HOBBIES
The importance of having them

INSIDE
Teachers of the Year
Summer Bucket list
Students considering to branch into a manufacturing major in college are in luck for this upcoming school year. Houston Community College, or HCC, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Labor on March 18. Crystal Sauceda, who wrote the press release on the event, says that the MOU established a partnership between both parties in which the HCC’s Manufacturing Center of Excellence was officially recognized as a registered apprenticeship center.

“The Department of Labor, or DOL, administers and enforces more than 180 federal laws,” said Sauceda. “These mandates and the regulations implement them cover many workplace activities for about 10 million employers and 125 million workers.”

A registered apprenticeship is both an employment and training program in which one learns a skilled profession in a specific field while earning wages. Sauceda explains that this partnership makes HCC the only manufacturing apprenticeship in the area and will benefit the community college in the long run as more students will be more likely to attend.

“Because HCC works with Houston employers, students will be confident in choosing HCC, knowing that the training they receive at the school is exactly the way employers want them to be trained,” said Sauceda.

HCC and the DOL have been partners since 2004, however at the time the DOL did not have the ability to delegate authority to its education partners. However, in 2016, the capability to do so was possible and as James F. Carnes from the U.S. Department of Labor states, HCC was at the top of the organization’s list to work with. This was due to the institutional knowledge and work HCC had already done in past registered apprenticeships. As for the importance of apprenticeships, HCC Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence member Ritu Raju asserts that these programs guarantee a provided industry-driven and high quality career pathway to any participating student.

“Employers can develop and prepare their future workforce and individuals can obtain a paid work experience,” said Raju.

Houston is currently a top manufacturing city among the country with more than 10,000 manufacturers who employ more than a quarter million skilled workers. As for the graduating class of 2019 and current high school alumns, Sauceda states that this partnership will definitely meet the needs and skills required for students to succeed in the city’s career sector. Sauceda is confident that HCC will pull through on this signing and continue to grow and learn along with the community.

“We pride ourselves on being Houston’s community college and we present this to the rest of Houston by meeting the city’s demands,” said Sauceda.
Anxiety and Depression Within Mental Health

"One of my earliest memories of my anxiety is it being mostly caused by social situations and knowing details of things," *Mitchell said. "When I was in fourth grade on my way to vacation with my family we had missed our flight and I was a mess. I was shaking, crying, and hyperventilating in the middle of the airport."

Anxiety is mostly associated with fear or worry. Despite that, an anxiety illness is a feeling of serious worry for no reason to be truly concerned, or seriously worrying for something that can easily be fixed. And when you tie that with school, there are many things to worry about.

"School is a constant struggle, if I have a question I'm too scared to ask the teacher in class or go to tutoring because I never know what the teacher may say and I don't want to come across as dumb," *Mitchell said. "I have never been to school without anxiety. My anxiety is a part of me and I think I just learned to cope with it through school."

There are many ways for a student to be stressed. A deadline being due or a quiz or test, are just the simple things that can lead to stressed students. The anxiety that come out of that situation can force the student to work harder to overcome their stressed feelings, which also could lead to more anxiety.

"I have to constantly be aware of my surroundings. I use earbuds to block out noise to distract myself from all the from panic attacks can have them at any point of the day. Panic attacks can leave more anxiety for them throughout the day."

"My anxiety causes me to miss out on certain things such as parties, dances and banquets. It also just has me constantly under a state of stress and worry whilst I'm at school," said *Mitchell. "I'm always thinking of the worst possible outcomes."

reason made me very separated from my family," junior *Alexis Jones said.

It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent of all teenagers have a prominent period of depression, which is defined of having symptoms of depression for two weeks or more. The serious illness is similar to those of adults who have the illness, yet in adolescents, it is harder to detect depression in teenagers, leading to later treatments or never being treated at all. Teenagers and adults with depression both share the withdrawal from activities they had once enjoyed.

"I would come home and do homework, but once my mom and dad came home I would go straight to my room and not talk," *Jones said. "I felt like I wasn’t important enough and couldn’t talk about my day."

If depression is left untreated, it can lead to a hold on a teenagers skills that they need to be viable in the future.

"I kind of secluded myself from friends outside of school so that caused me to not have proper relationships and know how to handle them without guidance," *Jones said.

Spreading awareness about mental illnesses in teenagers is very important. It can allow students to open up about their problems to those important to them, and can allow them to help themselves and those around them going through the same thing. Despite the amount of taboo that is littered with serious mental illnesses, opening up about the problems can help those different, and those alike, to understand the mental illnesses that are prominent across the country. Because in the classroom of mental illness, serious illnesses can’t be kept in the dark.

*Names changed to protect privacy.

She stood for a second, glancing around the room. It was quiet. So quiet that she could hear her breathing becoming more and more labored. Alike to her breathing, her heart beat filled her brain, almost like the sound was protruding from her ears. The tapping of feet surrounded her, punching herself and all thoughts in her brain. She wanted to pull herself into a ball, hoping to hold her ears in and hyperventilating in the middle of the airport.

The anxiety illness takes time out of those who have it. Those with this illness can be hit with the many types of this illness, like the more known panic attacks. Those suffering
It is the beginning of a new day at school and students are seen beginning to take out their notes, pencils and pens in every classroom in the building. While some students are prepared to take on the day, others cannot help but feel restless and limited by doing the same thing every day. However what many students look forward to at the end of the day are their hobbies, or activities they like to do in their free time for their own enjoyment. Hobbies vary in many different forms, such as one of junior Diego Rivera’s favorite pass times, gaming. “I came across my first video game when I was in first grade and my dad bought a PlayStation 3 and along with it he bought this game called Tekken 6, which was the sixth installment of a fighting game called Tekken,” said Rivera. “I remember loving the concept of how I could pick any character and that if I practiced with anyone, I could win against them.” Rivera does not see gaming taking on a huge part of his life, such as considering to devote his career to it as others may do. However, he appreciates it as an activity he can rely on whenever he is bored and just wants to have some fun. He believes that video games, both online and on consoles, can share important messages to its players, such as the game LittleBigPlanet, that can inspire creativity or Pokémon, which builds upon a payer’s strategic skills and character building. Gaming also allows for Rivera to make new friends and memories whilst playing online. He acknowledges the fact that online gaming allows for users to connect with others from across the globe who have similar interests, no matter the culture differences.

“Overall, gaming helps me as a person by keeping me sane,” said Rivera. “I think it is a great distraction from the stresses of the world because it pulls you into another dimension and makes you forget about what is happening around you for a while.” Similarly, junior Michelle Gonzalez finds her hobby in volunteering as a way to relieve stress by taking a break from her life and aiding those who need assistance. Gonzalez discovered her passion for helping out others when she was in seventh grade. It has been a pass time that has allowed her to find joy and have fun. She would like to be a teacher one day and she feels like volunteering allows her to put her needs aside and help others who need it, just as a teacher would do to her students. “What I love most about volunteering is being able to know more people and help them and in return learning to value the things I have that some people may not have,” said Gonzalez. “It is something that is good for the soul.”

Junior Nicole Fuentes values her hobbies as a mean to stay productive, and like many youth struggle with, stay off her phone. Having developed knitting as a hobby two years ago, she found it to be an activity she can do with her grandmother, having asked her to teach her. Fuentes utilizes knitting as a time to not only bond with her grandmother, but as a way to pass the time, such as when in long car rides or while watching TV. She finds it very fun and relaxing, and not only does she enjoy knitting, but painting as well. “I struggle with doing things I enjoy, including knitting and painting, but when I am able to do it, knitting helps make me calm,” said Fuentes.
Many people have days riddled with stress, whether it be as students, teachers, managers, parents, or one of many other roles in society. At the end of a tiring day, coming home to a hobby can be a much needed release from stress. Hobbies also involve motivation, which helps to distract from daily stress with enjoyment and productivity.

“We need time or ‘white space’ in our lives to recharge and ultimately increase our creativity and productivity,” said AP psychology teacher Amanda Sandlin. “A hobby can help you unwind and helps you tap into your passions.”

Having a hobby greatly improves mental health. Sandlin observes that people with hobbies tend to be happier and more relaxed. This leads to brain development and mental fitness. She believes this effect is even more essential on growing minds, such as those of students.

“Students today have a lot of pressure to be successful,” said Sandlin. “A hobby would allow them the opportunity to explore opportunities that could open up a whole new world for them.”

Hobbies are also beneficial when involving other people. One of Sandlin’s hobbies, for example, is working out. In addition to the benefit of increased physical and mental health, Sandlin has formed great friendships through her workout group. Hobbies involving others makes it easier to form strong social connections and promote engagement and positive mental health.

“When people in a community are involved in hobbies, they are more connected and will be less likely to see conflict,” said Sandlin. “There is common ground amongst people.”

Sandlin finds hobbies to be beneficial to mental health because of their promotion of creativity, physical exertion, and a form of ‘escape’ from the pressures of daily life. Sandlin’s main hobby is physical activity, which develops mental fitness to cope with emotions from stress-producing hormones. In addition, Sandlin likes to read, because it allows her to fully immerse herself in someone else’s story and escape her day to day emotions and responsibilities.

When time allows, Sandlin’s favorite hobby is traveling. She considers it a complete sensory experience that allows exposure to new places, cultures, and history. All of Sandlin’s hobbies allow her to focus on the present and task at hand, which improves growth mindset and promotes a positive mental state.

“It’s hard to be worried when you are focused on your present state,” said Sandlin. Sandlin encourages all those who are stressed or in need of a release from daily life to find a hobby. She believes that hobbies are responsible for positive mental health because they help the mind to unwind while still being productive. Sandlin recommends that those looking for a hobby should look into what they are curious about or willing to try. Rather than forcing a hobby that can’t be enjoyed, each person should try something new and see how it changes stress level, curiosity, and overall relaxation.

“Try something new and be willing to take some risks,” said Sandlin. “We learn best when we go outside of our comfort zones.”

**The Importance of Hobbies**

1. **Vlogging**
2. **Photography**
3. **Painting**
4. **Surfing**
5. **Calligraphy**
6. **Scrapbooking**
7. **Yoga**
8. **Graphic Design**
9. **Volunteering**
10. **Swimming**
11. **Snorkeling**
12. **Dance**
13. **Makeup**
14. **Cooking**
15. **Writing**
Passion tends to give way to great ideas. It provides an escape from the stress and mundaneness of everyday life and works as an outlet to grow creativity and love. In some cases, such as those of senior Kamal Yazigi, passion also gives way to something more—a business.

Yazigi’s passion developed when he was hospitalized for pneumothorax. In an effort to give Yazigi an opportunity to explore his interests and to give him some company after his hospitalization, Yazigi’s father bought him a camera. Since receiving his first entry-level camera, Yazigi developed his interest in photography into a growing passion.

"After some time, I began to realize the potential since everyone was complimenting me for my photography," said Yazigi. "I decided to branch out and start a business."

Yazigi created a company based in photography and videography. He immersed himself entirely into his venture, in from acquiring equipment to naming the company KY Media, after his initials. Since its beginning, the company has grown through Yazigi’s efforts to expand his skill set. He also had to learn how to market himself. When he started, Yazigi considered himself to be shy and inexperienced.

"I was unsure of what people would think of me if I started to talk about my photography," said Yazigi. "However, with enough time, this no longer became a problem. Now, whenever I show people or potential clients my work, it speaks for itself."

Yazigi’s work has only continued to develop his business. He works with a diverse target audience and offers photography services to many clients, from teenagers wanting a portrait, to large scale business owners in automobile or real estate industries. Yazigi is currently booked for several automotive photo shoots and commercials, for which he targets businesses or personal owners of cars that are highly sought after. Yazigi also hopes to expand into portrait photography and even online selling with Amazon.

"Taking pictures of people is super fun and creates awesome memories," said Yazigi.

Yazigi considers himself successful with KY Media and its progress. He plans to continue his company’s ventures in business photography with cars and real estate. Yazigi also plans to expand into portrait photography and even online selling with Amazon.

He finds success in his work and future plans, mainly because his passion continues to grow and spread.

“I have my own definition of success,” said Yazigi. “To me, success is being happy with my business while also getting clients consistently.”

Yazigi plans to continue in photography, though his business will soon change as his life heads in a new direction. This fall, he will move to Dallas for college and will need to create new connections and networks for KY Media, similar to how he first started his company. Despite the upcoming changes in his life, Yazigi plans to continue photography with the support of his family, friends, and Young Entrepreneurs of Katy club, who opened Yazigi’s eyes to his first business opportunities. Yazigi plans to work through college and life with photography always nearby.

“I’m passionate about photography but I have bigger and better things planned for my future and hope to continue it as a hobby,” said Yazigi. “I’m really excited for what’s to come.”

Head to kymedia.wixsite.com/home to check out some of Yazigi’s work.
The morning began like any other school day. With a sly smirk, Matthew Rhodes rose to his feet and quickly sparked life into the students. The algebra teacher was in the middle of reviewing last night’s homework when a dozen of his fellow teachers bursted into his classroom. There was a moment of confusion which promptly transformed into celebration when one of the teacher revealed a wooden plaque with Rhodes’ name shining brightly at the bottom. For a moment, he blankly stared at the golden lettering before it suddenly occurred to him what was truly happening. He had won Teacher of the Year.

“I felt honored to be chosen for such an incredible award. This award reassures me that my teaching style is truly benefiting my students,” said Rhodes.

Rhodes also was awarded Katy ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year on April 16. The Teacher of the Year award is an achievement given to an educator who shows outstanding leadership and initiative to aid their students.

When Rhodes first received a job at Tompkins he immediately agreed to co-sponsor the Falcon esports league, a competitive video game league for students. As his experience with high school teaching grew he was offered more ways to contribute, such as holding after school detention. Rhodes even supports the Katy community by providing tutoring for homebound students.

“All I did to receive this award was care for my students like any good teacher would,” said Rhodes.

However, the Teacher of the Year award was not all that was given out this year. The New Teacher of the Year award is a prize given out to a first year teacher for similar characteristics. This year’s winner is world geography teacher Jason Gigante. In his first year of teaching Gigante has exhibited many reasons why he was chosen for this award. He quickly immersed himself in the community by becoming Tompkins’ assistant golf coach and regularly encouraged team members to grow into the best players they could be.

“I attended the University of New Mexico and also studied in Great Britain and Germany. It was a really easy decision for me to retire from a very successful career in the restaurant industry and become a teacher. It was the best decision I’ve made in a long time,” said Gigante.
May 2019

Katy Sinks its Teeth into these New Restaurants

Shahzad is a restaurant that rests off of South Mason Road near Highlands Knolls. The restaurant offers a spin on classic Persian dishes by combining lamb, chicken, fish and vegetables with familiar flavors such as saffron, dried lime, cinnamon and parsley.

Miyabi Cafe Noodle House is a new restaurant which replaced Miyabi Sushi. It is located on the west side of Grand Parkway near Highlands Knolls. The restaurant serves a variety of beloved Japanese cuisine, such as Handmade Noodles, Fried Rice and Teriyaki. The cafe's meals are all affordable and available for takeout or delivery.

Legends Coffee & Cafe is a family owned and operated restaurant that offers homemade food, refreshing drinks and good times. The cafe boosts an atmosphere of rock and roll that perfectly complements the artistic coffee and constant music filling the air. The cafe also offers a unique experience for local musicians by allowing these artists to give live performances on a daily basis.

Highlands Kolls is now home to one of the many restaurants in the Hungry Howie's Pizza franchise. The restaurant offers a large selection of toppings to place on your freshly made pizza. Hungry Howie's Pizza is well known for its flavored crusts and offers over ten original and unique seasonings such as butter, olive, and Cajun.

Maika’i Hawaiian BBQ is a restaurant on Pin Oak Road and near Kingsland Boulevard. The restaurant boasts a series of dishes such as kalbi short ribs, teri beef and teri chicken that members in and out of the Polynesian community can enjoy. Maika’i Hawaiian BBQ is also well known for its reliable delivery and takeout services.

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Falcon Cries

Which movie would you like to be in and why?

Taylor Beebe, 11th

"Pirates of The Caribbean, because I love action movies and I can dominate with my fighting skills."

Will Holzer, 12th

"Kill Bill, because the aesthetic Quentin Tarantino sets up in the movie is beautiful."

Andrea Lara, 10th

"Kill Bill, because the aesthetic Quentin Tarantino sets up in the movie is beautiful."

Vanessa Caceres

"Ready Player One, because it involves online gaming and virtual reality, and I think it is really cool."

Rachel Bregnard

"Avatar, I want to be one of those blue people because their world is so cool and interesting."
Movie Releases Headed Your Way

June 7th: The Secret Life of Pets 2. The pets are back living their daily lives while their owners are away. Follow the lives of the new pets around the block as well as new adventures with Max and the gang.

June 21st: Toy Story 4. Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the rest of the gang embark on a road trip with Bonnie and a new toy named Forky. The journey turns into an unexpected reunion as Woody takes a slight detour that leads him to his long lost friend Bo Peep. As Woody and Bo talk about the past, they realize that they are worlds apart from the life they want as a toy.

July 19th: The Lion King. The Lion King follows Simba through his dangerous travels around Pride Rock. King Mufasa, his father, is Simba’s idol and takes his royal destiny to heart. However, not everyone likes Simba and his father. Scar, Mufasa’s brother and used to be heir to the throne, has plans of his own to take back the throne from his brother and his son. The battle for Pride Rock ends with Simba’s exile. Simba will have to figure out his rightful place in Pride Rock, with the help of two new friends, to determine the result of his future.

Coming out onto Netflix between July and September: Mary Poppins Returns. Decades after her original visit, the magical nanny returns to help the Banks siblings and Michael’s children through a difficult time of their lives.

August 16: Angry Birds 2. Red and the other birds take their fight against the pigs to a whole new level with their slingshot weaponry.

Summer Bucket List

Apply for a summer job. Jobs can be fun and it is a way extra to earn money for college or for hanging out with friends. Summer jobs are usually simple and easy to do, depending on the job, and you can make new friends.

Binge a new TV show. During the school year, it is almost impossible to watch TV or movies because of school work. During your free time, you can watch a TV show that interests you while not worrying about grades.

Call a friend on the phone. Everyone texts or emails now-a-days, it is very rare for someone to call another and hold a conversation. Taking on the phone is an easier way to communicate and learn new information about the other person.

Dance in your room to music. Dancing is a fun way to express yourself, and dancing in your room is a way to let loose without being nervous of judging eyes. Eat a new dessert. Treat yourself to a dessert once in a while because treating yourself is important.

Find a new friend. Making new friends can be fun and interesting. If you make a new friends, you can hang out with them and start a connection with them by doing fun things (such as things on this list).

Go to a concert. There are many big time artists who have awesome concerts for you to go to. And, if the big concerts are too far, there are many small bands who perform all around katy and Houston.

Have a game night with your family. A lot of students want to hang out with their friends for a lot of the summer, but having a chill game night with your family can be a very fun experience, and game nights are, mostly, never boring.

Induct yourself into the duty of preparing a family dinner.

Jump into a pool with friends fully clothed. (Don’t forget to take off electronics and jewelry)

Knock on a neighbor’s door and introduce yourself. Make friends around your neighborhood! Remember to never go alone to a stranger’s house and always let your guardian know where you are going.

Lick an ice cream cone. Because ice cream is a fun and cold summer treat.

Munch on some chips outside in your backyard. Gotta catch some sun rays!

Note some good eateries to hang out with friends.

Open a lemonade stand. Go back down memory lane and have a fun time with friends at a lemonade stand. Remember to ask your guardian’s permission first.

Pause your television and go outside. Games can wait on a beautiful sunny day.

Quilt a blanket for a friend. Quilting is an excellent stress reliever.

Read a book. During the school year, a lot of students study and worry about grades, but during the summer everyone has a lot of time to do whatever they want without worrying about homework. Reading a book is a great way to use your brain while learning about something new or reading a fictional story.

Stop by a local farmers market and see all the vegetables and fruit freshly grown around Katy.

Take a bike ride. Bike rides are excellent exercise as well as a easy way to get to places faster.

Utilize your local library and read some books.

Vacuum your home. It’s a nice chore to help your family out!

Wash a car for your guardian. It’s a nice thing to do!

Xesturgy your jewelry

Yell at a birthday party or any type of party. Have a blast with your friends or family.

Zoos! Go to a local zoo to see your favorite animals.
Blast to the Past

Gabby Andino
Staff Writer
Most Likely to Succeed
Elysia Wu & Blake Romero

Class Clown
Sydney Mitchell & Ankit Maurya

Most Athletic
Crispin Adams & Ryan Schmidt

Most Talented in Fine Arts
Ever Williams & Ivan Dolotina

Best Dressed
Bridget Walton & Rodrigo Colunga

Favorite Staff Member
Stephanie Chronister & Tristan Forgach

Biggest Heart
Natalie Askins & Ivan Dolotina

Mr. and Miss OTHS
Carrie Gerdes & Ivan Dolotina

Tomorrow’s Social Media Influencer
Darcy Clark & Jonny Mesa

Most Intellectual
Elysia Wu & Hakeem Ajijoaiya
As the 2018-2019 school year comes to a bittersweet end, senior Blake Austin Romero reflects on his journey through high school. Romero, like many students, faced obstacles throughout his four years, but eventually overcame them and not only accomplished his goals, but exceeded them. Romero is the Class of 2019 valedictorian.

“To me, being valedictorian of our class means that I am the one that represents our class, and that means a lot to me,” said Romero.

This accomplishment had not always been Romero’s goal. Coming into high school, he originally sought to try his best by challenging himself with difficult courses. He took many of the 5.0 courses that were available and the minimum amount of 4.0 classes.

“My parents have pushed me extremely hard to do well in school, and they inspire me to produce my best work every day,” said Romero.

Apart from academic achievements, Romero has received recognition for extracurricular activities as well, one of them being Robotics. He was on the team for three years and is currently the lead programmer.

Last year the team won the UIL State competition and this year they made it to the World Championships.

“Being on the team is honestly the greatest experience I have had out of all of high school, and the impact it has had on my life will stick with me for years to come,” said Romero.

Romero’s interest in programming has allowed him to find his passion for computer science. In the fall, Romeo will be attending The University of Texas at Austin to major in computer science. He got involved with computer science in his freshman year, and instantly fell in love with it. He looks forward to pursuing research in this field, especially in the realm of artificial intelligence. In the end Romero feels that the most enriching aspect of high school has been the meaningful relationships he has formed with others and the memories he created that will last a lifetime.

“One piece of advice I would give to my graduating class and to everyone is to do something that,” said Romero. “Wasting your life on something you don’t enjoy is the worst mistake anyone can make.”
As seniors start to relax and prepare to throw their caps to conclude the 2018-2019 school year, Kristi Zhang is still working hard to finish strong during these last few weeks of school. Zhang earned the title as the class of 2019’s salutatorian.

“Being salutatorian is about having time management, studying hard and doing your best as well as being able to put in the work to challenge yourself to do well in all of your classes,” said Zhang.

Shaping oneself to fit the role of salutatorian is difficult. There are various criteria one has to meet to be granted this title. During her years in school, Zhang had to take a lot of challenging AP classes. Taking these classes were worth it to her as they go much more in depth which makes them harder than the normal academic classes. Another attribute that is nice to have is to be in extracurricular activities.


Along with being involved in these school programs, she also very active outside of school between tutoring kids at her local Kumon for the past three years and volunteering at the animal shelter. Her time is also occupied by her interests in drawing, sports and cooking. Zhang’s calendar has been constantly filled with various events and activities that she is very excited for the summer to arrive.

“My plans after graduation are to take a much needed summer off with lots of relaxation and binge watching of random YouTube videos and anime before heading off to college in the fall,” said Zhang.

Zhang is grateful for the things she was able to be a part of at school that lead her to get this title. She feels proud to be able to say she became salutatorian at Tompkins and write it on her college applications as that lets colleges see that she was dedicated her time to the things she was passionate about.

“If you want to go for salutatorian then be prepared for a lot of work, but do not forget to take time off of work and hang out with your friends every once and awhile. School can get a bit overwhelming at times,” said Zhang.
Graduating Class of 2019

Ryan Cillessen  Isabella Barnhill
Chiamaka Lebecchi  Zac Conaway
Brandon Kalathil
Omonigbale Owobu
Samantha Lessarell
Texas Woman’s University
Amanda Smith
The Musicians Institute
Ever Williams
The University of Alabama at Huntsville
Owen House
Tiffin University
Kobly Crowe
Trinity University
Tyler Marcheli
Tulane University
Medhavi Patwardhan
Olivia Garrett
University at Buffalo
Serene Murad
University of Alabama
Lauren Buehler  Allison Crumlin
Eric Nakazono  Cassidy Hyman
University of Arkansas
Morgan Murphy  Jade Wentland
Heather Droose  Noelle Chesser
Savannah Holcomb
University of California at Berkeley
Aditiya Varma  Rishi Tummala
Zain Ali  Akshat Jain
University of Chicago
Michael Han
University of Colorado
Boulder
Jonathan Schoemann
Brooklyn Bergeron
University of Florida
Zane Atsous  Alex Concepcion
Jayden Holcombe  Maria Thomas
Chazz Brion  Denise Nacionales
Alyssa Licalde  Samiya Akhtar
Isabella Pavisí  Laura Rubio
Paige Olman  Gabrielle Co
Janvi Thakkar  Kumar Angal
Jack Perrenot  Madison Delarosa
Caroline Jimenez  Jack Varzine
Montserrat Lauger  Paul Taylor
Abbygale Nguyen  Roman Bustos
Jared Falzone  Jacinto Esteban
Mariah Edwards  Rachel Chuna
Ryan Sidani  Jeslyn Udumeela
Nina Klong  Tasneem Islam
Aine Edlin  Samantha Soto
Paola Jord  Vin Roopnarine
Jalene Woodson  Luke Tran
Mariah Mendez  Valeria Cantu
Jose Arrieta  Mustafa Ziauddin
Farima Mohammad  Anum Ali
Mia Brossard  Hamna Bilal
Miguel Alvarez  Veronica Gravina
Alim Umatiya  Hector Escalante
Gracie Pressley  Nicole Branch
Sebastian Espinosa  Vijay Kolla
Miikaela Wittmer  Davion Brown
Megan Butnick  Jenee Johnson
Kaylee Thibodeaux  Shael Shah
Luqman Ismat  Akill Patel
Nibas Sultan  Jaden Holcombe
Nikolaos Pirovolou  Daniel Olano
Kenneth Nguyen  Parsa Matohar
Isaac Ayala  Daniel Seco
Ankit Maurya  Nicholas Saba
Katelyn Magee  Ahren Kubiak
University of Houston Clear Lake
Jacob Burkhalter
University of Houston Downtown
Andre Tenorio  Zayd Ahmed
Jonathan Perrenot
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Jeffrey Dai
University of Incarnate Ward
Kendall McGary  Kyle Sonduck
University of Kansas
Ari Rogachevsky  Alyssa Rooker
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Ashley Harrington
University of Manitoba
Abbey Bacher
University of Mary Hardin Baylor
CJ Barlow
University of Miami
Isabelle Sterba
University of Memphis
Jovan Prado
University of Mississippi
Mikey Fazzini
University of Montevallo
Brayden Gonzalez Jodi Morawiec
University of Northwestern Ohio
Ellis Newell
University of North Texas
Evan Nunom  Girik Chawla
Hannah Abrahamson
Loughlin Douglas
University of Oklahoma
Natalie Askens Samantha Hennig
Zachary Crawford  Amanda Nork
Jackson Millinger  Baylee Holt
Daniel Guevara  Emilyegan
University of Oregon
Kayla Cantu
University of Pennsylvania
Cynthia Kayo
University of Southern California
Jenna Juma  Hrishikesh Jadhav

University of South Florida
Nicholas Miranda
Jami Cunningham
University of St. Thomas
Sofia Sanchez  Mary Pham
Priscilla Pham
University of Texas at Arlington
Zaria Duncan  Mireya Ramirez
James Howard
University of Texas at Austin
Riya Kale  Varshita Aripaka
Andrew Li  Ivan Dolatina
Ray Zhang  Prasanna Rapaprt
Alex Wang  Laurie Nguyen
Eric Li  Blake Romero
Tyler Olmo  Rodrigo Colunga
Rhea Bhat  Phillip DuPont
Sathvik Gujja  James Wang
Sree Gudala  Chumeng Wang
Mary Matthews  Hailey Ruiz
Paul Harris  Srikar Ganti
Kevin Shi  Medha Tirumalai
Tarini Thigiyarajan  Justin Allen
Sid Puranik  Pragya Guduru
Sarah Zhang  Vivian Pan
Pranisha Karuturi  Toni Spratt
Elizabeth Munduchirakal
Akhila Venuturupalli
Tamanna Sonthalia
Rohith Mathuri
Esteban Perea-Ochoa
University of Texas at Dallas
Chris Zeller  Dante Ventura
Femei Arasu  Tanaya Kumar
Rahul Mudi  Lily George
Maria Privero  Tony Dabrei
Lily Gannon  Ryley Martin
Valerie Clemente  Joshua Durana
Matthew Nguyen  Nawal Lashari
Saumik Halapeti  Kamal Yazigi
Jesha Gupta  Emily Burzinski
Alix Garcia  Fiorella Rangel
Samyuta Rajagopal
Raghav Subramanian
Christopher Anaghan
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Ashley Garza
University of Texas at San Antonio
Jasmine Okundaye  Meera Patel
Malik Antoine  Austin Felipe
Mallory Fogt  Lexi Pojtk
Kiran Kofoworola Kuti
Oseoloke Innocent-Utulu
Margaret Okpowo
University of Texas at Tyler
Delfina Carlevaro
University of Tulsa
Ethan Chesser  Ben Mahoney
Shyam Subramanian

University of Utah
Madison Hozdic
Utah State University
Taylee Snyder
Utah Valley University
Sam Bischoff
Wayne State University
Kalyanee Nanaware
Wichita State University
Marcelo Rodriguez
Military
Hunter Bruno-Navy
Michael Fontenot-Marine Corps
Tanner Johnston-Air Force
Austin Bentley-Navy
Kevin Hollier-Navy
Hailey Johnson-USMS
Daniel Crespo-Navy
Sefultasi Tupuivao-Army
Work
Lydia Snyder -Graphic Design
Norm Lancit -Sports Photography
Kevin Spotsville -Graphic Design

Lauren Buehler
Managing/Layout Editor
Riya Kale
Editor-in-chief

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Class of 2019

University of Utah
Madison Hozdic
Utah State University
Taylee Snyder
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Hailey Johnson-USMS
Daniel Crespo-Navy
Sefultasi Tupuivao-Army
Work
Lydia Snyder -Graphic Design
Norm Lancit -Sports Photography
Kevin Spotsville -Graphic Design
TOP TEN SOARS OVER THE CLASS OF 2019

1. GPA: 4.8438
   Blake Romero
   College: UT Austin
   Advice: Enjoy yourself.
   Zodiac: Leo

2. GPA: 4.8226
   Kristi Zhang
   College: Cornell University
   Advice: Fake it until you make it.
   Zodiac: Libra

3. GPA: 4.8154
   Sathvik Gujja
   College: UT Austin
   Advice: Smash That Like Button.
   Zodiac: Pisces

3. GPA: 4.8154
   Alex Wang
   College: USC
   Advice: Shoot your shot.
   Zodiac: Aries

5. GPA: 4.8125
   Srikar Ganti
   College: UT Austin
   Advice: Sleep while you can.
   Zodiac: Libra

6. GPA: 4.8095
   Sree Gudala
   College: UT Austin
   Advice: Be A Baller.
   Zodiac: Taurus

7. GPA: 4.8088
   Kevin Shi
   College: UT Austin
   Advice: Don't GPA Game too hard.
   Zodiac: Capricorn

7. GPA: 4.8088
   Ray Zhang
   College: UT Austin
   Advice: Grades aren't everything.
   Zodiac: Virgo

9. GPA: 4.8033
   Ridwana Islam
   College: Rice University
   Advice: "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take - Wayne Gretzky - Michael Scott - Ridwana"
   Zodiac: Libra

10. GPA: 4.8030
    Elysia Wu
    College: Rice University
    Advice: Don't be Jesse Pinkman.
    Zodiac: Sagittarius

Tyler Olmo
Editor-in-Chief of Nestline
As the school year comes to an end, seniors are choosing the college they will attend. Many are excited to start a new chapter at a place that they feel is best for them. With school spirit inevitably comes college rivalries. As a huge part of university culture, rivalries are often built on geography, tradition and history. However, rivalries can morph based upon the coaches involved, current success of teams or realignment in leagues.

The University of Alabama and Louisiana State University rivalry is decades old, stemming from when the schools’ respective football teams began playing each other annually since 1964. Both schools are charter members of the Southeastern Conference. Seniors Lauren Buehler and Matthew Derouen are good friends that will be attending these rival schools. Buehler will be going to Alabama next year.

"Bama is just all around better. The campus is way prettier, the Greek life is cooler and the football team always ends up having a better record," said Buehler.

Derouen, who will be attending LSU this fall, disagrees.

"LSU is better than Alabama because they have a stronger career network for graduates. Also, we definitely have better football parties," said Buehler.

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"LSU is better than Bama because they have a stronger career network for graduates. Also, we definitely have better football parties," said Derouen.

Even though they will be in different states, the pair are excited to see each other at football games.

"The biggest change in our friendship will be that now I will have to drive much longer to tell her that my college is better than her’s," said Derouen.

One of the most infamous college rivalries is between The University of Texas and Texas A&M. The football rivalry was played every year from 1915 to 2011 until A&M left the Big 12 Conference to join the Southeastern Conference, and the teams have not met since. However, other sports from both schools continue to play each other, keeping the bad blood running. Texas leads the series by more than twice as many wins. In the fall, seniors Rishi Tummala and Zoravur Gill will be majoring in business Texas and A&M, respectively.

"I chose Texas because it is the superior university. Nothing tops McCombs. It is just a plus that I get to make fun of Gill every time A&M loses to us," said Tummala.

While Texas’ business school may be ranked higher, Gill is adamant that A&M is the better college for different reasons.

"I chose to go to A&M because of the people. I think I can find more diversity in the students that attend A&M than those that go to Texas, and if not, A&M has me, which automatically makes it better," said Gill.

Even though the schools are only about an hour apart from each other, Gill foresees some shifts in their relationship.

"My friendship with Rishi will change because I will no longer have to listen to his stupid jokes and I will be able to make grammatical errors without being shamed," said Gill. 
Gerdes Takes On The Collegiate Level

Beads of sweat graze down her temple, the lights shine brighter than they ever have before, and senior Carrie Gerdes almost feels the need to cover her eyes to keep herself from being blinded. Her stomach is in a knot, perpetually being pulled tighter and tighter, as she approaches the pitch. She has been preparing for this moment for the last four years, yet nothing could truly prepare her for the spotlight that is playing sports at the collegiate level. The sweat from her warm-ups continues to rain down upon her, calling into question whether it’s the anxiety or physical exertion that is the perpetrator. She trots out onto the pitch, ready to start the next chapter in her story.

“The most exciting part of pursuing a college sport is I know I have time to grow and better myself. Sometimes, I wish I set more time aside in high school to work on my body and my soccer skills, but I was always so busy. Now that I am playing college soccer, I am going to treat it like a job and focus on it along with my academics,” said Gerdes.

Gerdes represents the opportunity that so many student athletes aspire to obtain. She will be playing collegiate soccer for Howard Payne University. Gerdes has always dreamed of the ability to pursue her athletic career beyond the bounds of high school, and through this opportunity, she describes herself as finally being able to wholly devote herself to soccer.

“The most important lesson I learned through Tompkins athletics is that I have to love myself through the good and the bad, through the highs and lows. I overcame my struggles by having confidence in myself and knowing each day was a chance to better myself,” said Gerdes.

Gerdes’ advice to those aspiring to follow in her footsteps is to keep pursuing what they are passionate in. Gerdes describes that even she dealt with time where she considered giving up, but it was ultimately her passion for the sport that allowed her to persevere and achieve the level of success she has. An essential part of Gerdes’ message is to always stay true to yourself and to not let others dissuade one from achieving whatever their goals are.

“Being a student athlete has benefited me in athletics and academics by teaching myself a perfect balance of life, relationships, work, school, and sports. I have realized it is not impossible to be the best you can be in all aspects of life if you put in the effort,” said Gerdes.

There is great value in learning how one can manage their time and still be successful within all aspects of their life. By being a strong academic student and athletic prospect, Gerdes was able to use her high school experience as a training ground for the challenges that she will ultimately face within her collegiate career as well. By having experienced these hardships already, Gerdes will have a strong foundation to handle these issues at the next level, and she believes and encourages fellow student athletes to use high school as a period to test their boundaries and explore the amount of work they can handle.

“I always wished to play in college, but I actually wanted to attend a big school like Texas A&M. However, when I got the opportunity to go up to Howard Payne University and play for the coach and team, I knew that soccer was what I ultimately wanted to pursue,” said Gerdes.

Most importantly, as a student athlete, Gerdes believes it is of the utmost importance to keep one’s options open. One may never know when the opportunity presents itself to pursue their passions at the next level.
College Dorm Essentials

As graduation inches closer the excitement for a new chapter can morph into stress about beginning a new life for members of the class of 2019. Some will soon leave the home they are familiar with. It is important to be stocked with the essentials as well as decorations to make their new space feel like home.

Being organized can make an incoming college freshman feel much calmer and more in control of the new situation they have found themselves in. Organization is not only essential for making the most of a small dorm room, but it helps clear a student’s head space as well. Things like plastic drawers, tubs and organizers for clothes and toiletries can help students keep their stuff in known locations and alleviate the anxiety of always searching for what they need.

Most students have never experienced sharing bathrooms before so it is essential they have the necessary accommodations. A shower caddy and shoes are something all college students have to make this transition easier. The caddy can be monogrammed or decorated to match the students’ interests or personalities.

For the room, things like small shelves over desks and beds, desk lamps and rugs can organize and brighten a space. Decorative chairs like bean bags and butterfly chairs can bring comfort to a dorm.

Dorms can be decorated with a student’s favorite color, hobby or pattern. Making a dorm feel like home can make a student more comfortable with the transition to living alone in a new place. Many students bring things from their old rooms and homes like a blanket made of old t-shirts or a favorite pillow. Also, many college students choose to lift their bed higher off the ground to add storage underneath for clothes and school supplies.

For decorations, many students are into fairy lights with small clips on the wires to hang pictures or concert tickets as memories. Globe lights also create natural warm light to brighten a dingy dorm room. Many male college students hang posters or flags to decorate the bland walls of their dorm.

All organizational items and decorations can be found at Target, Walmart, TJ Maxx, Home Goods and Bed Bath and Beyond. Additional decorations can be ordered through Amazon or other online decor retailers.

Match The Senior to Their College

1. Arlene Zamora
2. Brooke Bergeron
3. CJ Miller
4. Daniel Seco
5. Sachin Raghavan
6. Susanna Pressley

Matching Answers:
1C, 2E, 3D, 4A/F, 5B, 6A/F

Lindsay Haney
Staff Writer

A. Uni. of Houston
B. Uni. of Houston Clear Lake
C. Baylor Uni.
D. Sam Houston
E. Uni. of Denver
F. Uni. of Houston
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JUNE 17-JULY 5

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MAY 27-JUNE 17
JUNE 24-JULY 16

MON-FRI 8AM-10AM

JUNE 3- JUNE 24
JULY 1-JULY 23

MON-FRI 2PM-4PM

JUNE 10-JULY 1

MON-THUR 6PM-8PM

JULY 8-AUG 1

MON-FRI 10AM-12PM

JULY 15-AUG 5

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JULY 22-AUG 8

MON-SAT 8AM-10AM

JULY 29-AUG 15

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