The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet

By William Rogers and Andrew McCloud

This year, the junior school play, The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet, was performed in Paschall Theater on January 26-28. With a talented cast of actors from Harpeth Hall, St. Henry's and MBA, the show was a great success and a tremendous experience for the cast and crew. Director Nelson Berry was back again this year and served as a great mentor and leader. He helped the cast to perform well and build strong connections on and off the stage. The cast members had good chemistry and lots of fun performing.

The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet is staged in Verona, as usual, but the phrasing is not quite the same as the usual Shakespearean play. Told in Seuss rhyme, the cast of the play included Andrew McCloud as Romeo, Alli Baker as Juliet, William Rogers as Benvolio, McConnico Sharpe as Mercutio, KJ Scruggs as Monk Larry, Kyle Tavi as Tybalt, Thomas Peterson as Lord Capitulate, Olivia Zimberg as Lady Capitulate, Mary Charlotte as Lady Monotone, Jon Tarquinius as Lord Monotone, and Kenna Carter and Sydney Wynn as narrators. In addition, Max Giorgio, Ashton Terrell, and William Curley composed the sound and stage crew. Together, they put on quite a performance.

This play is a whimsical comedy, retelling the story of Romeo, a broken-hearted boy who falls in love with Juliet, whose family, the Capitulates, hate Romeo's family, the Monotones, so Romeo and Juliet decide to take matters into their own hands and get married. But as in Shakespeare's version, all does not go according to plan. Romeo has to run away after the princess and the Capitulates banish him from the city. Juliet then fakes her death by eating death faking nuts that will allow her to pretend to be dead to fool the Monotones and the Capitulates so that she can run off with Romeo. She plans to tell Romeo about the joke by sending him an email to inform him of the stunt, only at that same moment, Romeo's PC crashes, so he does not receive the email. After learning of Juliet's "death," Romeo rushes to her funeral to be by her side. But unlike Shakespeare's tale, in this play, neither Romeo or Juliet actually die. And in the end, their families become friends. As Dr. Seuss might have said, "The fun-loving nature of the play and its sets made this show entertaining--as good as it gets!"
The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet

Bravo to the cast and crew of The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet!
Winter Reading Collaboration

By Kyle Tavi and McConnico Sharpe

Over winter break, Harpeth Hall and MBA students were given the opportunity to read one of three books: *Isaac’s Storm* by Erik Larson, *All But My Life* by Gerda Weissman Klein, and *Illuminae* by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. All three are fantastic novels, and they come highly recommended.

*Isaac’s Storm* is the story of Isaac Cline, a weatherman from Texas, as he competes for supremacy with the Houston weather service. As the novel progresses, Cline and others fail to acknowledge or understand the warning signs of a massive hurricane that is about to strike Galveston, Texas. When the storm arrives, no one is expecting it. Children played in the flooding streets at first, but soon families were forced to take refuge in high levels and rooftops. More than six thousand people died in what is believed to be the worst natural disaster in American history. Among the dead was Cline’s wife.

*All But My Life* is a very influential, autobiographical novel about a young Jewish girl, Gerda Weissmann Klein, during the Holocaust. Gerda is living in Poland. She is apprehended by the Nazis when Germany invades her small town of Bielitz. Gerda tries to survive the cruel and devastating life in a Nazi labor camp. Though Gerda lives in one of the “better” camps, she worries about her loved ones in the more severe concentration camps. Through raw determination, Gerda and her friends survive and demonstrate love and hope throughout, even as many of their friends and family members die.

The final book, *Illuminae*, is a fantastic sci-fi thriller that keeps readers on the edge of their seat until the very end. The book is about a boy and a girl who are together, but who break up on the same day that their planet is attacked. Through interviews, recorded conversations, files, and programming, Kaufman and Kristoff tell the entire story as they travel through space and battle a virus that threatens life as they know it. The book is riveting with details of robots, plagues, zombies and science fiction weapons.

On January 29, Harpeth Hall and MBA students gathered together at Harpeth Hall to discuss the books in more detail and answer questions. Some teachers gave extra credit to students who participated by reading one of these great books. I’d say that is what you call a “win-win.”
Science Olympiad
By Andrew Bulgarino

The Science Olympiad B Team went to Friendship Christian School on January 14th to compete in an invitational tournament, and it turned out to be a success. MBA placed 8th overall out of 28 teams total. The team placed in the following events: Rocks and Minerals (7th), Hovercraft (5th), Dynamic Planet (7th), Food Science (1st), Anatomy and Physiology (6th), and Ecology (6th). The tournament served as good preparation for the regional competition at Tennessee State University on March 4th, which will determine if the team advances to the state competition on March 25th. The invitational also allowed the team to see which events they need to improve, as they did not do as well as they had hoped in a few events. Last year, MBA won first place overall in regionals, and the team is looking to recreate that record this year.

Dr. Creamer is the new head of Division B with Dr. Hannon helping out as well. Also new this year is the option for any participant in Science Olympiad to select it as his Winter II sport. This option will help the team prepare for the regional competition, especially the people doing events that require them to build a machine prior to the competition. These build events include Bottle Rocket, Hovercraft, Mission Possible (a Rube Goldberg machine), Scrambler (a machine that must transport an egg along a track), Towers, Wind Power, and Wright Stuff. The test events require work prior to the competition as well, for the participants may organize notes on certain events to help them. There are not just tests and builds, however, there are also interactive events that require students to do some form of a science experiment at the competition. Although it may seem strange for an MBA student to willingly spend his Saturday taking a test, Science Olympiad is a fun extracurricular that many students at MBA enjoy. It takes much effort and dedication to do Science Olympiad, as the team had to be at MBA at six o’clock in the morning. Dedication is required from the science teachers who choose to be a part of Science Olympiad, as they must be willing to spend time to organize the students into certain events. This dedication certainly pays off, though, when the award ceremony comes around. Overall, the team did well at the invitational competition and looks to do even better at regionals and hopefully the state competition.
This Past Season of Debate

By Don Pierce

Debate has had a great season. We had three tournaments, consisting of Ohio Valley, which is held at the University of Kentucky, Samford, which is in Montgomery, Alabama, and Johns Creek, which is in Atlanta, Georgia. At the most recent tournament, Colin Smith won one round in the Varsity bracket, Don Pierce won one round in the Varsity bracket, and Joseph McDugald won _ rounds. The entire team did well as a whole, with Will King and Jack Rankin winning up to their semifinals round. At Samford, Will King and Colin Smith won five rounds during the pre-elimination rounds, which allowed them to move to the elimination rounds. They reached the quarterfinals round and lost on a two-to-one decision against them. Joe Hamilton and Don Pierce won three rounds in the Varsity bracket. High school students Atticus Glen and Liam Jameson reached finals, where they lost on a two to one ballot against them. During Ohio Valley, Will King and Connor Kolstad won four rounds during pre-elimination rounds and advanced to semifinals, but lost on a two-to-one decision. Don Pierce and Joseph McDugald won none of their rounds.

In total, the debate team did well at Ohio Valley, with Ben Jablonski and Ben Rosenthal reaching finals. Another tournament that MBA had attended was the Barkley Forum, and in the Varsity bracket, four MBA teams broke into the elimination rounds, and Andrew Kaplan and Ben Rosenthal won the tournament. This tournament was very important, because the last time that MBA won the tournament was in 1976. In all, MBA had succeeded this season and has continually shown strength in the event. Roll Red!

L - R: Joe Hamilton and Don Pierce

The 2016-2017 MBA Debate Team
The 2017 Presidential Inauguration

By James Kinard and Bo Wilbanks

MBA took a group of students to the Presidential Inauguration in January. We were fortunate to be in that group and to take part in this historic event.

Our trip to Washington D.C. did not just include inaugural events, but also a tour of the major sights of the city. As soon as we arrived, our group boarded a bus. First, we went to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, right on the Potomac near the Watergate Complex. The Kennedy Center is home to the Hall of Nations, which contains the flags of every country recognized diplomatically by the U.S. The center also has a rooftop terrace, which gives an incredible view of the city.

After taking a lot of pictures, the group got back on the bus. Kurt, our bus driver, took us to the Capitol Building next. Along the way, we drove along Massachusetts Avenue, better known as Embassy Road, filled with embassies of different countries on both sides of the road and on some of the connecting streets. Once we arrived at the Capitol, we took a group picture on the Senate side of the Capitol facing east with Lady Freedom, a famous statue. Then, we headed over to the Supreme Court and read about many important cases that were argued there and decided by the Court. Next we walked down to the Air and Space Museum and learned a lot about our country’s history of air transport and space exploration. After a long day of travel and a big dinner, Kurt drove us from D.C. all the way to Rockville, Maryland, where our hotel was located.

Friday morning came quickly. We had a 4:30 AM wake-up call and then boarded the buses to go to the Inauguration. We disembarked to begin entering the National Mall, an enormous outdoor area spanning from the Lincoln Memorial to the U.S. Capitol. The Mall is the location to witness the inauguration ceremony, where Trump would take the oath of office on the steps of the Capitol. As we walked toward the Mall, we passed many protesters and people selling Trump merchandise. After fighting our way through the crowd, we made it into the gates of the Mall. The inauguration ceremony began with the introductions of President Obama’s team, then an introduction of President Elect Trump’s team. After that, Vice President-Elect Mike Pence took the oath of office, followed by a celebratory song. Next up was the main event. Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States. Trump took the oath of office, and then gave a long speech encouraging and thanking his fellow Americans. The crowd was screaming and cheering all throughout the speech, which made it difficult to hear in some instances. As our group left the inauguration, we observed more protesters, blocking off all ingress and egress into the city. We were astonished by the number of protesters compared to the crowds at the actual inaugural ceremony.

Next on the schedule was more touring. We got back on the buses and headed over to the Pentagon to visit the memorial in tribute to those on United Flight 93 and inside the Pentagon who died on September 11, 2001. After the

Continued on page 7
The seventh-grade holiday movie experience is a five year old tradition that has been kindly donated by Mr. John Rochford. Over the years, the MBA seventh-grade microbes have enjoyed *The Hobbit* trilogy, and now the continuing saga of the *Star Wars* franchise.

Thank you, Mr. Rochford!
President Donald Trump has been sworn in and is now in the process of confirming his cabinet appointees. Since President Trump has no prior political experience, his cabinet will be crucial in advising him in areas such as foreign policy, energy, the military, and the economy. Several important cabinet nominations and interesting confirmation processes have played a prominent role in the early days of the Trump administration.

For the important job of Secretary of State, Trump nominated Rex Tillerson, the CEO of Exxon Mobil. Tillerson has had substantial business dealings with Russia and its president Vladimir Putin, whom Trump has praised and is looking forward to cooperating with on foreign affairs. Tillerson's dealings with Putin played a very important role in Tillerson’s confirmation hearings, in which Senator Marco Rubio asked him questions concerning Putin’s aggression in Crimea and Ukraine and the alleged hacking of the U.S. election. Although Tillerson did struggle to answer some of these questions, Rubio finally agreed to support his confirmation, passing the vote on to the full Senate, where Tillerson was officially confirmed. His priorities will likely include Russian and Chinese military aggression and global human rights.

General James Mattis, a former Marine general, has been sworn in as the Secretary of Defense. Unlike some other appointees, Mattis is exceedingly popular among Senate Republicans and Democrats alike, being confirmed with a vote of 98-1 in favor. Mattis will be important in advising Trump on his fight against ISIS and overseeing Trump's promised military expansion. He is notable for certain divergent opinions with Trump, including the importance of NATO and the future of Russian relations.

In an unexpected and slightly ironic move, Trump nominated former Texas governor Rick Perry to run the Energy Department. The irony in this nomination comes from Perry's brief run for president in 2012, in which Perry, during a debate, vowed to abolish the Department of Energy. In his confirmation hearing, he said he "regrets" his recommendation to abolish the department. As Energy Secretary, Perry will be in charge of overseeing the U.S. nuclear arsenal and nuclear science divisions.

Steven Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs bank executive and Trump's campaign finance chairman, has been confirmed as Secretary of the Treasury. Mnuchin’s confirmation has been controversial, as it was revealed before his confirmation hearing that he failed to disclose $100 million in real estate holdings, but it is unlikely that these omissions were intentional. An important part of Trump’s campaign was jobs and taxes, and Mnuchin’s department will be responsible for advising Trump on financial issues, promoting economic growth, and tax policy.

For Attorney General and head of the Justice Department, Trump chose Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama. Sessions’ signature issue is immigration, making him an ideal choice for a president promoting radical reform of immigration law. Like Trump, Sessions is in favor of reforming immigration to limit illegal immigrants residing

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in the U.S. He has also expressed
hardline opinions on drug crimes. Sessions’ background has generated
some controversy, from his denial of
a federal judgeship in the 1980s to
concerns over his civil rights record
as a federal prosecutor in Alabama. It
will be interesting to see the changes
in Sessions’ Justice Department as it
follows one of the most liberal in recent
history.

In another very popular choice,
Trump selected General John Kelly for
Secretary of Homeland Security. Kelly,
a retired Marine general like Mattis,
was also confirmed easily, with a 88-11
vote in favor. As leader of the newest
executive department, Kelly will be in
charge of carrying out Trump’s campaign
promises of building a wall between
the U.S. and Mexico and limiting
immigration from countries with high
terrorism rates. Kelly is popular among
members of both parties, especially
for his moderate positions on national
security.

For the Secretary of Commerce,
Trump nominated Wilbur Ross, a
billionaire investor. Ross will be in
charge of Trump’s plan to revamp U.S.
trade, including trade deals with other
countries. Like Trump, Ross is in favor
of re-negotiating the NAFTA deal
between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico
to benefit U.S. workers. He also wishes to
impose import tariffs on Chinese goods
to help American manufacturing. Like
Tillerson, Ross also has ties to Russia by
way of his business partnership with a
Russian oligarch.

Trump’s cabinet has generated
controversy by allegedly being the
wealthiest cabinet in American history,
with Trump’s picks’ combined net
worth reaching $4.5 billion. Although
some have criticized Trump for picking
wealthy businessmen, investors, and
bankers to play a crucial role in an
administration that has promised to
give power back to the people, there is
some excitement about highly-skilled
CEOs and businessmen translating their
skills to government. Trump’s cabinet
almost perfectly reflects his campaign
promises, but it is still to be determined
how they will convert their skills,
governmental and non-governmental
alike, to fulfilling Trump’s goals for his
administration.

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Great Job, Sam!

Each year the National Geographic Society
sponsors the Geography Bee, featuring competitions
at the school, state, and national level, culminating
with the awarding of a fifty thousand dollar
scholarship to the national winner. Eighth-grader
Sam Meacham won this year’s school level Geography
Bee by answering the following question: “The
endangered snow leopard is being protected in the
Annapurna Conservation Area, which includes the
Annapurna [ah-nuh-POOR-nuh] Massif in which
Asian country?” The correct answer is “Nepal.

Sam will represent MBA in the State Bee on
March 31. Congratulations, Sam!
Throughout history, Americans have exercised their first amendment right of free speech, to express their opinions. Protests have proven to be a great way to demonstrate these opinions, especially on the presidency. This year, the world witnessed over 3.6 million protesters, including about 470,000 women’s rights protesters, and nationwide protests against President Donald Trump, who took office on January 20. That same day, there were violent protests in our capital where police were injured and at least two-hundred people were arrested. These protests were just a chapter in the long list of protests in the United States.

The most famous protest in United States’ history is undoubtedly the March on Washington, led by Martin Luther King Jr., which peacefully protested segregation and the rights of African Americans. However, not all protests have been peaceful. The Bonus Army of 1932 led a march on Washington to force Congress to pass a bill to give the veterans of World War One the bonus they needed to weather the Great Depression. The protest turned violent, and General MacArthur was sent in to settle the crowd using tear gas and bayonets, which eventually caused the current president, Hoover, to lose much popularity and eventually lose to Roosevelt the following year. Some people consider this protest a success to get Americans out of the Depression, even though the veterans did not receive the bonus that they wanted. A third famous protest is Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam. Two million protesters marched on Washington D.C. and made speeches against America’s involvement in the war, even though the war dragged on for five more years afterward.

Protests can be a catalyst for change. They can be either remembered fondly or are recounted as failed attempts at change, such as the Million Man March in 1995. However you may view the recent protests, just remember that we all are members of this great country, and though we may disagree, we should respect each other’s views and rights nonetheless.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS: WIN MONEY!
Who: 7th and 8th graders
What: Short stories and poetry composed during the current school year.
Short story length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced
Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest
Prize: The best short story wins $150!
Due: Wednesday, April 12th
Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest
Categories: Poetry and Fiction
1st place $50
2nd place $35
3rd place $10
Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.
Junior School Entries Due by Wednesday, April 12th.
Dear Abe,

I just won the Super Bowl on Sunday, but while I was out celebrating, someone stole my Super Bowl jersey. I can’t find it anywhere. Can you help me?

Sincerely,
Tom Brady

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Dear Tom Brady,

I would like to start off with congratulations to you and your team. That was a stellar game. Secondly, I’m sorry to hear about the jersey. I think that if you look on eBay, soon, you will find it.

Sincerely,

Honest Abe

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Dear Abe,

I just lost the Super Bowl this Sunday, and I’m a little bummed out. While I was leaving the stadium, I found a jersey lying on the ground near the Patriots’ locker room. What should I do with it?

Sincerely,

Matt Ryan

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Dear Matt Ryan,

I’m sorry about the loss. The game was a good one, and I am also sorry to hear that you don’t even know who the jersey belongs to. I think I know just the guy to give it to, or, you can try eBay.

Sincerely,

Honest Abe

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TOH Meetings are every Tuesday in M21!
Now that two of the four additional films to the Star Wars saga have been released and comparisons between the two movies abound even though they are very different. Rogue One filled in the plot line of the story, and The Force Awakens (TFA) prompted hundreds of new questions and theories about the characters and their connections to the dark and light sides. In the spirit of movie awards season, I’ll break down the differences in categories here:

**Most Like the Original**

Though there are a lot of parallels between TFA and Original Trilogy, Rogue One is the winner here. It directly ties into A New Hope, and has some characters from the original saga. TFA has a few characters from the original saga as well, but its timeline, which is set well after Return of the Jedi, just does not flow into the other movie's storylines as well, as it is set in the future.

**Best Music Score**

No contest. TFA. It really sounded like it was from the original movies, in which the John Williams’ score has become part of movie soundtrack history. Rogue One did not rise to the caliber of this epic class.

**Most Evil Villains**

This category is a tie. We see weaknesses in both Director Krennic, the Imperial weapons director and Kylo Ren, the Sith lord from TFA, but both of them are very strong and interesting characters that develop over the course of the story. Kylo turns from the good side to the service of his grandfather, Anakin Skywalker, who is seen in the original episodes. Kylo Ren kills his father, Han Solo, one of the greatest heroes of the entire Star Wars saga, which was lamented by many fans, as he was one of the most valuable characters. Darth Vader is arguably the greatest villain of all time because of his exceptional lightsaber tricks, his solid and sometimes funny killings of his commanding officers, and of course, his trademark breathing. This one is a tie for sure.

**Best Direction**

This category goes to TFA. The plot is a little choppy in the beginning of Rogue One, but it redeems itself toward the second half of the movie. TFA is engaging and developing at all times, with never a dull moment, keeping you on the edge of your seat.

**Main Characters**

This one is close, but I think that Rey and Finn are better. Jyn Erso and Cassian are strong characters that held my interest, but they are not at all like Luke or Leia. They are also dead, because Rogue One is a movie that came out after the original six, making it have to have all characters that had died or all characters from the originals which wasn't really an option. It will also be very interesting to learn more about the connections between Finn and Rey in the upcoming movies.

**Best Supporting Characters**

Rogue One wins this one. It has some exciting other characters like Chirrut Imwe, the blind spiritual warrior monk; Poe Dameron, a daring fighter pilot; and K-2SO, the Imperial security droid now loyal to the Alliance. While BB-8, the little droid that practically stole the show, Maz Kanata, Han and Chewy, General Hux, and of course Admiral Ackbar were all great characters from TFA, the dynamics of the ones from Rogue One really stole the show.

**Best Action**

This category is very close, but Rogue One has a slight edge. Even though it doesn’t have any lightsaber battles, there are cool dogfights and battles on Scarif, the beach planet. TFA also had some great action, but Rogue One just has more of it, plus it was better placed.

**Overall**

Overall, TFA is a better movie. It seems like another part of the saga, which was a main goal of J.J. Abrams for his movie. Rogue One’s plot chopiness at the beginning makes it a little hard to understand at the outset and gives TFA the win here. Still, this one was close, as both movies were great.

So there you have it! TFA: four points, Rogue One: three points. Both of these movies are great and develop the beloved story line in a compelling way. Having passed the baton to Disney, George Lucas’ stories are still great. If you have not seen them yet, you definitely should. I will leave you with, “May the force be with you.”
La La Land Review

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

La La Land captures virtually every form of art in every way possible. From impeccable music with catchy recurring themes to beautiful scenery that depicts the best of Los Angeles, director Damien Chazelle has incorporated and packed all of it into his nostalgic record-breaking feature film. But most importantly, La La Land is an inspiring and compelling story. The film balances themes of great ambition -- doing whatever it takes to achieve one's dream -- with the question of whether one can have a fulfilling life that properly prioritizes life goals. These common themes highly influence main characters Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) and Mia (Emma Stone) throughout the musical.

Briefly, La La Land is the journey of two unlikely lovers who keep seeing each other as they pursue their individual artistic passions. Sebastian wants to be a pianist and create his own jazz club, while Mia wants to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming an actor. Despite their obvious differences and some initial clashes, they fall in love. But too soon, they go their separate ways to seek what they believe they really want in life.

This successful major motion picture swept the box office and won 140 of the 204 nominations it received. It has tied the record for most Oscar nominations with fourteen and won all seven Golden Globes for which it was nominated. But this good fortune was hard won. The film, directed by Harvard graduate Damien Chazelle with music composed by fellow Harvard alum Justin Hurwitz, was initially unsuccessful. The pair’s film distribution company, Focus Features, wanted to rip their masterpiece apart, make the movie rock-based instead of jazz, and take out the first and final scenes (by far among the best in the movie). Chazelle decided to take a break from the film and instead work on Whiplash, a story of a college drummer with an intense band director. The film went on to gross $49 million after being made with a budget of just $3 million. After this wild success, the duo was picked up by Black Label Films to make La La Land with a budget of around $30 million, compared to Focus Features original $1 million offering.

The music is the backdrop for the unfolding story. The iconic first scene on the gridlocked L.A. freeway sets the upbeat pace for the music, soon followed by Sebastian being fired by his boss (JK Simmons, also from Whiplash). The recurring themes throughout the musical take on their own meaning as it progresses.

A controversial aspect of La La Land is the end. Mia and Sebastian eventually part ways in hopes of achieving their separate dreams. The poignancy of this scene is increased by a replay of the story as if Mia and Sebastian had made their love for each other their main priority. Alas, reality does not reflect this happier ending, and the movie ends with the two living their lives apart. Their 100% commitment to their art and careers makes a life together impossible, which perhaps is the greatest reality of all.

Sources: imdb.com, quartz.com
Oscars 2017

By Wyatt Bettis

It’s that time of year again! The Golden Globes concluded last month, but the awards ceremony is what we are all waiting for, and it’s just around the corner. The Oscars captivate the imagination of the public every year and is the most important and prestigious film awards show in the world. What we’re here to talk about today is my predictions for the 2017 Oscars. I will cover Actor and Actress in a Supporting Role, Actor and Actress in a Leading Role, and Best Picture and explain the reasoning behind each of my picks.

The nominees for the Best Actress in the Leading role category include Emma Stone for La La Land, Natalie Portman from Jackie, Ruth Negga for Loving, Isabelle Huppert for Elle, and Meryl Streep for Florence Foster Jenkins. This Oscar is almost certainly going to Emma Stone for La La Land. The Academy has been enthralled with La La Land and has given the movie the third most nominations in academy history (New York Post), and none of the other actresses nominated have received from the Academy nearly as much praise for their roles as Stone.

The nominees for the Best Actor in a Leading Role include Casey Affleck from Manchester by the Sea, Andrew Garfield in Hacksaw Ridge, Ryan Gosling in La La Land, Viggo Mortensen in Captain Fantastic, and Denzel Washington in Fences. Again, La La Land is expected to win, with Gosling probably picking up the first Oscar of his career. Despite strong showings from Casey Affleck and Denzel Washington, Gosling’s role as a struggling jazz pianist has captivated the Academy and won nearly universal approval from critics. Emma Stone’s and his difficult and well-executed dance numbers have certainly not hurt their Oscar capabilities either.

For Best Supporting Actress, the nominees are Viola Davis for Fences, Naomie Harris in Moonlight, Nicole Kidman in Lion, Octavia Spencer in Hidden Figures, and Michelle Williams in Manchester by the Sea. This category was one of the toughest to decide because of the strong showings by all the nominees. Despite that, Viola Davis is likely to win the category for her standout performance as a battered wife and mother, and the fact that Fences was snubbed for an award in the Best Actor category.

The nominees for Best Supporting Actor are Jeff Bridges in Hell or High Water, Dev Patel in Lion, Mahershala Ali in Moonlight, Lucas Hedges in Manchester by the Sea, and Michael Shannon in Nocturnal Animals. Considering his critical acclaim, I predict that Mahershala Ali will take the Oscar for this category. In addition to his strong performance as a drug dealer and father figure to Moonlight’s protagonist, he would be the first Muslim Oscar winner not in a directorial role. The Academy may be trying to save its progressive image after allegations of racism based on the lack of black nominees in years past.

Finally, the nominations for Best Picture are La La Land, Arrival, Hidden Figures, Fences, Moonlight, Hacksaw Ridge, Lion, Hell or High Water, and Manchester by the Sea. Even though La La Land appears to be the publicly favored film, I think that Moonlight will eek out an upset win. In the last three Oscar seasons, the favorite to win has not won a single time. Pointing to the victory of Spotlight and Twelve Years a Slave, one can say that best picture victories are often derived from whatever social issue the Academy finds most important at the time and presented in a film. I think that Moonlight’s dual social issues, homosexuality and race, will strike a chord with the Academy voters and will defeat the Hollywood-pleasing La La Land. The unstoppable force meets the immovable object, so to speak.
4 Your Eyez Only vs. Awaken, My Love!

By Thomas McRae

Both albums 4 Your Eyez Only by J.Cole and Awaken, My Love! by Childish Gambino threw the media and the average consumer for a loop when they were released. But, through a deeper understanding of the albums, the quality was improved. To give a complete comparison of the two albums, one must understand the intentions of the artist and the album.

4 Your Eyez Only was dropped on December 9th, 2016 by J.Cole. The early drop of the off album single “False Prophets” prepared us for an entire roast album because of its disrespect to Kanye, Drake, and many other rappers. Then, the seemingly low tempo and laid back album 4 Your Eyez Only came. People were angry and confused. Finally Cole revealed that the whole album is told from the point of view of his misjudged and morally confused friend James. The album speaks of James’ thoughts of love, integration, religion, and white privilege. But most importantly, it is Cole’s mission to tell James’ daughter that even though James is dead and was involved in crime, he was still a good man and a good father because he loved his daughter. The album was filled with “Breaking Bad” self conflicts that allow the listener to be completely submerged in the story. The uses of J.Cole’s baseline, as usual, are complex and appreciated, and the lyrical portion was also strong. Overall, 4 Your Eyez Only is a solid album from J Cole.

Awaken, My Love! was dropped December 2nd, 2016. Because of high anticipation for Gambino’s usual and unique “Gambino bars,” this album was a major let down for most at first. The overall techno-funk feeling of the album makes you feel like you’re in a coffee shop from space. Seemingly odd at first, over time, the album eventually grew on people. The groovy vibe of the bigger hits “Redbone” and “Me and Your Mama” made people accept that this album was not a rap album. I think this album is different because he was raised in a Jehovah’s Witness program. He would hear how his parents would explain to the children common fears like monsters (“Boogieman” and “Zombies”), and why world issues occur (“Riot”). But, if we are going off this theory, the best song of the album is “Me and Your Mama” because it tells the story of why an orphan’s parents left him, through the eyes of the orphan. Overall, the album is not very conventional, but it still is a good one.

The better of these two albums is J. Cole’s 4 Your Eyez Only. Not only because of musical attributes or lyrical meaning, but also because of the miss-marketing of Gambino. A whole community of Hip-Hop fans were waiting for a rap album from him, and he did not provide what the community wanted. The album is not bad, just not what the media wanted.

Sources: dailymail.com, hollowverse.com
An Interview with Dierks Bentley

By Charlie Mason

I recently had the honor to interview a man I admire. He is one of Nashville's biggest country music stars, Dierks Bentley. Not only is he an accomplished musician, avid fly fisherman, hockey player, and Vanderbilt University graduate, but he is also an incredible husband, father, and friend. He has released nine albums and just debuted his new album, Black, at Bridgestone arena to over 20,000 fans. He was kind enough to let me interview him while he was on tour.

Q: If you could give a piece of wisdom to your junior-school self, what would it be?
A: My mom used to always tell me to “follow your bliss.” I didn't really know what exactly that meant at the time, but I figured it had something to do with finding things you are passionate about and pursuing them. I realized later on it was a Joseph Campbell quote. It was good advice that I have always followed it, even when it's gotten me into a little bit of trouble or made people think I was crazy.

Q: Congratulations on an incredible year with the release of your new album, Black. Can you tell us about the inspiration for your new music and what's been the highlight of the year?
A: The inspiration for this record, and really all my albums, has been my life at the time I was writing. Some of my earlier records revolved around heartbreak, others about being on the road. This record is about my wife and the story of being in a long-term relationship. At least that was the initial idea. It evolved into more of a story of a young man's experience with the ups and downs of love and relationships and the maturity and reflection that come later.

Q: We got a chance to catch some fish together this summer. How important is nature in your day to day life and your music?
A: Outdoor living is my happy place. I do not write too much about outdoor lifestyle etc, but for me personally everything revolves around getting outdoors. I grew up out West and was always outside hiking, fishing, four-wheeling, and skiing. I’ve spent the last 14 years on the road and as much as I love the lifestyle of touring, I spend a lot of time around asphalt and cement buildings. I’m always looking for ways to escape, whether it’s just going to Radnor Lake with my family or something more adventurous like fishing the Snake River with you and your dad!

Q: Some of my favorites of your songs speak to the important things in life. What are your secrets for living a meaningful life?
A: I spend a lot of time thinking about that exact question. How do I maximize meaningful time everyday and overall? For me, it’s all about living in the present. I do not have the greatest memory, and I've found no matter how many pictures and videos I take, I cannot relive the past. Tomorrow is not guaranteed, so I just really try to be as present in every moment as I can be. When I'm writing songs for new records, I try to write from where I am. To help with the theme of the record, I may go back and dig into an old memory, but I don't stay there long. Being fully present with my family and the craziness of everyday life if I’m home, or being fully aware throughout the entire show, out on the road, provides the most meaningful life for me.

Q: If you had a day off, where would we find you?
A: On the road, I'd preferably be floating a river, fishing. Some of my favorite memories from this last tour were days spent on various rivers. I do not have many days off out there so I usually just go in the morning of a show day. You have to pack it all in!
At home and days off, you can find me just doing really normal stuff like working out, trying to eat healthy, hanging with my family. I also love flying, and I usually grab one of my kids to go up and mess around in a little prop plane I own.

Continued on page 17
Q: What is your favorite song throughout your career?
A: Of the ones I wrote, probably “I Hold On.” I had just left my dad’s funeral service and was driving around thinking about him and some of our adventures. Later that night I was watching a typical amazing Arizona sunset, and I started wondering why I hold on to so many of the things that I do. Why do I like old stuff? One of the most meaningful things I own is a ’94 Chevy truck. I could have afforded to buy a new one long ago, but I’ve always held onto that truck because of the memories I have of driving across the country with my dad. I tried to take a shot at this crazy dream that I never meant to be a song. I was just thinking about life.

Of the songs I did not write, “Riser” would be my favorite powerful song that I feel so grateful to get to sing every night. It is a song about and for the people that have other people counting on them to keep on keepin’ on. No matter what the circumstances are.

Q: Who are some people you admire?
A: I admire country music fans, and not just because they allow me to do what I do. I meet with probably eighty people a night backstage and hear incredible stories of perseverance and determination. Military veterans, cancer survivors, kids with dreams, and out in the crowd a poster or custom t-shirts that I know took hours to make. They share their stories with me so openly because they feel they can trust me. They invest a lot of money, time, and belief in me. And my road family, I respect, learn, and most definitely admire them.

I know Dierks personally to be an incredible father, singer/songwriter, fishermen and performer. His concert was amazing. It is been a pleasure spending time with someone who also enjoys some of my favorite hobbies including fishing, hunting, and loving nature. I am grateful to have met such an incredible role model and world class performer.

<ArTIfiCial_INtelligence>

T-800, R2-D2, and Hal 9000. These are some examples of artificial intelligence in movies that you may be familiar with. All of which seem very futuristic, right? Well, what if I told you that this technology already exists? While they may not be virtual super soldiers with inhuman speed and human personalities, there have been many companies that have created humanoid robots that can complete many different tasks, from everyday factory jobs to emergency rescues. As some of you may already know, some car manufacturers such as Tesla, Volvo, and Google, have even been working on self-driving cars, and while most of these cars are not fully automated, the technology is advancing rapidly so in a few years everyone may have a self driving car.

Many scientists believe that in a few more years artificial intelligence technology will be so advanced that we will no longer be able to distinguish humans from robots; what do we do then?

What will MBA look like in 50 years? Many changes would have been made with more technology, and we would have fewer written assignments. Teachers and students will be using artificial intelligence robots to help them complete difficult tasks that they would not be able to do otherwise.

Artificial intelligence could even replace teachers. Artificial intelligence would be so integrated in our society that many people would not know how to live without it. This could be a good thing or a bad thing. Artificial intelligence would be able to save lives by creating medicines and treatments that humans would not be able to create on their own. Additionally, they could use their abilities to do rescue missions or negotiate peaceful solutions to bloody wars. However, with their rapid learning skills and abilities, they could replace many jobs and put people out of work, potentially crippling our economy and throwing many people into poverty. Other countries could also feel threatened about our advancements with artificial intelligence and declare war on the United States before we could use this technology against them. Also these robots will be a lot smarter than the people who make them. What would happen if they got hacked? What could someone do with this technology? There seems to be more negative points than positive ones. Is it worth it? What do you think, or more importantly, what will they think?
**Final Fantasy XV**

By Rex Allsep

*Available on PS4 & Xbox ONE  Reviewed on PS4  Published by Square Enix*

I should have known this game would be a disappointment. The signs were there: ten years of tumultuous development that seemed to never end, a change in direction midway through, and trailers that were nothing like the gameplay demos they advertised. The hype leading up to what was supposed to be the comeback of the *Final Fantasy* franchise was immense. Glowing reviews and unbridled praise makes me feel like I played a completely different game from what the fans were describing. Numerous issues turned what could have been an enjoyable roadtrip across a vast, open continent into an annoying slog through lifeless expanses of Americana purgatory.

*Final Fantasy's* story is bland, uninteresting, simple, and needlessly convoluted. What begins as an epic about reclaiming the crown after the death of your father turns into a shriveled mess of a plot spread across the main game, a full-length movie, and an anime mini-series. If you do not wish to waste your time with the extra movie and mini-series (like I did when playing the game for the first time) most of the character’s motives, no matter how one-dimensional and cliche, are unclear. In practice this issue leads to a confusing experience that is meant to hide lazy, uninspired writing.

I try to stay away from discussing the technical aspects of a game, but technical blunders poison the promising combat system on display in *FFXV*. On Xbox one, a stable 60-fps is achieved, but at the cost of constant texture resolution changes. This issue leads to objects in the game appearing to morph and become less detailed to make combat smooth and enjoyable. On Playstation 4, textures are consistent on all objects, but the frame rate hovers around 45-fps and the frame-timing is absolutely abysmal. (The consistent timing of rendered images to the display can make a game feel slow and grating if it is not prioritized by the developer.)

The highlight of the game is its combat, which is a real time take on the *Final Fantasy* formula. While the combat is enjoyable at times, performance issues on PS4 hamper the experience. Endless grinding against enemy after enemy is the best way to succeed in the game, but it makes the difficulty feel artificial and shallow, as a single hit from an enemy can send you into a state of life or death. What makes this game worse is the inconsistent dodging. It’s clear Square Enix didn’t nail the timing and feel of the dodge, which feels both too slow and too fast at the same time.

I would not recommend this game to anyone with $60 to spend. Even for die-hard fans of *Final Fantasy*, this game might rank among the worst in the series. The game’s buggy nature at launch (even after three months of delay) and sub-par performance make it wholly a game to avoid.

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**The Perks of the CES Convention in 2017**

By Lee Loving

CES (Consumer Electronics Show) is one of the most popular conventions of the year, and for good reason. The CES is an event where inventors or established companies can gather at the Las Vegas Convention Center to show off the world's newest technology. This year’s CES focused on cars of all kinds -- electric, self driving, and concept cars that are in development.

One of the most popular of the concept cars was the electric Faraday Future FF91. This is a concept car that contains a lot of interesting technology. For instance, this car doesn’t have any mirrors, but instead has cameras surrounding the car to give the driver a full view around the car without the need for any mirrors. But one of the most absurd features of the Faraday Future FF91 is its speed. The FF91 goes from 0-60 mph in 2.93 seconds, and the car has over 1000 horsepower, which is on par with the Ferrari 458 that has 570 horsepower and goes from 0-60 mph in three seconds. New self driving technology from Mercedes, BMW, and Tesla will be implemented into their 2017 cars.

One of the most impressive performances of the CES was LG’s W7 wallpaper TV. This TV has a 4K OLED display, one of the best screens today, but it is also bendable, can attach to walls with magnets, and is extremely thin.

Some other cool and new technology at the CES is Razer’s Project Valerie, a gaming laptop with three screens. All of the screens fold into each other when the laptop is closed. Another cool offering is the Plume, a wearable device that tracks the amount of pollution in the air and is designed to be worn by people who live in big, congested cities with bad air quality.
NFL Recap

By Scott Wallace

Wow, what a season! Before we discuss the Super Bowl, let's recap how we got here. Some of the major headlines of the NFL season were the MVP Debate, the pitiful Cleveland Browns, the Rookie Duo of Dallas, the Disappointment of the Panthers and Broncos, the Emergence of the Raiders, and the Rise of the Running Back. The Most Valuable Player Award was up for grabs between Tom Brady, who had an incredibly efficient 12-game season with 28 TDs and 2 Interceptions, Aaron Rodgers, who went on an absolute tear starting in Week 12 with 40 TDs and 4428 yards on the season, and Matt Ryan, who has led one of the most explosive offenses in NFL history with 4944 yards and 38 TDs. But, the award was ultimately won by Matt Ryan. Also, the Cleveland Browns put up one victory in a painful 15-loss season, and as a result, they will receive the first overall pick in the NFL Draft. Perhaps one of the biggest surprises of the year was the Dallas Cowboys. Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott put up extremely impressive rookie numbers, and they both have bright futures after a 13-3 rookie season.

The Oakland Raiders ended their regular season with an impressive 12-4 record, but their chances of going anywhere in the playoffs were abruptly stopped after a devastating injury to superstar quarterback Derek Carr late in the season. The main positive of the Raider's season is that they are progressing and know for a fact that they can build their team around their young talent. Also, the seasons from the former Super Bowl 50 teams were very disappointing. The Broncos just could not bounce back from their Super Bowl victory going 9-7 and not even making the playoffs. The other team, the Panthers, also had a season to forget after going 6-10 mainly because of a struggling Cam Newton (Only 19 TDs and 14 Interceptions).

Another major story would be the importance of the running back. If you played Fantasy Football this year, you most likely picked a wide receiver as your first pick, right? Well, many Fantasy enthusiasts are kicking themselves because running backs this year were incredibly valuable. Take Jordy Nelson for example, the top wide receiver statistically speaking in the league, put up an impressive 12.5 PPG in ESPN Leagues. But David Johnson, the top running back, put up a whopping 19.6 PPG which outscores most quarterbacks! Other stat stuffing running backs include Le'Veon Bell (14.4 PPG), Ezekiel Elliott (17.5 PPG), and Lesean McCoy (14.9 PPG).

Another team that is important to most of us is the Titans. They went 9-7 which was tied for division leader with the Texans, but unfortunately, they lost the tiebreaker to Houston and therefore came up just short of the Playoffs. But next season looks hopeful for Tennessee after a massive improvement from two years ago when they went 3-13.

In conclusion for the regular season, the Patriots dominated as always, the Browns flailed as usual, the Cowboys took a huge step forward, and Green Bay finished strong. Now let's talk about the Playoffs. Not one Wild Card game was close, and not one Divisional matchup was close with the exception of the Packers vs. Cowboys with Green Bay coming out on top. The two conference championship games were also blowouts with the Atlanta Falcons reaching the Super Bowl for the second time in franchise history with a 44-21 win over Green Bay, and the New England Patriots continue their dominance after a 36-17 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers to reach the seventh Super Bowl in the Belichick Era. See the Super Bowl article for information and final results of the Patriots vs. Falcons clash.

Source: espn.com Picture: SI.com
This year, the Super Bowl was one of the most highly contested and most interesting we have seen in years. The game must be categorized by a quick game summary to demonstrate how the tables turned from a solid Falcon’s lead to an OT with a Patriot’s victory. To start out, in the first quarter it looked like it would be a very low scoring game, because both pass rushes were able to clamp down pressure on the two MVP grade quarterbacks. Tom Brady even looked old, as he was unable to complete some of his passes to wide open receivers as were Danny Amendola and Julian Edelman. Matt Ryan was his usual self but was still unable to make completions to his receivers, thanks to constant pressure by the Pats and nervous receivers who were unable to make easy catches as they had in the regular season.

However, in the second quarter, the vibe completely changed, as Matt Ryan improvised, finding Julio Jones for several catches, as well as Taylor Gabriel and Mohamed Sanu. Most of all, Devonta Freeman, the Falcon’s star running back, broke loose and began to hammer into the second level of the Pats’ secondary for huge gains. As the Patriots were in the red zone for the first time all game, Falcon’s corner Robert Alford made a huge interception against Tom Brady to seal the game at halftime, 28-3. Many people thought the game would now become a blowout win for the Falcons, but Tom Brady showed his experience in the big game by rallying his team at the half. Brady then lead his team on a huge comeback, scoring a total of 25 points in the 3rd and 4th quarters—all unanswered by the Falcons. Many people then began to tune back to their TVs to see how Tom Brady and his team had pulled off such a miraculous comeback to make the game somewhat close again. At this point, the Falcons in dire need of points, began to try anything on defense to hold the Patriots, but nothing seemed to work against the fast-paced Patriot’s offense. The only thing the Falcons were able to do consistently was put pressure on Tom Brady and stop a run game that is thought of as one of the best in the NFL. Now, the Patriots with solid plays from all their receivers, running backs, and especially their tight end, Martellus Bennett, the third string running back who has recently burst onto the scene. At this point, they were marching downfield with ease. This progress was disrupted as Robert Alford again tried to break up a play heading for Julian Edelman, but this time, with time running down, Edelman made a catch such as the one Jermaine Kearse made in Super Bowl 49. This huge play led to a two point conversion by the Patriots as they needed 28 points to tie the game, but Stephen Gostkowski had missed a PAT in the third quarter, the first one missed since 1990, sending the game to OT. This was the first time OT had ever happened in a Super Bowl, and I and many sports fans were on the edge of our seats, awaiting the outcome of the game that many had thought was over in the first half.

The Patriots won the toss and elected to be kicked off to, marching down the field for a final touchdown by James White.

Overall, if you are a Patriots or a Falcons fan, you enjoyed a great game that will rank highly among past great games.

Sources: NFL.com, TheTennessean.com
NCAA Men’s Basketball So Far

By Scott Wallace

The NCAA Men’s Basketball Season has been exciting with the huge upsets, rivalry games, and surprises so far. Some of the biggest upsets of the season have been Marquette over Villanova, Temple over West Virginia, and Tennessee over Kentucky. At the moment, Gonzaga is looking strong with an impressive record at number one in the nation even though they have had an incredibly easy schedule so far. The Bulldogs have played three ranked teams so far, but besides that, they have played squads such as Portland (9-13), Santa Clara (12-11), and Pepperdine (6-16). Another major headline is Duke. The Blue Devils started out as most fans expected with a strong 13-1 record, but then everything went downhill. Grayson Allen was tangled up in another tripping accident, which immediately resulted in a suspension by the team. Coach K, arguably the best coach of all-time, has been out with a back problem, and the team’s chemistry is simply not what it used to be. Duke is now 5-4 at the midway point of ACC play. Perhaps the biggest surprise team of the year is Florida State. The Seminoles started out the season unranked but have climbed all the way up to No. 15 after quality wins against Virginia, Notre Dame, and Louisville. Dwayne Bacon has lead the team to a successful season averaging 17.2 PPG. Allonzo Trier of the Arizona Wildcats has just made his debut this season after failing a drug test, and they are on a roll with a 20-2 record at number five in the nation. Baylor has also been a nice surprise this season with a 20-1 season record. Some basketball analysts say that Baylor is actually the team to end Kansas’ run of twelve straight conference titles. Also, the Villanova Wildcats, defending National Champs, are off to a great start thanks to the leaders of the team such as Josh Hart and Kris Jenkins. As for the Wooden Award Watch, Luke Kennard of Duke, Justin Jackson of UNC, TJ Leaf of UCLA, and Frank Mason III of Kansas are all having outstanding seasons, and they all have a legitimate chance at winning the most prestigious award in NCAA Men’s Basketball.

As the season comes down the homestretch, we all look forward to the conference tournaments, and of course March Madness.

Source: yahoosports.com

Picture source: AJC.com

JS Scholastic Art Award Winners

L - R: Joseph Robertson, Ashton Terrell, Frank Bass, Parker Bowling, Bennett MacCurdy, Jack Flanagan, and Yadev Surati (Not pictured - Cabot Hyde and Braden Ziegler)
Top 5 Most Dramatic March Madness Finishes in the Past Decade

By Bo Wilbanks

5.) 2011 Round of 64- (13) Morehead State 62, (4) Louisville 61

Without a doubt, it was a wild game from start to finish and an upset to remember. With seconds left in the second half, Morehead State, led by Kenneth Faried, was down by two points when Demonte Harper got the ball at the top of the key and drilled a huge three with 4.2 seconds left. On the ensuing possession by Louisville, Peyton Siva got the ball. He passed it to a man who attempted to shoot a three, but he was contested on a somewhat controversial no-call; nonetheless, it was a memorable upset against a well-known dynasty.

4.) 2015 Elite Eight- (1) Kentucky 68, (3) Notre Dame 66

This game was back and forth the entire time. The Wildcats were on a historic winning streak and had not lost all year. The team was led by draftees Devin Booker, Karl-Anthony Towns, Andrew and Aaron Harrison, and Tyler Ulis. Jerian Grant of the Irish took control of the last five minutes and was nearly impossible to stop. With six seconds left, Andrew Harrison was fouled on a drive and made both free-throws. With little time on the clock, Jerian Grant drove the ball all the way down the court and barely missed a game-winning three as time expired to keep the Cats’ streak alive.

3.) 2015 Round of 64- (14) Georgia State 57, (3) Baylor 56

The unlikely Georgia State team may have pulled off one of the greatest upsets of all time. With fourteen seconds left, Baylor missed a critical free-throw, and Georgia State gained possession. They gave the ball to their star player RJ Hunter, who dribbled for a couple of seconds, then passed it off, got behind that player’s pick, regained the ball, and nailed a clutch three with 2.6 seconds left. This shot caused his father and coach Ron Hunter, who had broken his leg, to fall off his stool in celebration for his son.

2.) 2010 National Championship- (1) Duke 61, (5) Butler 59

The 2010 National Championship features a Cinderella story in Butler and a basketball powerhouse in Duke, which set up an interesting matchup. Butler, led by current Utah Jazz all star Gordon Hayward, Shelvin Mack, and Matt Howard, came in with lots of momentum, but a heavy underdog to Duke led by Kyle Singler, Nolan Smith, and Jon Scheyer. After a back-and-forth game, Duke was up by 1 with thirteen seconds on the clock, Butler’s possession. Butler missed a shot with three seconds left and fouled Duke to send them to the free throw line. Making the first shot, Duke decided to intentionally miss the second, forcing Butler’s Gordon Hayward to make an important rebound. Hayward picked up the ball, took a couple of dribbles, then heaved it up from half court where it went in-and-out, and Duke prevailed as champions.

1.) 2016 National Championship- (2) Villanova 77, (1) North Carolina 74

In one of the best championship games ever, Villanova and UNC came down to the wire. Villanova, featuring Ryan Arcidiacono, Kris Jenkins, and Josh Hart, controlled most of the last few minutes of the game, but Marcus Paige and Brice Johnson of North Carolina stormed back to cut it to three with 13.5 seconds left and the ball. Joel Berry took the ball up the court and passed it off to Senior Marcus Paige with 8 seconds left. He dribbled to avoid the steal and went up for the shot, which was contested, and Paige was unable to get the initial shot off. As he was falling, he miraculously threw a shot up and it went in with 4 seconds left on the clock! Coming off the timeout, Vilanova threw the ball in to Arcidiacono. He dribbled the whole way up the court and passed it to Kris Jenkins who nailed the three to win the championship in a miraculous fashion.

Source: espn.com
The 2016-2017 MBA Microbe Swimming Team

JS Swimming

By Thomas McRae and Elliot Lyell

The 2016-2017 swim team was a team to remember. We were led by the loud and proud captains James Kinard, Jackson Pickett, and Jack Gauldin. These captains worked very hard at motivating the team. We could always count on Jack Gauldin to scream some gibberish before each and every meet to get the team pumped up. Jackson Pickett and James Kinard both worked hard and strived to go first in the lane. But most importantly the captains built up a brotherly bond within the swimmers. From swimming endless and painful laps to the post practice locker room shenanigans, the team was not only talented but also a family.

With practices grueling and impossibly challenging, the team was prepared for anything a meet could throw at them. That was shown to be true because we competed very well at each and every meet. Everyone was constantly trying their hardest and supporting everyone while they raced. We competed in many meets, including Regions and finally the HVAC Championship. In the HVAC Championship, we placed first ahead of Ensworth in a very close meet with strong performances from Tripp Chamblin, David Koziak, and Jack Flanagan. In Regions, we placed second out of seventy-one other teams, with a second and third place for our relays. We had an outstanding number of qualifications for the finals that included, Jack Flanagan, Tripp Chamblin, David Koziak, Joseph Dattilo, Norris Orndorff, Joshua Mi, Lloyd Ivester, Jace Breeden, and Elliot Lyell. This year was a great one for the swim team. Special thanks to Coach Overton and Coach Trotter for all the help and support.

The dive team also had a great showing this year. Because of many late nights spent working on the boards with Coach Amy and Coach Meyers, the junior school divers pulled through with two huge wins. The first win was in a thrilling HVAC match. With multitude of impressive back flips, reverses, inwards, and a triumphant double from Turner Kirkland, the Big Red clinched a HVAC championship. Then a Regional title was also claimed by MBA.

And finally, we would like to thank all of the swim and dive coaches for their amazing dedication to the team. All of the long bus rides and long nights lining up heats are much appreciated. ROLL RED!
Junior School Soccer A Team’s Successful Season

By Andrew Bulgarino

The Junior School Soccer A Team had an unforgettable season this year. Led by the brilliant Coach Cheevers and Coach Klausner, the Big Red claimed their 14th consecutive HVAC Championship. In a thrilling game against the undefeated Grace Christian Academy (GCA), MBA came out on top with a close 1-0 win. What made the win even more remarkable is that, earlier in the regular season, GCA had given MBA its first loss in four years. The team bounced back from the defeat and came out even stronger to get revenge in the finals. I know from experience, as a member of the team, that we were all eager to see Grace Christian again in the championship. After the loss, which was only the second game of the season, all of the following games were just leading up to the rematch. The team was inspired by not only Coach Cheevers and Klausner, but also by the daunting fear of losing the 13-year winning streak. Through remarkable effort in practice and great performances in games, the team was able to lift the HVAC plaque once again. Captain Quinn Kunath was the top goal scorer with 20 goals throughout the season. Rasheed Sarieh had 13 assists, making him the assist leader. Other remarkable performances included Ian Bernatavitz, Ross Walker, Eli Kampine, Thomas Tatro, Wren Jacobs, Andrew Bulgarino, and Cooper Rzasnicki. The 8th graders record finished as 21-1-1 from the two consecutive seasons with two championships. The 7th graders will hopefully have a similarly strong record, as well as the same number of championships. Coach Cheevers and Coach Klausner continued their record of unparalleled coaching, and it was especially needed this year.

Overall, this season will surely go down in the books as the season that MBA proved their resilience and came through to win the 14th year in a row.
B-Team Soccer

By Joseph Bellardo

The Junior School Soccer B-team had a great season going undefeated and winning all ten games! Despite facing many tough opponents throughout their season, they never lost a single game and were the first B team to accomplish that feat. They started out in tryouts, where Bode Segers, Joe Bellardo, Zak Herbstreit, and Patrick Pergande all moved up from C-team, and several players repeated their stints on B-team. From the outset the Big Red had great chemistry and never had any alterations or problems in practice or in games.

The team opened the season against a tough opponent in the Hillsboro High school B-team. Solid play by the Big Red lifted them over their opponent. Their next game was the much easier team of Poplar Grove, who the Big Red triumphed over in a blowout win of 8-0. Many strong performances were given, and the team bonded together in that moment of victory that would prepare them for the challenging road ahead of them. The next game was against a determined team from Valor that was one of the toughest opponents the Big Red faced all season. They had several great players and matched the Big Red in strength and speed, but the one category in which MBA was superior, was perseverance and mental toughness. Valor had prepared well as a team and worked as a cohesive unit, thus bringing them the close victory of 3-1. The next game against Harding was a very solid win for the Big Red in which they hammered Harding 5-1 in one of the highest scoring games of the season. The next opponent BA, “SSSSSSSSSSSS,” came out for a fight, and did not give up until the very end. The Big Red were being beaten mentally and physically in the first half, but after an enthusiastic pep talk from Coach Lawrence at halftime and an enthusiastic student section, they were propelled to victory with several last second goals. Next on the schedule came DCA and the MBA C-team which were both solid and somewhat easy wins for the C-team, and finally came USN as the final opponent. They were a seasoned team that had only lost once before to BA, but the Big Red came out ready to fight, and played their best game of the whole season. After the final game against DCA, Zak Herbstreit and Ramsay Cole announced their retirement from the game to pursue more relaxing activities, and in a couple years, who knows, maybe they will be placed in the MBA B team microbe hall of fame for the 2016 class. Several player highlights:

Ramsay Cole and Joe Bellardo never let in more than one goal per game all season, and kept a positive stone wall in goal. The defenders in Bode Segers, Zak Herbstreit, Ryan Decoster, Clay Crawford, and Warner Greene were all key in the tight games and didn’t let the fast forwards or strikers get through the eighteen without a price. The two defensive backs were especially important in games where the wings would get out of position, and they played exceptionally well throughout the season. The midfielders and forwards of Henry Neck, Sebastian Garcia, Conner Steanson, Carson Mire, Dustin Lee, William Clark, Houston Erickson (Dallas), Frank Bass, Penn Andrews (Marker), J.C. Gardner (Jungle Cat), Steven Singleton, Patrick Pergande, and Matthew Milam, gave the full offensive complement to the team, leading to the blowouts for some teams, and the last minute goals in some close games.

This team was very well assembled, with great players at all positions, and one of the best units working together. Some of us will play in high school, on A-team next year, or not at all, but we will always remember this great season.
C is the New A

By William Hagerty

The Microbe “C” soccer team, coached by Coach Daniel Paolicchi and Coach Rob Dougherty, finished their season with a 4-1-1 record with a 5-2 victory over Ensworth. Their only loss was against the Microbe “B” team. This loss between MBA’s “B” and “C” teams was a hard-fought battle that was very close right up until the very end of the game. With just a couple of minutes remaining, the game was tied. In the nick of time, the “B” team scored two back-to-back goals. The “C” team also played USN in the very first game of the season. This game resulted in a tie, but it quickly became a distant memory in the minds of the players, as the team garnered a win against the same USN team just one week later. Battles against Harding Academy and Franklin Road Academy (FRA) followed. Against FRA, both teams played well, with MBA coming through with the win at the very end of the game following a series of penalty kicks. The “C” team was composed of 20 players, and was led by Coach Paolicchi and Coach Rob Dougherty. The team’s players were Bix “Basher” Beavers (’22), Bradford Cummins (’22), Parker “Dastardly Destroyer” Davis (’22), John Dayani (’22), Hall “Preacher” Griffith (’22), William “Hammer” Hagerty (’22), Pierce “Bus” Hill (’22), William “UPS” Holleman (’22), Robert Holliday (’22), Jacob Huizinga (’22), Jack “Tyrant” Keller (’22), Walker Lenderman (’22), Andrew Lentchner (’22), Cummings Levi (’22), Larson Looney (’22), Jacob “Mighty Mouse” McMillen (’22), Brice Perkerson (’22), Jack Ryan (’22), and Noah Wisniewski (’22).

There was lots of excitement during this soccer season, and the team bonded through the ups and downs of every game. Each team member endeavored to play better for themselves and for MBA, and all enjoyed a fun and successful season. The 2016-2017 Microbe C Soccer Team

L-R: Parker Davis, Jack Keller, Robert Holliday, Pierce Hill, and Larson Looney
The junior school wrestling team of 2016 was a team to remember. With the return of Coach Shone and a heavy eighth-grade line up, we were set up to succeed. A strong second place in the HVAC capped off months of hard work and victories.

The season really started when the red flag returned. A painful hour of non stop running with weights, lifting, and physical exertion brought the team together and put a chip on our shoulders as well. The cardinal vs. silver match showed our great potential, and the massive amount of work we needed to do to get there. The next month of every wrestler’s life was put into training for the HVAC, but we had some amazing wins on the way.

With amazing show outs from the captains, the team had huge wins against the following: DCA, GCA, FRA, Mill Creek, and Ensworth. The team also got hype around certain matches in the regular season. Every match that Adam Garfinkel wrestled was just an absolute shut down. Ethan Lilly’s (E-Baby) methodical and planned pins got the bench roaring. The matches of fighters Matthew Fox and Jeffery Shaw were always aggressive showdowns, and Colyer Haddock’s Cement Job got the crowd on their feet every time. We were ready to storm into the HVAC.

A late night practice revealed the intense attitude the team would have going into the match. Frank Perazzini making weight was key in the morning and put the team on the right foot. When the matches began, MBA was looking strong. With the confusing brackets, random match numbering system, and two mats wrestling at the same time, the team seemed flustered but extremely strong at first. Many of our wrestlers pinned their ways to the finals. Nearing the finals we were slowing down until Colyer Haddock’s form tackle on the BA eye gouger got the entire team edgy when they entered the finals. With a third place from Zach Ricciardelli and Mason Skeeters, second from Matthew Fox, Thomas McRae, Colyer Haddock, and John Crawford, and 1st place wins from Frank Perazzini, Adam Garfinkel, and a throw fest from Ethan Lilly let the Big Red gain a well deserved second place in the HVAC. We would like to thank all of the coaches for such an amazing season. ROLL RED!
“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.”
~~Norman Vincent Peale