with organized effort that left me speechless."

Upon arrival, students took pictures along the nature waterfall and sculptures, including the Eiffel Tower and Chinese archway made by parent Laurie Weston, and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres on the patio. Guests were invited to be seated by host and junior class sponsor Brandon Greene. Dinner consisted of pasta with parmesan breaded chicken, grilled vegetables, and garlic bread.

Tables were decorated with gold glass globes, flowers, and a bowl of candy that corresponded to the country assigned to the table

see JR/SR, page 8



photo: Lisa Lee

**Don't be shy!** Rosy Fuentes prepares to lead the guests at last month's Junior/Senior Formal in a salsa routine. Entertainment also included Chinese and African dancing.

## B'Smith, Hollingsworth, Sladek say goodbye

By Michael Milicia and Quentin Fowler

As the school year draws to a close and thoughts turn toward goodbyes, the names of teachers and staff who will not be returning to BCS in the fall are on the minds of many who will miss their teachers, their colleagues, their friends.

Among those who will be moving on are English teacher Deb Strickland, science teacher and volleyball coach Kiley Woods, and Spanish teacher and soccer coach Shelby Strong, who left earlier in the spring when her first child was born.

Three whose time at Brentwood Christian spanned the most years are third-grade teacher Carolyn B'Smith, math and Bible teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, and P.E. teacher and softball coach Paul Sladek.

B'Smith has decided to retire after 22 years of teaching children with the love of Jesus Christ at Brentwood. She was known for her calm demeanor and patience while teaching.

"Mrs. B'Smith was always very quiet in

class," freshman Davin Ha said. "She was also really patient and understanding."

Those who came through her class have memories of learning their multiplication tables and testing their knowledge through the "mad minute," and of course, learning cursive. Students have said that learning cursive has improved their handwriting skills considerably and has made it easier to write legibly.

B'Smith said she has many fond memories from her time at Brentwood, including her favorite field trip, the Jersey Barnyard. But one of her most special memories involved working in the same place where her children Leah (Class of '03) and Andy ('07) went to school. B'Smith said she felt blessed that she was able to see them throughout their days and get a glimpse into what their lives were like when they were at school.

B'Smith will be leaving Brentwood to move to a quiet farm in a rural area of Tennessee near her hometown in order to be closer to her

see AFTER, page 3



file photo

**Devoted** Math and Bible teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth wanted students to see the big picture of Christian faith.

# Students celebrate end of year with haikus

We shift through the grass  
Our petals falling faster  
Look, more sun and rain  
**Karlee Lawrence**

Summer is real great  
We all love summer a lot  
It's a real great break!  
**Megha Sama**

Socks – the clothes for toes  
Knee-high, fuzzy, and patterned  
They keep all feet warm  
**Claire Pittner**

Earth is filled by those  
Making rich and colorful  
Planet to live on.  
**Minho Yoon**

Sleep, what a great thing  
I have lost so much this year  
Oh sleep, please come back  
**Natalie Barry**

Harry Potter books  
Countless journeys through pages  
Till the very end  
**Abrah Hague**

Good morning, car line  
Brentwood traffic, it is long  
Late for my first class.  
**Adrie Gruis**

Soft and cute kittens  
Fun to play with and cuddle  
Though sharp claws attack  
**Olivia Wofford**

Lord, I ask of you  
Be my guiding force and truth  
Thankful for your love  
**Ryan Crowe**

Stars wheel overhead  
Turning in ne'er-ending dance  
And glint off the sea  
**Isaac Copeland**

You are forgiven  
That is what the Lord has said  
He loves me always  
**Lorenzo Rivera**

(Getting out of bed)  
No no no no no  
No no no no no no no  
No no no no nope  
**Emma Nguyen**

Megha's a student  
she works hard on her homework  
and loves to study  
**Annie Schmidt**

Now cha-cha real slow.  
Everybody clap your hands.  
*Clap clap clap clap clap.*  
**Sky Barker**

Our Creator lives  
In a world he created  
And the world he loves  
**Luz Ayala**

Gatsby is so strange  
He seems so secret, alone  
Little do they know  
**Samuel Dixon**

School comes to an end  
Excited students waiting  
Counting off the days  
**Dakota Johnson**

This is a haiku  
I don't know why it's called that  
And neither do you  
**Clive Whaley**

This is a haiku  
The seven syllable line  
The line that has five  
**Travis Whitaker**

There was a boy who  
Ate a fly. It flew inside  
Him until he died.  
**Hannah Womack**

Tried AP Bio  
No AP credit for me  
I wasted my time  
**Jackson Baird**

A new world of hope  
America is the dream  
They all seeked to dream  
**Celeste Metayer**

Got an A today  
My parents will be happy  
It made my day good  
**Jonah Connor**

What is a haiku?  
I have never written one  
Someone please teach me  
**Jack Leidlein**

## 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).



**Servant hearts** At the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store on May 3, a group of NHS sophomores, along with teacher Jimmie Harper, straightened and organized books. This was one of the destinations on the rainy NHS Service Day. Other students went to the Central Texas Food Bank or Village Christian Apartments, while some stayed to serve at Brentwood due to the local storms.



# After combined 44 years, three beloved teachers depart

continued from page 1

children and parents. Meanwhile, she said she hopes her former students will continue to have meaningful relationships with God and allow their faith to grow.

“I hope the students I teach find that they want to have a relationship with God,” B’Smith said, “and that it’s the most important thing for their life and future, and can lead them to live a full, blessed life.”

Fifth-grade teacher Evelyn Ellis, who taught third grade alongside B’Smith for 14 years, said B’Smith is one of the most talented teachers she has ever worked with.

“Her prayer every year is to help her students grow in academics and in their love for the Lord,” Ellis recalled. “I will miss her.”

After nine years of serving as an involved parent followed by 10 years of teaching multiple classes to middle and high school, Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth has decided to say goodbye to BCS and join the faculty of Austin Community College to serve as an associate professor of mathematics at the Round Rock Campus.



B’Smith

file photo

Before being hired at BCS, Dr. Hollingsworth was an involved parent, serving as a homeroom mom, book fair coordinator, and parent prayer group leader.

Dr. Hollingsworth said one of the things she enjoyed the most at Brentwood was being a part of her children’s school community. She loved teaching them and their friends, and won’t forget when her son, John (Class of ’16), was baptized by teacher Jimmie Harper at the senior retreat in the fall of 2015. She also smiles when she recalls the basketball senior night for her daughter Lanae (’13), when Lanae made five consecutive three-pointers.

Another thing Dr. Hollingsworth treasures is the conversations she has enjoyed with fellow teachers Kaleen Graessle, Mel Witcher, and Michele Broadway in her end of the upstairs hallway.

“Mrs. Graessle, Mr. Witcher, and Mrs. Broadway were at BCS when I started teaching, and they have been good friends to me,” Dr. Hollingsworth said.

Another highlight she recalls is being the first female to speak in secondary chapel. She said it was “an honor to be asked fill that role.”

During her 10 years at BCS, she taught Algebra II, Math 7, Quantitative Reasoning, and has also taught Bible courses for grades 7, 8, 11, and 12. In 2017, she added SAT Prep. In addition to that was her work with National Honor Society, Spiritual Life Committee, and planning chapel.

“She has always been willing to answer all my questions even if it was not related to academics,” senior Esther Shin said. “She tries to engage everyone in class.”

Fellow math teacher Kaleen Graessle said she will miss the daily interactions with her friend.

“Dr. Hollingsworth is concerned about big issues of the Christian faith and story – love, justice, grace, and the use of the gifts we have been given,” Graessle said. “She used her unique gifts to bless many arenas at BCS.”

Sladek, who became part of the BCS com-



Sladek

file photo

munity as a preschooler in the early 1980s and graduated in 1996, started teaching and coaching at Brentwood in 2007. During his 12 years on staff, Sladek has taught every level of P.E., and therefore he typically knows the names of nearly every student on campus. He said he will miss building relationships with kids and seeing them grow from kindergarten all the way to graduating seniors.

Softball players appreciate his dedication to the team.

“I will always remember the effort and love he put into the softball program,” sophomore Caroline Griffith said. “He worked so hard to make sure we had the field ready and always had water and snacks at games. He also would fight against every bad call because he believed in us.”

Sladek coached the softball team to a district championship in 2011, and he also spent some years as head coach of JV volleyball, JV boys’ basketball, and younger volleyball teams. But he is perhaps most proud of formulating the plans for the “back to school” activities that began in 2014, injecting more fun into the first day of the school year.

Among his fond memories at Brentwood, Sladek mentions teacher retreats at Camp Tejas as well as all the student retreats he was able to join. It was on occasions such as these that he was really able to build relationships.

“There are so many great people I’ll miss that I can’t name them all,” he said.

When news of Sladek’s departure recently emerged, several teachers expressed sadness that the Brentwood community will be losing such a joyful person. Katie Smith, who has taught P.E. alongside him for six years, calls him a “one of a kind” who will be deeply missed.

“He is easy to work with, passionate about all he does, and has a love of these kids and for sharing God’s love with them,” Smith said. “I know he will be a blessing wherever he goes.”

Next year Sladek plans to teach P.E. in public schools. While he will “miss the ability to talk about Christ openly,” he heads to the future in faith.

“The Lord has been calling me for some time to be a light in another school, and I am following Him wherever he places me.”

## Corrections

The following TCSIT results were left out or reported incorrectly in the last issue:

In middle school, Lily Trueper won girls’ Bible reading; Tynneson Allen took fourth and Abbie Burcham fifth. Andrew Kent was fourth in spelling, and Jacob Evertson was sixth in original oratory. Juliet Booker tied for first in music memory.

In high school, Emma Nguyen won social studies and was third in ready writing. Minh Yoon placed third in comprehensive science. Renee Xiong took first and Doeun Kim third in on-site drawing. Kanli Tran was second and Xiong sixth in photography. In computer-aided design, Emma Owens was second, Christine Jo fifth, and Riley Banner sixth.

# Forensics students rise to challenge, solve grisly ‘crime’ on campus

By Sophie Orlikoski

With evidence strewn all over the ground and a body in sight, juniors and seniors of Brentwood Christian were called to the scene on April 22 to solve the murder on the Brentwood campus.

Using their skills learned in Forensics class, the students collected the evidence from the body – which was actually a dummy – and

the area around it to bring it in for processing and solve the “murder.” The students used fingerprinting, blood typing, blood testing, ballistics, and their own sharp logic to figure out who was the guilty individual and create a presentation for the judges.

The students worked in two six-person teams, striving to win the prize. Splitting up into smaller groups to cover all of the bases, teams worked simultaneously – each on a dif-

ferent but similar crime scene – to quickly get all of the evidence processed and put into their presentations.

“I really enjoyed it and I am glad I was given this opportunity to participate in this fun event,” senior Nyna Vazquez said.

Once they finished with processing, their projects were taken to the judging team, made up of Austin Police Department representatives. According to Forensics teacher Michelle

Mallett, the judges had a hard time determining who would win, as both teams were very close, getting almost all of the correct pieces of evidence. Eventually, a group was chosen as the winners, receiving the high-esteemed trophy.

“They worked so hard,” Mallet said. “They were so good at what did; the sheriff was so impressed with how well they did.”

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Jane Hughes*

*Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2019.*

# ‘Delightful’ Jane excels at school, sports, friendships

By Emma Ayers

Some call her driven and smart. Others say she listens like no one else. But one thing they can all agree on: Jane Hughes is a kind, compassionate friend who always looks to her faith for guidance.

Jane came to BCS in fifth grade, and since then has consistently made her mark as an athlete, friend, and faithful student on her classmates and also the school as a whole.

“Jane is honestly the greatest friend someone can ask for,” says friend and fellow senior Madison Bailey. “She is kind, loyal, will laugh at all of your jokes, and is a super awesome listener.”

Bailey says Jane also was the first person to donate to her mission trip funds, and her friend always has a Christ-like attitude, putting others before herself.

Despite the long drive to school each day, which can take 35 minutes on a good day but up to an hour sometimes, Jane says her family wanted her at Brentwood to get a better education. She says she is glad she came and appreciates how well everyone knows each other and how close the community is.

“I’m close with so many of the teachers, too,” says Jane, “like Dr. Hollingsworth and Ms. Rowlett.”

She says she tries to work as hard as she can in her classes, but also wants to take the time to form a relationship with the people who help her.

Jane has made her love for Brentwood known, and has filled many leadership positions in her time at the school. She has been a class officer in both middle and high school and has also served as an officer in NHS.

“I really like being able to serve the community,” she says.

On top of her academic and leadership qualities, Jane also participates in multiple school sports and excels in all of them. She has run track since she was in fifth grade and started playing basketball and pole vaulting in sixth, taking after her sister Martha (Class of ’16). She says she has made some of her best friends playing sports, and

it has brought her closer with her siblings, driving to track meets and practicing with them.

“That’s one thing I’ll miss when I leave,” Jane says. “Sports have brought me even closer to some of my friends.”

Classmates describe Jane as loving, a hard worker, and always focused on Christ.

“Jane is the most hardworking person I know,” says close friend Samantha Fowler. “She always does her work, even now when everyone is starting to give up, and she even does it early.”

Jane’s impact is not only felt by her fellow students, but her teachers as well. Calculus teacher Kaleen Graessle notes that Jane makes Quizlets for all the seniors and is the party coordinator for some of her classes, but

handles it all graciously. She has even been dubbed the “Quizlet Queen” by some of her classmates.

“I have worked with Jane for two years as an NHS officer and as my aide,” teacher and mentor Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth says. “She is a delightful human being; she lives out the perfect balance between striving for excellence in everything while still enjoying life and loving people well.”

When she graduates from Brentwood and starts “a new chapter of her life,” Jane plans on attending the University of Tennessee. There, she is going to be a part of the nursing program, something she says drew her to the school, and says she wants to eventually be a pediatric nurse.

“It’s something I’m really excited about doing,” Hughes says, “and it will help me serve even more.”

Aside from aiding her pursuits in medicine, Jane also says she looks forward to being in Knoxville.

“It’s a great town and it’s far away enough to be different,” she says. “I’ve lived near Austin my whole life...and it will be nice to have a change of scenery.”

Jane was born in Taylor and grew up spending a lot of time with her family, including her cousin who lived nearby and her two siblings. In addition to her older sister, Martha, she has a younger brother Will who is currently a freshman. Jane says they spent time out in the woods by her house building forts and talking. She and Martha would also play with American Girl Dolls.

Jane’s family attends All Saints Presbyterian Church in

## PSIA champs

BCS middle school students won the PSIA sweepstakes after competing at TCU in Ft. Worth on April 27, and they are set to receive their trophy at the Middle School Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 23, in the CSA.

Leading the way for middle school was seventh-grader Renne Cooper, who won the calculator and number sense events and was third in math. Seventh-grader Juliet Booker took first in music memory, and seven other middle school students (grades 6-8) placed in the top 10 of at least one event.

Fifth-grader Michael Kolagani won the dictionary and spelling events, took second in art memory, and was third in music memory.

“We are proud of all of our PSIA state team members and the fact that many of them qualified for multiple events at the state level this year,” PSIA coordinator Kay Taylor said.

Austin, and she says she is glad that her faith has played such a big part in her life. Classmates and teachers alike describe Jane as a model for how to lead a Christ-like life. She is known to make decisions based on faith, and to put that area of her life above all else, even when it’s hard.

Jane says her family chose BCS because of the education, but they stayed because of the connections they were able to form with the community.

“I’m really going to miss my friends more than anything,” Jane says. “Keeping in touch isn’t going to be convenient when we don’t see each other every day. I drive Will to school every morning and I’m going to miss talking to him and everyone else.”

No matter where you are used to seeing Jane, whether it be on the basketball court, the classroom, or just walking down the halls, it is clear that she is a true friend and a true Christian, who always strives to serve others above herself, and she will certainly be missed on the Brentwood campus.





# Seniors’ plans include 32 different schools, 10 states

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Another 14 students are enrolled in an out-of-state college, and two more will be traveling to entirely different countries. Madison Bailey will head to Guatemala, Ethiopia, and Thailand for mission work. Christi Snow will provide early childhood education to an orphanage in Rafiki, Uganda.

Esther Shin will be traveling the farthest away to attend college. She’s headed to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., where she will major in economics and minor in art history/international studies. Blake Benton will be nearby at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where he will study political science or Arabic to benefit his military career.

“I look forward to the opportunities and challenges the Academy has to offer me,” Benton said. “I am very excited for my time in Annapolis.”

Anna Skupin, Jaclyn Wishard, Nick Le, and Tessa Banner are all headed for California. Skupin, who is on a pre-med track and will major in biology, and Wishard, who has not yet decided her major, are both headed to Pepperdine. Le is going farther south, where he will study bioengineering at UC-San Diego with hopes to later work in the medical field. Banner will be at

California Institute of the Arts in Santa Clarita, where she will study music technology.

“I love making music, and I want a job that doesn’t feel like a job, but that I really enjoy,” Banner said. “I am most looking forward to moving to California and getting the chance to work with incredible musicians.”

Jane Hughes, who will be at the University of Tennessee, wants to become a pediatric nurse.

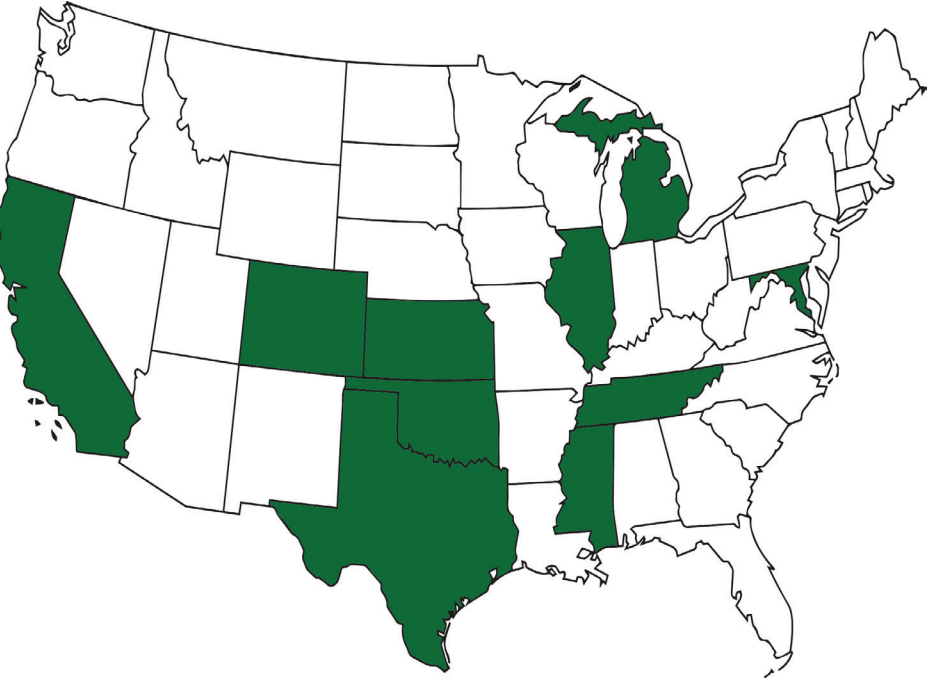
“I have always found joy in helping others, and I also love working with children,” Hughes said. “I am so excited to go to Knoxville and enjoy all the new experiences and meet so many new people. I know going to a new place will bring challenges, but I am excited to try new things.”

Whit Allee, who plans to study biomedical studies at Texas A&M, said he is looking forward to being being able to manage his life and discover who he is apart from his family and Brentwood.

“It’s a daunting task, but it’s still something that I’m really excited about,” Allee said.

Class sponsor Tere Hager said she is proud of the seniors’ hard work this year and the way they grew closer to each other.

“I pray that they find ways to stay connected as they move on and spread out all over the world,” she said.



<b>Abilene Christian University</b> DeanAlan Wiginton - youth ministry	<b>University of Tennessee</b> Jane Hughes - nursing
<b>Austin Community College</b> Whitney Avila - radio-TV-film Max Cooper - nursing Gavin Damra - finance Tristan Hildebrandt - undecided Nu Pham - software engineering	<b>University of Texas at Austin</b> Adrian Batlle - biology Christine Jo - biochemistry
<b>Baylor University</b> Connor Troutman - health science (pre-med)	<b>UT Arlington</b> Brayden George - biology (pre-pharm)
<b>Blinn Junior College</b> Samantha Fowler - education McKenzie Gatlin - economics Kori Howell - dental hygiene	<b>UT Dallas</b> Mitchell Johnson - computer science Justin Park - art technology, communication Harry Seo - computer science Christian Trevino - mechanical engineering
<b>California Institute of the Arts</b> Tessa Banner - music technology	<b>UT San Antonio</b> Zoe Pedroza - business management
<b>University of California San Diego</b> Nick Le - bioengineering	<b>Texas A&amp;M University</b> Whit Allee - biomedical sciences Micah Best - engineering Sam Dixon - electrical engineering Clarice Flores - biomedical engineering
<b>Colorado State</b> Jade Wright - wildlife biology	<b>Texas A&amp;M - Commerce</b> Daniel Lane - ag systems management
<b>Concordia University, Chicago</b> Corrie Hager - nonprofit management	<b>Texas A&amp;M - Corpus Christi</b> Nathan Ging - kinesiology
<b>Johns Hopkins</b> Esther Shin - economics	<b>Texas A&amp;M - Galveston</b> Jared Arms - mechanical engineering
<b>University of Mary Hardin-Baylor</b> Nyna Vazquez - health science Riley Walker - biology	<b>Texas A&amp;M - Kingsville</b> Curtis Mack - mechanical engineering
<b>Michigan State University</b> Joslyn Hoffmeyer-Gay - undecided	<b>Texas State University</b> Lauryn Williams - sports medicine
<b>MidAmerica Nazarene University</b> Zack Mack - criminal justice	<b>Texas Tech University</b> Madison Moseley - business marketing
<b>Mississippi College</b> Adam Murphree - biology	<b>Trinity University</b> Jack Oberwortmann - biology
<b>US Naval Academy</b> Blake Benton - political science	<b>University of Tulsa</b> Kayla Mayo - biological sciences
<b>University of North Texas</b> Emma Dowell - theater	<b>Vanderbilt University</b> Chase Blackman - medicine
<b>Pepperdine University</b> Anna Skupin - biology (pre-med) Jaclyn Wishard - undecided	<b>Gap year</b> Madison Bailey - mission work in Guatemala, Ethiopia, and Thailand Christi Snow - early childhood education at an orphanage in Rafiki, Uganda
<b>St. Edward’s University</b> Anam Mohammed - biology (pre-med)	

# Track athletes compete at state to conclude strong year

By Michael Milicia

From the sprinters in the 400 and 1600 meter relays, to the jumpers and throwers in field events, several BCS athletes competed in the TAPPS 5A state meet at the Midway Panther Stadium in Waco on May 4.

Unfortunately, no athletes placed in the top three for any events, but the boys' team placed 16th overall, above district foes Regents and Hyde Park Baptist. The girls' team placed 19th overall, also above Hyde Park. The girls' team from Regents did not make it to state.

"I'm proud of the dedication and work ethic that the boys showed throughout the season," boys' head coach Correy Washington said. "Track is not an easy sport, and I am aware that I ask for a lot out of those guys, but we are all on the same page and want to be successful."

Girls' head coach Katie Smith said her team was "small in number but big in talent."

"I am very proud of our girls' effort and sportsmanship and the way they came together to compete both as individuals and as a team."

The girls' 4x100 team consisting of freshman Alicia Gardner, senior McKenzie Gatlin, sophomore Julia Glenn, and senior Kayla Mayo placed eighth (52.04), while senior Jane Hughes was fifth in pole vault (9-0), and sophomore Julia Glenn came in sixth in triple jump (32-09.75).

Freshman Chris Mayo finished fourth in the 200, achieving his personal record and beating the school record with a time of 22.55. The

boys' 4x400 team of Mayo and juniors Phil Mach, Gavin George, and Michael Milicia created another school record, beating their previous time by two seconds (3:37.43). Sophomore Aaron Lilya placed sixth (16.94) and eighth (43.43) in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles, respectively. Senior Curtis Mack threw for seventh in discus (127-0), and junior Jonah Connor placed eighth in high jump (5-08).

The team left after school on Thursday, May 2, and stayed at a hotel in Temple. Because of dangerous weather, the field events on Friday were postponed to Saturday, similar to last year's state meet. So on Friday, the Bears had the whole day to themselves, and Washington graciously drove them to the Temple Mall. Later that day, one group went to see *Avengers: Endgame*, while another went swimming in the outdoor pool at the hotel.

"It was fun to spend two days to chill and have a good team bonding, especially while it was pouring rain during a blackout on Friday," Mach said.

A week earlier, the track teams competed at their regional meet at the Herman Clark Stadium in Ft. Worth on Apr. 26. The boys' team placed seventh overall while the girls placed sixth. Runners who placed fourth and above advanced to state.

To start off the day, the girls' 4x100 team ran a 52.55 for second place. In the 100, Kayla Mayo placed fourth (13.14) with Gatlin right behind in fifth (13.41). Mayo also threw for second in shot put (34-11).



photo: Nyna Vazquez

**Prepare for launch** Senior Curtis Mack, who won discus at district with a school-record throw of 131-02, also competed well at regionals and at the state meet in Waco.

Senior Jaclyn Wishard placed fifth in high jump (4-10), and Hughes was fourth in pole vault (9-0). Glenn placed fourth in triple jump (32-02.75) and fifth in long jump (15-07.25).

In both the 110 and 300 hurdles, Lilya placed fourth with times of 16.46 and 44.78, respectively. Chris Mayo placed second in the 200 (22.96), and the 4x400 team finished fourth (3:42.46). Mack came in third in discus (127-03), and Connor jumped 5-10 to finish third in high jump.

## Girls' golf finishes at state tourney

By Jackson Baird

The varsity girls' golf team competed in the state tournament on April 29-30 at the Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose.

The team finished seventh out of eight teams competing in TAPPS 5A, and two of the four girls who competed for Brentwood shot their new personal bests: Senior Kori Howell shot an 84, and sophomore Laura Wilson shot a 97. Also, junior Kirsten Morgan shot a 97, and senior Madison Moseley shot a 102.

Despite high winds and gray skies on day two of the tournament, the girls persevered and played through without any delays.

"I think mental fatigue crept in and caused the higher scores," head coach John Vandygriff said. "Nevertheless, the girls got another year under their belt as one of only eight teams in TAPPS 5A to qualify for the state tournament."

In her last season, Howell said she enjoyed bonding with her team and growing closer together.

"I loved how my senior season finished out, and I would like to think I got closer to all the girls on the team," Howell said.



photo: Brandi Gruis

**Dancing Queens** The Lady Bellas' Spring Showcase took place on Friday, May 3, in front of a large crowd in the CSA. The high school Bellas, middle school Bellas, and Bitty Bellas all performed numbers in the theme "Let's Go to the Movies," performing a total of 18 routines. After an evening full of dancing, kicking, and hard work, two freshman girls on the team passed out backstage in the last routine. The two are fine now, but it was a dramatic finish to an eventful night.



# Young baseball squad struggles, prepares for future

By Jackson Baird

The Brentwood Christian varsity baseball team wrapped up their season on April 25 with a 2-1 loss to Regents. The Bears finished with a 1-8 district record.

Despite the rocky season, head coach Jeffrey Doege is optimistic for next season.

“We were a young team competing in a very tough district,” Doege said. “I am excited for next year because we are returning everyone and will only get better.”

Players making the TAPPS all-district first team this year are juniors Luke Jackson and Travis Whitaker, and sophomore Riley Keesey. On the second team are junior Isaac Copeland, sophomore Zachary Billante, and freshmen Ryan Crowe and Seth Taylor.

Over the off-season the Bears will be working on hitting and defense, as those were the two areas Doege pointed out as most in need of improvement. During district play Brentwood only managed to get 28 runs across the plate while giving up 76.

“We struggled in two parts of the game, hitting and defense,” Doege said. “The better pitching in district caused us to struggle hitting the ball, and defensively we let ourselves down with too many errors.”

Copeland said he is optimistic about next season.

“There is a lot to look forward to,” Copeland

said. “We are returning all of our starters and should be in contention for district next year.”

Whitaker led the team in batting with a .433 average, 29 hits, and 8 doubles.

“This season was good because even though we didn’t win a lot, we will have a solid team with good chemistry going into next season,” Whitaker said.

Copeland followed Whitaker with a batting average of .351 and also led the team with 24 RBIs, followed by Whitaker’s 18 RBIs. Billante hit .321 and scored 23 runs.

On the mound the Bears were led by Keesey, who had an ERA of 3.28, 68 strikeouts in 47 innings, and five wins. Taylor had an ERA of 1.81.

Following are the team’s most recent game results:

**4/16: Regents 2-0 L**

Regents scored early and kept the Bears off of the scoreboard, before adding to their lead with another run in the fifth inning. Taylor was on the mound for BCS, giving up only four hits, but the defense let him down with four errors. Jackson and Copeland had Brentwood’s only two hits of the game.

**4/18: St Michael’s 19-0 L**

BCS was overmatched, as St. Michael’s piled on the runs early and kept them coming. The Crusaders broke open the game in the third with 10 runs off of four different Bears pitchers.



photo: Sky Barker

**Big cut** Freshman Sam Benton takes a swing and sends the ball on its way during a game last month. The Bears won several games before their district games began.

**4/23: @ Hyde Park 6-4 L**

Brentwood took a 2-0 lead in the third before the Panthers halved the deficit in the bottom half of the inning. Hyde Park took the lead in the fifth, bringing five runs across the plate. Taylor pitched, giving up only four hits. BCS tallied three hits on the day.

**4/25: @ Regents L 2-1**

Despite being out-hit six to two, Brentwood

made the game close thanks to Keesey’s pitching, which included six strikeouts in six innings. Regents took a 1-0 lead in the first inning before the Bears responded with one run in the third. The Knights broke through in the fifth, taking back a one-run lead, and held on through seven for the victory, concluding the Bears’ season.

# Softball girls experience tough season, say difficult goodbyes



photo: Sadie Mancias

**Ready to rip** Senior Christi Snow was one of five seniors on this year’s Lady Bears softball team.

By Natalie Hargrove

The varsity softball team wrapped up a disappointing season last month, in which they finished 2-8 in district, playing at the 5A level for the first time.

A week after the season ended, the Lady Bears were informed by head coach Paul Sladek that he has decided not to return next season.

Sladek said he looks forward to seeing all of the girls continue to develop and succeed under the new coaching staff.

“I appreciate all of the players, parents, and teachers coming out to support us this season,” Sladek said.

Senior Nyna Vazquez, who has had Sladek as a P.E. teacher

and as her softball coach in middle and high school, said she will miss him.

“I have learned so much from him. He has made an impact on my life, and I will always be grateful for him,” Vazquez said.

Even though the season did not end the way the girls wanted, they enjoyed being together and made long-lasting memories.

Senior Kori Howell said one of the things she enjoyed most during the season was when they would cheer together, but would all end up laughing because they messed up the cheer. She also encouraged the girls playing next season “to not give up no matter the score or how bad you think you are doing. Don’t lose faith.”

Senior Lauryn Williams made first-team all-district, while Vasquez and senior Samantha Fowler earned a spot on the second team. Howell made honorable mention.

Following are the most recent results:

**4/16: @ S.A. Holy Cross 9-0 L**

Holy Cross pulled away with three runs in the third inning and three more in the fourth. Their pitcher struck out 13 batters and allowed

only two hits.

**4/17: @ Hyde Park 19-4 W**

After Brentwood took a 9-5 lead over Hyde Park on April 12, the game was suspended due to sophomore catcher Natalie Hargrove’s injury. Unfortunately for the Bears, officials ruled that it would have to be restarted. This was no problem for the Bears, who scored seven runs in the first inning and 10 more in the second. The Hyde Park pitcher had 18 walks and gave up only three hits, two of them by Williams.

**4/23: TMI 8-2 L**

The Lady Bears honored their five seniors before the game. TMI’s starting pitcher came out with strong ball movement on her pitches, which gave the Bears trouble. The girls finally broke through with two runs in the last inning.

**4/25: SACS 13-3 L**

San Antonio put the game away in the third inning with seven runs. Brentwood got their three in the bottom of the fifth. The Lady Bears only had two hits; meanwhile SACS had 12 hits and benefitted by 13 Brentwood errors.



# INSHORT

## Smith baby born

Academic advisor Leah Smith welcomed her third child into the world at 5:30 a.m. on Friday, May 10. Haylee-Grace Blair was born at St. David's Women's Center of Texas. Mom has been discharged, but at 3 pounds, 12 ounces and 16¼ inches, baby will be in the NICU for another four weeks.

## 3D-print bridges

Geometry class's annual spaghetti bridge project featured a new twist this year. Six honors students chosen by teacher Kaleen Graessle worked with Ted Neil, husband of BCS teacher Carol Neil, to design and create their bridges using a 3D printer. Neil, a college friend of Graessle, allowed them to print their bridges at his work. The bridges are being tested along with the other spaghetti bridges to see how much weight they can hold.

# Grandparents find warmth, chilly weather

By Natalie Barry

Smiles and laughter rose through the air despite the chilly and misty weather as grandparents from near and far gathered to be celebrated.

Rich and Paula Ruskan, grandparents of

first-grader Miles Futrell, were named Grandparents of the Year, as nearly 400 grandparents descended on the BCS campus for the 37th annual Grandparents' Day on May 10.

Grandparents were ushered by the jazz band into the FLC for the honorary breakfast, which consisted of biscuits, fruit, and muffins, hosted

by NHS students, volunteers, and faculty members. Corsages and boutonnieres were given to grandparents as gifts at breakfast.

Grandparents then headed to the auditorium for an assembly to watch elementary students perform several songs including "Star Spangled Banner," "Count Every Blessing," and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Each group began with a more traditional song and then played ukuleles and percussion instruments for a second, more upbeat song.

Middle school and high school choir also sang a mixture of traditional and newer songs, and Encore's performances included "I Dreamed a Dream" from *Les Miserables*. The program ran longer than scheduled, which only allowed for two of the three planned classroom sessions to be attended.

Activities in these two sessions included the traditional rodeo events with the kindergartners, square dancing in the FLC with the second graders, and the fourth grade's performance of "Historical Hysteria."

"Grandparents' Day is one of the most special days on campus," junior Adrie Gruis said. "The joy shared between a grandchild and their grandparent when they learn a little bit more about each other is the most incredible thing in the world."



photo: Dorothy Walters

**History lesson** Fourth-graders Gracyn Mayle as Betsy Ross and Levi Baron as Mark Twain entertained guests with their production of *Historical Hysteria*.

# Jr/Sr offers colorful, interactive cultural experience

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ranging from France to China to India. Guests were dismissed by tables between performances to get dessert, which consisted of cultural petit fours that were decorated with edible famous attractions from different countries.

Guests were transported to China as dancers of all ages from The Love of China School of Dance performed a Chinese ribbon routine including tambourines.

After each entertainment group, students were invited to learn a small part of the routine and perform it for the guests. Door prizes of gift cards to restaurants around Austin were drawn between each of the routines and awarded to four guests.

The next stop was Africa, as dancers from Ballet Afrique with brightly colored costumes enthralled the audience with an energetic routine filled with a synthesis of ballet, modern, and traditional African movement.

Guests then traveled to Ireland as dancers from the Irish Dance Center mesmerized the audience with complex rhythms and intricate footwork. Seniors were then invited to partici-

pate in learning a few steps to pay tribute to the fact that Ireland was the destination for the senior trip.

The final destination was Latin America, as BCS parents Rosy and Cesar Fuentes presented a lively salsa routine filled with animated aspects of Latin dance.

"I think everyone really enjoyed the energy that all the dancers brought," junior Addison Alberda said. "It was a unique moment where we could all appreciate the same thing."

Seniors were honored by Graessle as she shared some heartwarming final words of advice before they begin a new adventure.

Guests were then given lanterns and traveled outside to release them in the pond. Students were led in song as the lanterns floated away and then prayed over by junior Isaac Copeland.

Junior class sponsors helped plan the event alongside class sponsors Greene, Summer Best, and Graessle, and parent volunteers.

"The junior class officers and I worked really hard on creating an exciting cultural experience, and we couldn't have imagined it turning out better," junior class president Natalie Barry said.



photo: Brandi Gruis

**Halfway across the world** The Love of China School of Dance was one of the entertainment groups at Junior/Senior on April 26. They performed a ribbon routine.