CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES

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SOMETHING IN?
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From the creation of the duck pond at Jefferson Elementary School to recently being named the Valedictorian of the Huntington High School’s class of 2017, Steve Yeh is known for being a notoriously hard worker.

“During snack-time, I would just go on the carpet, pick up a book, and read.” You can say it all began there, but it was the carpet at home in which he began his studies. At home, Steve’s parents never pushed him to study or punish him for a bad grade. They gave Steve his space which has allowed him to grow and pursue his career without stress. Although his parents never looked for or expected amazing grades, Steve always looked for a “wow” or “great job” from his parents and teachers.

One of his many favorite teachers throughout the district has been his AP United States Government and Politics teacher Mr. Kenneth Donovan. Steve proclaims that Mr. Donovan’s class allowed him to begin exploring issues in a manner open to numerous perspectives.

As Steve looks forward to joining the ranks of the nation’s top graduates at the Ivy League’s Cornell University in the fall, Steve wants
you to know that a bad grade won’t stop you from reaching your goal of getting into your dream college.

Like all of us, Steve has had his fair share of bad grades and moments where he was unable to answer certain questions. Steve actually appreciates these moments of uncertainty, as they reassure him that there is still more to learn. Steve never complains about a bad grade because he knows it’s on him, and that he can—and will—put in more effort the next day.

For freshman, Steve emphasizes the importance of making connections with friends and teachers that will allow you to succeed. For Steve, this was his brother Frank Yeh. Frank not only helped Steve find his way around for his first few weeks, but motivated and reminded Steve that bad grades only come along to teach you that nobody is perfect and that you always need to work hard for great results, no matter if it’s your strongest or weakest topic.

As Steve Yeh is finishing his final months of high school and is preparing for college, he is continuing to have a great time in Huntington. He’s enjoyed every minute of it, whether it be meeting new friends, learning new viewpoints, or taking exciting new classes and learning information that he could never have received elsewhere.

Some of his favorite memories actually have very little to do with traditional learning. Ask Steve what his favorite memory is and he’ll tell you about playing “wall-ball” on the blacktop or watching the monarch butterflies grow and develop in third or fourth grade. Winning the spelling bee or being a National Merit Finalist isn’t everything that symbolizes Steve Yeh or everything he looks to be; our valedictorian would rather be known for his hard work and his person as a whole, not just an award based off of one test and/or essay on a singular subject.

As Steve is beginning to transition into college, he hopes to be able to stay focused in an area where there is a lot of work, yet a lot of fun. When mentioning the thought of being away from home, his family, and Huntington High School, Steve needed a deep breath just like anyone else would. He knows this transition will be hard and challenging, but just like everything else Steve has done as a scholar, he is willing to take it on!

As Steve and I ended up our long and inspiring interview, I ended up getting one very important piece of advice and the answer to a question he’s received a numerous amount of times. First off, when looking for advice from the man himself, Steve Yeh wants to be able to inspire everyone to try their best each and every day to reach their goal. He hopes to reach out to everyone and let them know that it is not that one test you should be studying for. Steve tells everyone to “study to know the topic everyday to get familiar with it, not just for one test.”

Lastly, when asked if he would rather “pursue a career making a lot of money doing something he doesn’t like or pursue his dreams and make just enough to cover his necessities,” Steve will without hesitation tell you that he would rather make just enough to cover his necessities to follow his dreams. Steve doesn’t see a point in being miserable for a lot of money when he could go to work everyday and enjoy what he does, because after all, “you did put in your best effort to get where you wanted to be.”

MY EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE IN HUNTINGTON

BY PETCH

Have you ever thought of visiting another country, or maybe you’ve considered the idea of traveling abroad to see relatives? These are arguably the most common reasons for international travel. I, however, traveled to the United States for a different reason—to go to another country as an exchange student to study other cultures, gain some experience, and see the world outside of my home country.

My name is Petch, and I’m from Chonburi, Thailand. When I made the decision to get my exchange experience in the United States as an exchange student, I first ended up in Smithtown, but I didn’t quite like it there so I decided to move and ended up in Huntington. People here are very nice, friendly and welcoming. I love it here!

I live with the Dempsey host family. They’re very friendly, kind, generous, comforting, lovely and welcoming. I have a lot of fun times with them. They treat me really well, and I appreciate and love them so much!

It took me two years of preparation to be an exchange student. I had to fill a lot of paperwork and get my Visa and my new passport. I even had to travel two hours from my house to Bangkok every Sunday to study about the United States. I was like, “why the bloody hell is this so complicated?” It took me 26 hours to fly to the United States! I tested long flights, and was very exhausted.

As can be expected, there are many things in the United States that are different from Thailand—the weather being a big one. I am used to hot and moist weather in Thailand, but have had to learn to cope and deal with the cold weather here, which I’m not very fond of. I did get to see snow for the first time during my stay here, which has always been one of my biggest dreams. It was magnificent, but I have had enough. No more! Units are something else that I’ve had to get used to. Your use of pounds for weight,
¿Cuál fue tu punto de partida y cuál será tu punto de llegada? Aquí te brindó todo lo que hicieron por ti, pero que no sabes que hicieron por ti, y dejar todo atrás, que salir de su país y dejar el año en el que estás viviendo. Porque nunca sabemos para cuándo lo necesitaremos.

Después de ese cambio que hacemos de tener una vida 'suave' a empezar a tener una vida 'dura', cuando empiezas a trabajar y a estudiar al mismo tiempo cuando antes solo pedías y se te concebían, es duro, claro que sí, no es fácil, es difícil ¿verdad? Es difícil llegar a tener lo que quieres por tu cuenta, claro que sí, pero nada es fácil, para poder llegar al éxito vas a tener que caer y levantarte con fuerzas. Si tú tienes la oportunidad de estudiar, aprovechala y sacar provecho de esa oportunidad y debes estar preparado echándole ganas, porque es mejor tener la oportunidad y aprovecharla que tener una oportunidad y NO aprovecharla.

¿Cuál es tu sueño? ¿Qué piensas hacer de tu vida? Cuál sea que sea tu sueño solo no te rindas porque es necesario que lo cumplan, es necesario que vayas por lo que es tuyo y lo que te haga feliz, aprovecha la oportunidad y que tengas, cual sea que sea aprovechala, que esa oportunidad te va a llevar a tu sueño, si tu sueño. Tu puedes cumplir tus sueños siempre y cuando trabajes fuerte, es ¡POSIBLE! Todo lo que te propongas será ¡POSIBLE! Porque tienes el poder de hacerlo.

Es importante que te hagas una pregunta todos los días ¿estoy haciendo mi sueño posible? ¿estoy sacando provecho de esta oportunidad que tengo en mis manos? Todo es ¡POSIBLE!, si tú no sacaste la nota que querías en el examen, esta es la oportunidad para que apagues la televisión, apagues tu teléfono porque lo que tienes que estar haciendo es estudiando para así cumplir lo que quieres, y lograr grandes cosas en tu vida. Ten en mente que nada está terminado hasta que TÚ no hayas ganado y logrado ese sueño de ser esa persona que quieres.

¿Sabías que un águila sabe cuando una tormenta se acerca mucho antes de que empiece? El águila volará a un sitio alto para esperar los vientos que vendrán! Así es como nosotros tenemos que estar preparados con los obstáculos de la vida. Así que levántate y ve en busca de tus sueños que cada día están más cerca de ti, que TÚ historia no te afecte tu presente, y que tu presente no afecte tu futuro...

LAS PÁGINAS EN ESPAÑOL

TRANSLATIONS BY ARIANA STRIEB

MISTAKES I'VE MADE
CROSSING BARRIERS

BY ILSI MARTINEZ E.

When was the moment where you finally decided you had to change? Let me give you a little motivation because I can see that you might fall, and I can see you may not have the will to keep going, but I know that you can do it, just that you do not know it yet. Sometimes we just need a little push to get up. I’ll give you that push.

We all know the same story, that a shy child receives an unexpected notice and must leave the country and leave everything behind. With the tantrums you have thrown over the phone at your mom and dad asking “Why did you leave me?” But when you receive the news that finally you will have a better life beside you with your mom and dad, that without your knowing they gave you everything while they worked for long hours, for the lowest pay. They forgot to give you the most important thing of all. They forgot to give you love. Having passed through that path that leads to one’s beloved destination, one realizes that things are even worse. One no longer has anyone to call upon and nothing able to grasp. Now, nothing is free, now you can’t ask for something and expect to receive it.

You come face to face with the reality that you can’t party anymore, or buy the most expensive clothes, or have the beautiful life that you have left behind. You have your mom and dad, and they’re in the next room over, but it feels as if they are not there. “Why?” Then you begin to deliberate and begin to fall. The answer is easy. You are beginning to see how hard your mom and dad worked to give you the life you always wanted. They try and try, but sometimes they can’t give you what you want. Sometimes you feel as if life is hard and unfair. I am telling you this because I have lived it.

One day, we all get to the point where we think to ourselves, “Everything is wrong.” We complain about things and we ask ourselves and ask life “Why does this happen to me?” And many times the answer is we do not realize that these things occur to make us stronger. Don’t settle for less, fight for what you deserve. At the end of the day we learn to be thankful for everything because everyday we wake up in the morning. In that moment, we must maintain this mentality because we just had our first blessing.

We must look at each day like an opportunity to invest in life, an opportunity to share new experiences with someone else. Only in the darkness can you see the stars!

In life, someday we will have to learn a little bit of everything. If you do not know how to do something, LEARN IT! Because you never know when you will need it. After this change from having a “smooth” life to a “difficult” one, you begin to work and study at the same time. You used to ask and were given whatever you wanted. Now it is hard, difficult. It’s not easy. It’s hard to achieve what you want by your own means, of course, yet nothing is easy. In order to achieve success you will have to fall and get back up with strength. If you have the opportunity to study, take advantage of the opportunity and put everything you have in it because it is better to take full advantage of the opportunity than letting it go to waste.

What is your dream? What do you want to do with your life? Whenever your dream is, do not give up because it is necessary to achieve it. It is necessary to go after what is yours and take it. Take advantage of every opportunity that is offered to you because this opportunity could get you closer to your dream. You will be able to achieve your dreams, and when you work hard, it is POSSIBLE! Anything is POSSIBLE! Because you have the power to do it. It is important that you ask yourself everyday, “Am I doing everything possible to help achieve my dream?” “Am I taking advantage of this opportunity that’s in my hands?” Everything is POSSIBLE! If you did not get the grade that you want on the test, then is the time you turn off the television, turn off your cell phone, because what you should be doing is study so you can achieve your dreams and get what you want in your life. Keep in mind that nothing is finished until YOU have won and achieved that dream of being that person you want.

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it begins? The eagle will fly to a high place to wait for the winds that will come! We must do the same when preparing for obstacles in our life. You must get up and go and search for your dreams, which are getting closer to you everyday. Do not let your past affect your present, and do not let your present affect your future.

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THIS ARTICLE IS THE TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE APPEARING ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE.
OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

AGUIRRE, Evan.................................Northeastern University
AKBER, Khondoker Tazwar............................Farmingdale State College
ANASTOS, Emanuel.................................Carleton College
ANDERSON, Kayla E .............................................Nassau Community College
ANGSTADT, Max ..............................................The University of Scranton
BAILEY, Alyssa Darlene-Paige .........................Suffolk County Community College
BALDANZA, Olivia.................................University of Delaware
BAPTISTE, Hannah .........................................SUNY College at Geneseo
BARTLEY, Gabriella ...........................................State University of New York at Albany
BELLISTRI, Abigail .......................................University of St Andrews
BENITES, Jessica ..............................................Suffolk County Community College
BERJEKA, Elizabeth S ..................................Fordham University
BIBLOW, Samuel C ..............................................SUNY College at Oneonta

CABALLERO, Rebecca..................................University of New Haven
CANAS, Jonathan ..................................Nassau Community College
CALLAHAN, Andrea...............................Xavier University
CALLAHAN, Timothy .....................................SUNY College at Geneseo
CANAS-RIVAS, Eleanna........................Trident Technical College
CAPORUSCIO, Marco ........................................City College of New York CUNY
CARNESI, Michaela.................................Muhlenberg College
CASSAR, Alexa.............................................Drexel University
CHEMERISOV, Sonia..............................Farmingdale State College
CLERVEAUX, Jeannie .....................................City College of New York CUNY

D'ALESSANDRO, Michelle........................Fordham University
Daly, Jessica..........................Long Island University, Post
Daly, Leanne..................................................Pennsylvania State University
DARA, Kathryn ..............................................SUNY Albany
DELUCA, Gabriella ..................................................University of Massachusetts, Amherst
DELVA, Destiney ..............................................Nassau Community College

EHRMAN, Charles ..............................................California State University, Northridge

FAJARDO, Andres...............................SUNY Albany
FASOLINO, Rudolf..........................Rochester Institute of Technology
FELDMAN, Lauren..............................Dickinson College
FILS-AIME, Rachel..........................SUNY Old Westbury
FULLER, Jacob........................................................Arcadia University

ANNUNZIATA, Jenna M............................Adelphi University
APRIGLIANO, Andrew F...............................Suffolk County Community College, Ammerman
ARCIPRETE, Olivia R.............................The University of Tampa
ARDELL, Anna E.........................................George Mason University
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BONILLA, Vanessa ..............................................Suffolk County Community College
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BRESKIN, Stefan ...........................................University of Massachusetts, Amherst
BURKE, Brianna..............................................Fairfield University
BURTON, Christopher....................................State University of New York at Buffalo

COLLINS, Daniel........................................Bucknell Community College
CONFORTI, Tyler ....................................New York Institute of Technology
CORDEIRO, Christopher........................................New York Institute of Technology
CORDERO-SALAZAR, Carlos...........................Farmingdale State College
CORNALDO, Jessica...............................University of Maine
COSTABLE, Nicholas...............................SUNY Fredonia
CUADRA, Manyara.....................................SUNY College at Old Westbury
CUASCUT, Elena.........................................SUNY College at Geneseo
CURRAN, Grace..............................................Syracuse University

DEONARINE, Halley..........................Fashion Institute of Technology
DESMOND, Robert..............................Stony Brook University
DEVILLE, Casey..............................................Suffolk County Community College

DONNELLY, Brian..................................Saint Michael’s College
DOUGLAS, Jaha...........................................Hofstra University
DUNNE, Keegan...........................................SUNY Plattsburgh

ENGE, Julia..............................................SUNY Albany

FLORES-ANDRADE, Eileen..............................Suffolk County Community College
FLORO, Sabrina..........................New York Institute of Technology
FOLEY, Shannon...............................Northeastern University
FOX, Alyssa............................................Nassau County Community College
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Note: Only seniors who granted permission on their Senior Survey have their names listed here.
The Dispatch is always looking for writers and photographers to submit articles they feel passionately about. Drop in during one of our Weekly Wednesday Meetings after school or Contact Max Robins about submitting your work for The Dispatch.

@HHISDISPATCH@GMAIL.COM
“Kimino Na wa”, or *Your Name*, is a Japanese animated film produced in 2016 by acclaimed director Makoto Shinkai. I have always remained cautious of reviewing anime films due to the notable problems with the genre such as perpetuating incestuous art styles, pandering to a certain demographic of hardcore “otaku,” and largely existing to sell the attached anime/manga/figure. It is currently the highest-grossing anime film of all time, outclassing even the Miyazaki films.

**Plot:** *Your Name* is at first a typical body-switching story, set in Japan. The characters are a likable duo of a farm girl, and a city boy—you can’t get more cliché than that. But what the film does best is breaking these tired conventions. Now I’m not going to get into any spoilers, because I think that this movie is best watched blind, so you’re going to need to take my word for that one.

**Animation/Cinematography:** The film’s animation, while stylistically similar to others on the market (Kyoto Animation, Gainax, Production IG), excels in its broad use of color, breathtaking backgrounds, as well as fantastic cinematography. Makoto Shinkai has been known for his fantastic backdrops in all of his films, and *Your Name* is no different in his beautifully capturing of the ambient, quite nature of rural Japan, and the high energy-urban look of modern day Tokyo. Additionally, the film cleverly uses mirror shots to convey the characters’ sense of being on the outside looking in when switching bodies. But *Your Name* doesn’t just rest on being well shot, it also incorporates inventive imagery that needs to be seen to be understood. One of my favorite scenes entails the view of a comet reflected into a girl’s eye, expanding and reforming as a boy falls endlessly, with colors forming and un-forming around him, cells dividing and multiplying, as both he and the comet continue their timeless descent.

**Sound Design:** The film’s score, while exceptional, can be slightly overused during the ending scenes, but to the point of being annoying. Contrarily, what the film truly excels at is its use of silence. There were points during my viewing where the silence became deafening, where not even the audience in the theatre dared to breathe. I appreciate this rather unconventional, subdued approach, and look forward to seeing it implemented in other works.

To sum of my review, I’d say that *Your Name* contains solid animation, masterful breaks of conventions, and is an overall fantastic film that fails to disappoint even the most jaded of viewers.

**Final Rating:** 94/100.
AWOD stands for A World of Difference; it’s a club that emphasizes anti-bias and tolerance training for our community. On May 26th, members of AWOD traveled to Woodhull Intermediate School for their annual fifth-grade training.

Each year, AWOD members participate in two trainings—one in autumn and one in the spring—in preparation for their future trip to Woodhull. The primary focus of these trainings is to raise awareness about current societal issues regarding inequality and discrimination. Monthly meetings and bake sales similarly assist in the process of preparing old and new members alike for their visit to Woodhull. Trained AWOD members worked closely with club advisors Mrs. Biagi and Mrs. Decannio to craft an age-appropriate, effective training method addressing the most prominent problems affecting fifth-grade students.

The club’s frequent contact with Woodhull’s assistant principal, Mr. Jarred Stein, has been hugely beneficial in the tailoring of the training around specific concerns raised by the younger students.

On the day of the training, AWOD members were assigned two 5th grade classes each period. The schedule included establishing the club’s rules through the acronym ROPES, displaying the similarities between classmates with the game Cross the Line, gathering feedback from students using “Graffiti Boards,” and demonstrating, through role-plays, the proper methods to handling tough situations. Each activity is designed to allow the young students to share insights into their daily experiences at both school and home.

This year’s training focused on cyber bullying, self-image issues, cultural discrimination, and social media use. Each group of students showed unparalleled enthusiasm and eagerness to express their ideas on how to prevent bullying within their school. At the end of the day, the club met with Mr. Stein to debrief on the receptiveness of the students during the training, along with any advice as to where the program could improve.

Huntington junior Nicole Arenth, the Secretary of AWOD, expressed that “it’s very rewarding to have the ability to teach the fifth graders tolerance and to have a positive impact on their lives.” This quote encapsulates the goal of AWOD: to promote a more accepting, tolerant environment within Huntington’s community. By working with some of the district’s youngest students, the club aims to provide them with the proper tools to succeed in social interactions at all ages. The club’s motto is that “the power of one can make a difference.”

With the practice of acceptance and understanding in their daily lives, every member of the club

©Nathan West

An AWOD training session from in progress.

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The group of AWOD members who recently visited Woodhull Intermediate School.

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