At the head of their class

Haylee Denham

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Haylee Denham considers herself a very motivated person, so when she went online after her freshman year at Lynn English and saw that she was ranked No. 1 in her class, she fully planned on staying there.

Mission accomplished.

Denham graduated at the top of the 311-member English Class of 2016, compiling a 4.48 GPA while taking the most challenging courses offered at the school. Of the 28 courses she took in four years, 23 were Honors or AP courses. Of 112 letter grades in four years, she received only four less than an A (3 B+ and a B). And there was no taking it easy as a senior as Denham took five AP and one Honors course this year.

See DENHAM page 8

Liono Kou

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

If winning a gold medal at the SkillsUSA state competition and graduating as valedictorian weren’t enough feathers in Liono Kou’s cap, he can add one more: attending the University of Massachusetts Lowell with no tuition expenses, thanks to the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

Kou, who has consistently ranked at the top of his class at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute for the past four years, has been pursuing a pre-engineering pathway. He will be studying mechanical engineering at UMass Lowell’s Francis College of Engineering. He qualified for the merit-based Adams Scholarship based on his scores on the 10th-grade MCAS test. The scholarship provides a

See KOU page 8

Julie Ngauv

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Harvard University hit a new record this year with 39,041 applicants hoping to earn a coveted spot in the class of 2020. Lynn Classical valedictorian Julie Ngauv was one of the 2,037 admitted applicants, and she will be walking into Harvard Yard in late August with ambitions of pursuing pre-med.

“I’d love to eventually do something like Doctors Without Borders or work as a military doctor,” said Ngauv, who will be a first-generation college student. “I want to travel and help those who wouldn’t otherwise have access to medical treatment.”

Ngauv is the daughter of Cambodian immigrants, Emily Kang and Say Ngauv, who lived through the
Opportunities for Lynn students abound

I’d like to take this opportunity, as we head into summer, to recognize and commend the hard work exhibited by students, teachers and administrators throughout the year, and to congratulate the class of 2016. I wish you all a safe and relaxing break, and hope you will still make time for reading and learning.

This was an exciting year for our city and our district as we saw the long-awaited Marshall School project come to fruition. I am so happy Marshall students have had the opportunity to finish out the year in the new building, which is truly spectacular in terms of structure and the technology and equipment inside. Hopefully we will be able to provide our students at other middle schools, such as Pickering, with the same experience in the near future.

There are so many other wonderful things going on in our schools everyday—from the Food Project’s sustainable agriculture program to the leadership development program funded by the Essex District Attorney’s Office. We are so lucky to have community partners that care about and support our schools.

Best of luck to all of our graduates going on to college, the military or the workforce next year. I know you will do great things, and I encourage you to remember that Lynn is always your home.

Have a wonderful summer.

Judith Flanagan Kennedy is mayor of Lynn.

Closing the book on a successful school year

As we approach the end of another school year, we can look back with pride and satisfaction on a successful 2015-16. The opening of the new Marshall Middle School was an obvious highlight, as it marked the culmination of years of planning and effort. It was tremendously gratifying to see the final product—which you can view in pictures on Pages 6-7.

Not only is the new Marshall a practical success, as it gives our students a state-of-the-art environment in which to learn, it also serves as a shining example of Lynn’s commitment to public education.

Now that Marshall is built, we have shifted our attention to a new Pickering Middle School. We are pleased to be in the MSBA pipeline for Pickering, and you can be assured that the process will be as thorough, thoughtful and deliberate as the process that resulted in Marshall coming in on time and under budget.

The end of the school year is invariably a time to bid farewell to veteran staff who are retiring. You will meet two of those educators in this edition—Lincoln-Thomson Principal Helen Mihos and Lynn English teacher Tim Ring. We wish them and all retiring staff many years of health and happiness.

Also in this edition you will read about the top-ranked students at English, Classical and Lynn Voc Tech. They are just three of a multitude of success stories from the Class of 2016. As our newest graduates move on to the next stage of their life, whether it be college, a career or the military, we are confident they are well prepared for the opportunities that await them.

Have a safe and relaxing summer.

Dr. Catherine C. Latham is superintendent of schools.

Lynn Public Schools Directory

Elementary schools

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<th>School</th>
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<td>Patricia Hebert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>49 Hollingsworth St., Lynn, MA 01902</td>
<td>Joanne LaFlvee</td>
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<td>Harrington</td>
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<td>Debra Ruggiero</td>
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<td>Hood</td>
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<td>Gayle Dufour</td>
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<td>Ingalls</td>
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<td>Irene Cawdell</td>
<td>781-477-7400</td>
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<td>Helen Psallasidas Mihos</td>
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<td>Lynn Woods</td>
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<td>Mary Panagopoulos</td>
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<td>Sisson</td>
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<td>Gene Constantino</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Thomas Strange</td>
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Alternative/Special schools

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<td>Marilyn Mahoney</td>
<td>781-477-7220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fallon Elementary</td>
<td>100 Robinson St. Lynn, MA 01905</td>
<td>Nancy Taki-Conway</td>
<td>781-477-7470</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fectcase-Leary Junior-Senior High</td>
<td>33 North Common St. Lynn, MA 01902</td>
<td>Maura Scully</td>
<td>781-268-3000</td>
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<td>LEEP Evening Program</td>
<td>50 Goodridge St., Lynn, MA 01902</td>
<td>Karen Tovey</td>
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Lynn Vocational Technical Institute

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Tech student finds Gates way to college

By MEAGHAN CASEY

For many high-schoolers, the thought of student loans—and subsequent debt—is enough to put a slight damper on the American college dream. But Lynn Tech’s Nelson Barrios will be going off to college worry-free, with the help of a scholarship from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Barrios was named one of 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars this year, selected from a pool of applicants from across the country. The program aims to reduce the financial barriers for minority students with high academic and leadership promise, as well as financial need, allowing them to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in the disciplines of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences.

The scholarship will cover the full cost of Barrios’ education for up to eight years. “It’s a huge relief,” Barrios said. “Now instead of worrying about paying back loans when I graduate, I’ll be able to keep what I earn.”

Barrios, who is ranked fourth in the class, will be attending UMass Lowell’s Francis College of Engineering. Though he is currently undeclared, he hopes to study biomedical engineering and intends to pursue graduate studies. He has been in the pre-engineering shop at Lynn Tech and was placed at Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS) through a co-op program, which has put him in the field, helping to maintain the organization’s fleet of vans.

“I like engineering because it’s a lot of teamwork,” he said. “Here at Tech, you’re really focusing on that and working on communication to solve a problem or get something done.”

Outside of the classroom, Barrios served as this year’s varsity football captain, though he was unable to play most of this season due to a back fracture. He was also named prom king and has been a member of the National Honor Society and SkillsUSA. He will travel with fellow classmates and SkillsUSA participant Liono Kou to the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky. in late June. Barrios will be receiving the President’s Volunteer Service Award, offered in recognition of sustained service. An impressive feat, Barrios logged more than 500 community service hours this year, in addition to the more than 400 hours he logged last year. He primarily volunteers at the food pantry at Connerly Elementary School, run in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, as well as at My Brother’s Table. As a team, the SkillsUSA students also collected items for care packages to donate to My Brother’s Table and raised more than $7,000 for the organization.

“I really enjoy giving back,” said Barrios. “Some of the people you meet are so thankful for the little things, like a pair of socks, that it makes you appreciate things in your own life and feel good about making a difference in theirs.”

Food Project grows in popularity at Ingalls

By MEAGHAN CASEY

As the farm-to-table movement in the U.S. picks up more momentum with each passing year, students at Ingalls Elementary School could teach the rest of the country a lesson or two.

Since 2005, the district has partnered with the Food Project, a program of FoodCorps Massachusetts. It aims to create a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults who work together to build a sustainable food system. The Food Project leases two parcels of land in the Ingalls neighborhood, totaling just under an acre of growing space, from Lynn Public Schools and the Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development (LHAND). The food grown is distributed through the Lynn Central Square Farmers Market, the Ingalls School Farm Stand (which is open Tuesday afternoons from September through November), LHAND mobile markets and several local hunger-relief organizations such as My Brother’s Table.

“We have such a great long-lasting friendship at Ingalls with the Food Project and FoodCorps that it’s become a huge part of our school culture,” said Ingalls Principal Irene Cowdell.

“It’s such a great community program and a wonderful tie-in to our science curriculum.”

Students have learned to farm in a way that grows the best possible food, preserves the environment and supports the community. The Food Project avoids chemical fertilizers and long-distance travel, striving instead to create fresh, healthy produce for local consumption.

Ingalls students in grades 3 and 5 planted salad greens this spring and later harvested 31 pounds of arugula. Combined with the radishes they harvested, almost all of them tried and enjoyed the resulting salad. The rest of the greens were donated to My Brother’s Table.

“The two chefs were impressed that it had been grown by our students,” said Cowdell. Third-graders were also responsible for growing beans this year, which they will harvest next year and pass back to next year’s third-graders. First-graders will be planting root vegetables before the end of the year, and will harvest and pass it back next year.

“It’s wonderful because it really teaches them about all the growing cycles,” said Cowdell.

In addition to the farm, the school also has four raised beds for gardening, as well as an herb garden. Jennifer Coverdale, one of 205 FoodCorps service members, has become a regular fixture at Ingalls. She also works with students at Callahan and Ford elementary schools. For 10 weeks this spring, she ran an after-school cooking class for Ingalls third-graders, using fresh ingredients found in the farm.

“I’m really looking forward to her getting even more involved next year and bringing the curriculum to life,” said Cowdell. “They’re learning such valuable lessons about healthy choices.”

Over the summer, the Food Project employs local youth to take care of the farm and harvest the food to be taken to the market in Central Square.

PHOTO: BOB ROCHE

FoodCorps service member Jennifer Coverdale, far right, looks on as Isaiah Navarro, Nana Hem and Giovanna Villatoro pick arugula.

PHOTO: BOB ROCHE

Nelson Barrios is headed to UMass Lowell.

PHOTO: BOB ROCHE
Discipline is key to his game plan

Molea settling into role as VP at English

BY PAUL HALLORAN

While Gary Molea’s 28 years as a teacher at Lynn English certainly prepared him to assume the role of vice principal at the school in late February, his three-decade background in coaching has also proven to be invaluable experience.

“Absolutely, that’s an advantage,” Molea said. “You use the decision-making skills in how you dealt with players over the years.”

And while meting out discipline is part of any good coach’s repertoire, it’s at the top of any vice principal’s to-do list.

“At the end of the day, discipline is the No. 1 thing in this position,” Molea said. “Disciplining an athlete who is late for practice is different than disciplining a kid who is late for school multiple times. There are times you have to suspend someone for a day; that’s just part of the job.”

Though Molea was perfect happy as Lynn English athletic director, a position he held for 15 years, he started thinking about a change when Principal Thomas Strangie asked him to sit on an interview committee for a VP job.

“The first interview we did, I came out of there thinking I might throw my hat in the ring the next time a position opened,” he said. “I thought I could make more of an impact than I could as AD.”

Molea, who was head football coach at English from 1990-2008, did apply for the next VP opening and was unsuccessful, but when the person was forced to step down for health reasons, he was selected by Strangie to move up.

“I’m getting a grasp on it,” said Molea, a lifelong Lynner who graduated from St. Mary’s High in 1976 and Boston State College in 1981. “I’m talking to kids more about life and trying to make them understand they shouldn’t sell themselves short.

“I think we offer a lot of extras to these kids,” he added. “There is no teacher here who won’t stay after school every day if someone wants help. It’s important to get kids to tap into the resources that are available.”

As for playing the role of disciplinarian, Molea said students are more receptive than you might think.

“I believe kids like discipline,” he said. “They know when they come through that door that discipline is going to be handed out. They like the fact that we have a safe school, and there are kids who help us keep it that way.”

Even as AD, Molea never strayed far from his football coaching roots, serving as an assistant coach for both Peter Holey and Chris Carroll over the last seven years. Now that he is a full-time administrator, however, he is ready to take a step back and enjoy the fall in different ways.

He and his wife, Pam, will have three children in college next year – Madison at UNH, Garrett at Salem State and Brett at Saint Anselm, where he will be playing baseball – and Molea is looking forward to being more involved in their collegiate experience.

“I’ll still go to English games,” he said, “but I don’t want to be in a position where I have to be there every day. I’m looking forward to a change.”

Retirement has a nice Ring to it

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Tim Ring may be retiring after 39 years as a teacher – 37 in Lynn – but long after he leaves Lynn English there will be two tangible reminders of his contributions to the school.

Ring was the driving force behind the installation of the Bulldog statue inside the main entrance and the restoration of the Lincoln foyer, which includes a life-size statue of Abraham Lincoln, a gift of the Class of 1934.

 Appropriately, for the last 10 years Ring has been teaching a course entitled “The History of Lynn.”

“It starts with the colonization in 1629,” Ring said. “We cover people, places, landmarks and neighborhoods. It’s very interesting to the kids.”

Ring, who also teaches social studies, psychology and sociology, has been interested in history for as long as he can remember, serving as vice president of the Lynn Museum and Historical Society for 20 years. That role led him to get involved with the Lincoln foyer project.

Ring, a 1972 English graduate, has been teaching at his alma mater for the last 15 years. After watching the condition of the Lincoln foyer and statue gradually deteriorate, he decided to do something about it.

The Class of 2010, for which Ring served as class adviser, made their class gift a donation to help restore the foyer and statue. Ring also solicited donations from the community, and enough was raised to embark on the project.

The walls were repainted and the statue, which was cast from plaster, was professionally restored to its original appearance. A modern-day U.S. flag and a 34-star flag from the Lincoln era were hung behind the statue.

“That’s the main entrance to the auditorium, so thousands of people use it every year,” Ring said. “We wanted to get it back in good condition.”

The Lincoln connection to English goes even deeper, as the boots he was wearing when he was assassinated were in the possession of the family of a former English teacher for about 80 years after Lincoln was killed. The teacher, Ruth Hatch, would occasionally bring the boots to school for students to see, before donating them to the Ford Theatre Museum in Washington, D.C. in 1947.

Hatch’s grandfather, Justin Hatch, who worked for the Treasury department under Lincoln, had taken the boots as collateral for a loan he gave to William Tilton Clark. A Massachusetts soldier, Clark was staying in a boarding house across the street from the Ford Theatre. Lincoln was taken there after being shot and died in the room in which Clark was staying. His boots were left behind and Clark took them.

Ring’s efforts in getting the Lincoln foyer and statue restored came a year after he arranged for the life-size bulldog statue in the main corridor. Utah-based sculptor Lena Tortich created the bronze statue and David Solimine Sr. arranged for the installation of the granite base.

“It has been a terrific addition to the school,” he said.

After graduating from Salem State, and unable to find a teaching job locally, Ring accepted a job in North Dakota. He packed his Chevy Bel Air and was ready to head west when he got a call from Helen Richardson at Lynn Public Schools. There was a job for him at Cobbet Junior High. The rest is history.

“My junior year in college I decided I wanted to be a teacher. I have no regrets. I’ve always liked teaching here,” said Ring, who spent two years in Amesbury in the early 1980s. He spent the majority of this time in Lynn at the old Eastern Junior High, and he taught science until coming to English 15 years ago.

Ring has two adult children: David, a graphic artist living in Las Vegas, and Diana, who works for Google in New York City.
Marshall students say YES to good decisions

After 37 years, Mihos will call it a career

Program is a source of pride for Ferrari

BY PAUL HALLORAN

It is a program that is geared to developing the leadership skills of students, and one of the reasons it is so successful is the leadership skill of its director.

Marshall Middle School English teacher Tim Ferrari sounds like a proud father when he talks about Project YES (Youth Empowerment Success), a program that is geared to helping kids make good decisions, learning life skills and steering clear from what Ferrari terms “anti-social behavior.”

“We’ve seen some really amazing success stories,” said Ferrari, who has been teaching at Marshall since 2007, is quick to point out Project YES is not a program strictly for “at-risk” kids, as it is sometimes portrayed.

“We have a wide variety of kids,” he said. “Some may need behavior modification, others help with academics. Some have leadership potential that we want to draw out.”

Students are recommended for Project YES by teachers, guidance counsellors and administrators. The program runs after school until 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday and follows a fairly regimented schedule that includes a meal, academic component, life skills lesson (i.e. filling out a job application), and games and sports. There is also a six-week summer program.

There is a community-service aspect as well, as students have volunteered at a soup kitchen and assisted living facility this year. “We try to give them a broader perspective of life,” Ferrari said.

There are 50 Marshall students enrolled in Project YES this year. Ferrari is assisted by four fellow Marshall teachers, as well as a teacher from Lynn English and Lynn Tech.

“The reason the program works well,” Ferrari said, “is the kids and staff build really tight relationships.”

Project YES students do not “graduate” when they leave eighth grade; many participate in the program as they go through high school, coming back to mentor Marshall students.

“Our first group is graduating from high school this year,” Ferrari said of the 10 students who started in Project YES as sixth-graders and stayed with the program for seven years. “The kids really stay connected to the program.”

A good chunk of the credit for that goes to Ferrari.

“Tim’s tireless dedication to the students, staff and program is nothing short of amazing,” said Brian O’Connell, the curriculum coordinator for Project YES for five years. “He is a shining star in Lynn Public Schools and deserves to be recognized.”

If that were in the form of a question, the answer would be YES.

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

After nearly four decades in the Lynn Public Schools, Lincoln-Thomson Elementary School Principal Helen Psallidas Mihos’ successful tenure will come to a close on Aug. 31.

“It’s kind of surreal that I’m even retiring,” Mihos said. “That Wednesday after Labor Day will be the first time in 54 years that I’m not going back to school. It’s bittersweet.”

Mihos, who was born in Greece and raised in Malden, always had a knack for educating others.

“I remember even at a really young age, gathering kids in my neighborhood with a blackboard and chalk,” said Mihos. “I always wanted to play school. It was an innate thing.”

She started out as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher in the district in 1979, working at Lynn Classical High School and Washington and Cobbet elementary schools. Eventually, Washington became her base. She was there for 18 years.

“I still run into kids I had at Washington, some of whose kids I now have at Lincoln-Thomson,” Mihos said. “That’s the most fulfilling part, getting to see who these kids become.”

She was named vice principal at Ingalls Elementary in 1997, and advanced to the role of principal in 2000. She transferred to Lincoln-Thomson as principal in 2004 and has been there since.

“Both teaching and administration have different benefits,” said Mihos. “In the classroom, you see students grow from September to June, but in administration, you’re the teacher to adults. You’re moving the building in the direction you want it to go.”

Under Mihos’ leadership, Lincoln-Thomson has maintained Level 2 status, and even surpassed that in 2013 when it reached Level 1.

“I think my teaching staff would say I’m strict, but fair,” said Mihos. “I have high expectations, but I’ve always worked as hard as I’ve asked my people to work.”

Part of that has meant embracing technology that didn’t even exist when Mihos entered the profession: “Kids today are so much more prepared thanks to all the hands-on materials and interactive technology,” she said. “With computers and iPads they’re getting more prepared than they used to.”

In her retirement, Mihos plans to travel, tackle more physical projects and spend more time with her family. She has two children: Charles (C.J.) and Christina, both of whom are attorneys. Christina also taught history in Lynn Public Schools while she was earning her law degree. C.J. works for the Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development.
Thurgood Marshall Middle School students experienced something few other students will experience in their lifetime: starting the school year in one building and finishing in another.

Students returned from April vacation to a new, 181,847-square-foot school on Brookline Street.

"After years of planning and building, it was incredibly exciting to move into the first new school building in Lynn in close to 20 years," said Principal Molly Cohen.

It was the first project to be approved and constructed since Lynn Classical moved to O'Callaghan Way.

Highlights of the $67 million school include state-of-the-art band and art rooms, ceiling murals in the cafeteria, color-coded wings and separate entrances for each grade level, an outdoor courtyard, interactive projectors in each classroom and science rooms set up like lecture halls with long table desks. There is also more space and equipment for Life Skills students, who are able to use the newly installed stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, and a washer and dryer.

Boston-based Walsh Brothers served as the construction manager for the project, while Raymond Design Associates of Hingham, served as the architect.

The first major event will be the eighth-grade graduation in the school’s new gymnasium on June 23.

PHOTOS: BOB ROCHE

LYNN MARSHALLS IN NEW ERA

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

1. The fourth-floor skylight is a good focal point at Marshall.
2. The Marshall gym is full at 7:30 in the morning.
3. The cafeteria has a lot of natural light from the skylight.
4. Grade six science teacher Kyle Shurtleff checks on a student’s work.
5. Teacher Anna Hosein took her small white board with her and now has two walls full of white boards.
6. Principal Molly Cohen greets the children in the morning.
7. The doors open at 7:45 and the students stream in.
8. Smiles are big in the Life Skills classroom.
9. Frank Vieira is surrounded by his eighth-grade students on his birthday.
10. Student Ampudia DeLeon and Principal Molly Cohen recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
11. Each cluster at Marshall is color-coded.
12. The library at Marshall has plenty of books for students to read.
Lynn English valedictorian: Haylee Denham

Denham said she feels her experience at English has prepared her well for college. “I really like it here,” she said of her high school. “I think I had all the resources I needed to succeed and do as well as I could. Teachers try to build more of a connection on a personal level. That will help in the transition to being a college student.”

In recommending Denham for a scholarship, Peter Pappagianopoulos, who taught her Honors Anatomy and Physiology her junior year, said Denham has shown “a great level of intellect, a strong work ethic and a level of maturity not often seen in high school aged students.”

In addition to being an outstanding student, Denham was captain of the girls soccer team, president of the National Honor Society and vice president of the senior class. She is also an accomplished competitive dancer, proficient in tap, jazz, ballet and hip-hop. Denham dances out of North Shore Dance Academy in Danvers and Urbanity Dance in Boston, a pre-professional dance company. She has been dancing for 15 years.

Denham’s younger sister, Sydney, is a sophomore at English. Her mother, Beth Murphy, is the nurse at Fecteau-Leary School and her father, Dick Denham, is a Lynn firefighter.

Lynx Tech valedictorian: Lioino Kou

Kou said, “It’s definitely something new,” Kou said. “I’ve never been that far before but I’m excited to go and meet all the other competitors from other states. I really like the commotion and activity of the events.”

Kou also appreciates the emphasis SkillsUSA puts on citizenship and community service, and has enjoyed participating in the school’s fundraisers and outreach efforts. “It helps you bond as a team and do something good for the community, which is even better,” he said.

In addition to SkillsUSA, Kou is a member of the National Honor Society and ran track and cross country.

Lynn Classical valedictorian: Julie Ngauv

Ngauv, who was also accepted to Yale University, Brown University and Williams College, among others, is looking forward to spending the next four years in Cambridge—arguably the center of the life-sciences sector, not only in Massachusetts, but in the U.S.

“T was originally leaning towards Yale, but when I visited the campuses, I felt like Harvard was the right choice to provide me with a more individualized experience,” she said. “There are so many cultural and academic opportunities in Cambridge and Boston and I’m excited that I’ll be able to learn more and get exposed to all of that.”

Ngauv: From Page 1

genocide of 1975–1979 and came to the U.S. in the 1980s. Ngauv grew up in Malden, but her family moved to Lynn four years ago—enabling her to enter Lynn Classical as a freshman.

“I really like how diverse it is here [at Classical],” said Ngauv. “All of us come from different backgrounds and we get a chance to learn from each other.”

Ngauv serves as co-leader of Classical’s concert choir and has been a member of the Asian American Club—serving as vice president for two years and secretary for one year. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, enjoys playing the violin and, through Key Club, has participated in food drives and other community service activities. Last year, she was a regular volunteer at Operation Bootstrap in Lynn, tutoring adult learners in reading comprehension and math.

Her interest in science and medicine blossomed during a biology class her freshman year. She has since taken anatomy and physiology, Advanced Placement (AP) biology and AP environmental science. courses.

“There are definitely some really good teachers here who challenge us and help us to do our best,” said Ngauv.

Last summer, Ngauv participated in the Young Scholars Program at Northeastern University’s Center for STEM Education. The program offers rising 11th- and 12-graders a unique opportunity for a hands-on, paid research experience while still in high school. Ngauv completed an internship in biomechanical engineering, had access to the university’s research laboratories, attended field trips to see engineers in action and received college and career counseling. While she was in Fenway/Longwood area, she also spent time volunteering at Boston Children’s Hospital.

This summer, she will be interning at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center through the Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) program—a mentored experience that places high school and college students in real research settings at local cancer research institutions.

Ngauv, who was also accepted to Yale University, Brown University and Williams College, among others, is looking forward to spending the next four years in Cambridge—arguably the training in AutoCAD—a commercial software application for 2D and 3D computer-aided design (CAD) and drafting. “Between that class and the shop work, I’ve been introduced to the field a lot sooner than some other students at non-vocational high schools,” Kou said. “Starting out next year, we’ll already have some experience.”

He’ll also have experience from participating in SkillsUSA—a national program that aims to improve the quality of America’s skilled workforce through a structured program of citizenship, leadership, employability, technical and professional skills training. For the past two years, he has attended SkillsUSA Massachusetts’ annual State Leadership and Skills Conference, joining more than 2,500 students to compete in 86 occupational and leadership skill areas. This year, he received a gold medal in mechanical drafting, qualifying him to compete in the national-level SkillsUSA Championships, which will be held June 22-23 in Louisville, Ky. He will join more than 6,000 state contest winners and make history as Lynn’s first competitor to qualify for the Championships.

“I want to go to a big school. I felt like Harvard was the right choice and help us to do our best,” said Kou, who grew up in Lynn and attended Cobbet Elementary and Pickering Middle schools.

He will be following in the steps of his sister, Christine Kou, who also graduated as valedictorian of her class at Lynn Tech and who will be a senior at UMass Lowell this coming year. The siblings are first-generation college students. Their parents immigrated from Cambodia in the 1980s, and only their mother was able to finish high school.

“They’re really proud,” said Kou, whose interest in engineering took root at Lynn Tech. “I went through the different shops during freshman rotation and I got interested in the 3D software,” he said. “I really like designing.”

Last year, Kou participated in the dual enrollment program at North Shore Community College, which provides an opportunity for high school students to take college courses. He enrolled in computer programming in the fall and AutoCAD in the spring. He particularly enjoyed the training in AutoCAD—a commercial software application for 2D and 3D computer-aided design (CAD) and drafting.

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“It’s definitely something new,” Kou said. “I’ve never been that far before but I’m excited to go and meet all the other competitors from other states. I really like the commotion and activity of the events.”

Kou also appreciates the emphasis SkillsUSA puts on citizenship and community service, and has enjoyed participating in the school’s fundraisers and outreach efforts. “It helps you bond as a team and do something good for the community, which is even better,” he said.

In addition to SkillsUSA, Kou is a member of the National Honor Society and ran track and cross county.

 tuition waiver for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. “It’ll be hard to say goodbye, but I’m excited to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people,” said Kou, who grew up in Lynn and attended Cobbet Elementary and Pickering Middle schools.

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ALL-STARTS ARE BIG HIT AT BREED

DA funding after-school leadership program

BY PAUL HALLORAN

When visiting schools, Essex District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett typically tells students he only wants to meet them in the classroom, not the courtroom. The popular DA has backed that up with resources, to the benefit of students at Breed Middle School.

Blodgett’s office is providing more than $60,000 in funding for an All-Stars program at Breed, giving almost 60 students the opportunity to participate in a 25-week after-school program designed to help them develop leadership skills and avoid self-destructive behaviors.

There are 56 seventh- and eighth-grade Breed students participating in the All-Stars program, a research-based curriculum geared to middle-school students. Lauren Phelps, a Breed guidance counselor who administers the program, said the focus is on destructive behaviors.

“We look at this as an opportunity to develop the future leaders of our community,” Phelps said. “We’re addressing things that kids typically have a hard time talking about with their parents.”

Others who are working in the All-Stars program include: Theresa Cooney, Breed school social worker; Breed science teacher Kristen Dean; paraprofessional Ryan Woumn; and police school resource officers Mark Lee, Ryan McDermott, Oren Wright and Bob Hogan.

A kickoff event was attended by Blodgett, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Catherine C. Latham, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, police chief Kevin Coppinger and Bridgewell principal and CEO Robert Stearns.

“We are very grateful to District Attorney Blodgett for giving us the opportunity to implement this valuable program,” Latham said. “We are also appreciative of the collaboration with Lynn police and Bridgewell. Breed students are benefiting greatly from this program.

In addition to the All-Stars curriculum, students have gone on several field trips, including a Celtics game and a visit to Title Boxing Club in Saugus. Students also were asked to invite a teacher to dinner as a token of their appreciation for everything the teachers do. Students and teachers enjoyed a meal from Jade Pacifica, one of the community partners in the All-Stars program.

“It was so nice to see the kids’ faces light up when they saw the teachers,” Phelps said. “The students put together a slide show, stating why the teacher they invited inspires them.”

In April, a Family Day event was held for the All-Stars and their families. Curious Creatures brought a variety of animals, there was a bouncy house, and students created a display to show parents the topics they have been working on in the program. Dinner was catered by Town House of Pizza.

Breed writers make lasting Impressions

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

There’s a new magazine in town and its writers are as young as 11 years old.

“Breed Impressions” made its debut in December, and the second volume was released this spring. The magazine is filled with the creative work of Breed Middle School students. In the spring edition, 46 contributed work ranging from poetry to drawings, short stories, memoirs and interviews with other students.

Andrea Smith, who teaches seventh-grade English, was responsible for the design of the publication.

“The idea for it was a collaboration of the English and reading departments, hoping it would lift students’ spirits and help them realize they’re good writers,” said Smith.

Art teacher Lauren Stelluti stepped in to help with the illustrations. For the first edition, existing artwork that students had made was matched with stories, but for the second edition, students were asked to read the literary work and respond to them in a visual form.

“Students were really able to get creative and come up with their own interpretations, especially with the poetry,” said Stelluti. “It was fun to see the crossover.”

The advisors also challenged students to a competition to design the cover for the spring issue and eighth-grader Kristen Matul came up with the winning design—a mix of quotes from J.K. Rowling, Leonardo da Vinci, Stephen King and Albert Einstein, with sketches of a rose, space, a tree and an open book.

The school printed 200 copies of the first volume and 150 of the second volume, with each copy selling for $1. Smith said the magazine will continue next year.
SCIENCE IS COOL AT LYNN WOODS

Lynn Woods Elementary School worked with Wicked Cool Science for two days in June. Wicked Cool for Kids is an education company that specializes in customized enrichment programs in science, art, and technology for students up to grade 6. Barbara Johnson, a lifelong Lynner, is co-founder and managing director of Wicked Cool for Kids. Staff members Christopher and Michelle Pedro came to Lynn Woods to work with each grade.

Each grade was offered a different hands-on science experiment. Kindergarten classes created “mine museums” of living vs nonliving things and others made a mucus model to help understand the importance of hand washing. The fifth grade practiced engineering and design skills by building a marble run. Students were encouraged to think outside the box by evaluating the uses of various materials while executing their own design.

Student Ryan Dugan enjoyed the experience. “I liked the project because it challenged me to create my own design in my own way that was different from everyone else’s,” he said.

The Lynn Woods PTO sponsored this enrichment program.

ENGLISH LENDS A HELPING HAND

On Dec. 4, 2015, a deadly fire claimed the lives of Yasmin Cruz, a 2015 graduate of Lynn English, as well as her mother, aunt and cousin. Her sister, Jeannetty, graduated from English this year. Students at English created wristbands reading “Hand in Hand” in both English and Spanish in order to raise funds to help Jeannetty and the surviving family on the third floor (also LEHS students) to obtain housing and rebuild their lives following this tragic event. The students chose the words “Hand in Hand” to symbolize life and how we all need each other to get through life.

The Hand in Hand club has become firmly established in the Lynn English community. The club awarded its first scholarship, to Denny Santana, a Lynn English graduate who has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, integrity, and community involvement.

ABORN IN ACTION

Aborn School families enjoyed an open house that featured a night of fun-filled and creative activities designed by teachers. At left are Mateo Rodriguez, Leyna Torres Brandy Rodriguez and Ben Rodriguez.

Below left, fifth-grade students (front to back) Ava Allaire, Eliza Correnti, Emily Taveras and Adam Smith work on their projects for Mr. Eddy’s grade 5 Lego program.

Below right, students study ocean habitats as part of a partnership between Lynn Public Schools, the Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach and Northeastern University. Clockwise from left: a Northeastern team member, Sophia Andino, Kaitlyn Garcia Lebron, Ashra Odiase, Gemma Imbrano, Giovanni Pires, Liam Carmody and Olivia Larkin.

SHOEMAKER RALLIES FOR SOX

The Shoemaker School Student Council, front row: Caitlin McNeil, Lauren Wilson, Kyle MacKinnon, Sylvester Ogbemudia and Crystal Deprizito; back row, Miss McInnis, Trent Brown, Brendan Zollo, Brayden Ranahan, Jayla Barton, Samantha Fecteau and Miss Lenzie.

By students Caitlin McNeil and Samantha Fecteau

On Red Sox Opening day, we held our Red Sox Rally in the Shoemaker gym. The Student Council made posters for the Jimmy Fund Drive and collected contributions from students and staff. Our goal was $1,500 and we raised $2,026.

Bobby Logue was there. Bobby is a former Shoemaker student who is battling cancer. His mother, Mrs. Logue, a kindergarten teacher at Shoemaker, told everyone how much she appreciated the support the school gave to her son, Bobby, while he is receiving his cancer treatments. It was a great day for everyone.
A MEMORIAL DAY PERFORMANCE TO REMEMBER

LEHS concert choir singer Bridgett Sanchez performed the Star Spangled Banner at Gannon Golf Course’s Memorial Day Service. She certainly impressed 93-year-old WW II veteran Ron Heatherton -- who was present at the Battle of the Bulge -- and he showed her how much he appreciated her rendition!

Strike up the Band

At right, the Lynn Public Schools Band marches in the city's Memorial Day parade. Below, the LPS Jazz Band performs at the Salem State University's Youth At Risk Program, an event held at Endicott College and attended by more than 500 people.
The season may have ended on a down note, but that won’t stop the Classical girls tennis team from justifiably looking back on the 2016 season with a great deal of pride.

The Rams went 16-1 in the regular season, winning their fourth Northeastern Conference North championship in six years, before losing to Acton-Boxborough in the MIAA Div. 1 North quarterfinals.

“We had a lot of experience returning and that was the key to our success this season,” said Coach Cathy Blake Ellis, who is assisted by her husband, Arnie.

Six of the Rams’ top seven players and 10 overall were seniors who improved their game over the course of four years.

“They don’t come in with much experience,” Ellis said. “They start playing as freshmen and they really love it.”

Lizzie Troisi was the only junior in the regular rotation for Classical, and she finished the season with a 15-3 record at third singles.

The seniors who led the Rams were: Ana Athanasopoulos, first singles, 11-7; Meredith MacDonald, second singles, 15-3; Shea Dunnigan and Briana Silva, first doubles, 15-2; and Ashley Noel and Zoe Raymond, second doubles, 14-3.

“We’re so proud of these kids,” said Ellis, who took over as head coach in 2011 after three years as an assistant. “I don’t think anything will ever match what these girls did this year. It was a great season.”

Penny Pension was the longtime coach of both the boys and girls teams at Classical until she retired in 2007. The following year the girls season was moved to the spring (the boys play in the fall) and Kevin McDormand took over as coach and brought Ellis on as an assistant.

“This has been such a fun group” she said of the Class of 2016. “Not only have they achieved great success on the court, but they are very good academically as well.”

A 1982 Classical graduate, Ellis has been teaching at the school since 1999. She has taught science in a special-education inclusion classroom since 2001. Ellis served as interim varsity softball coach in 1993 and worked as an assistant for Chris Warren from 2000-04. She played competitive softball for 35 years, leading to two knee replacements.

Ellis realizes there will be a lot of rebuilding to do next year, but she’s hoping her younger players will benefit from being part of the championship culture that has been instilled.

“’We have a lot of spots open next year, and I hope the girls work at it in the off-season and come back ready to contribute,” she said.