

Improvisation at CTE: Spontaneous Combustion!!!

by Susan Brashear, CTE Co-Program Director

What happens when you take a group of actors, mix in a director who is an improvisation whiz, add some musicians and a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants technical team? You get “Revenge, Love and Improv” performing February 10-14 at the Caldwell Theatre, an event that promises to be different every night with stories drawn from the audience in long-form improvisation format. These ingredients add up to an unpredictable evening of fun and mayhem for actors and audience.

What is long-form improvisation? Guest artist/director Regina Saisi is the founder of “True Fiction Magazine,” an improvisation troupe that is internationally renowned for this type of improvisation. The fun begins when the audience is prompted to give words or phrases that are a springboard to storytelling. The cast weaves a variety of characters and plots for a first act, then comes back after intermission to pick up the threads and bring the stories through to an ending. Live musicians accompany the actors’ changing moods and plotlines while the technicians in the booth follow suit with lighting changes. It is a high-risk balancing act for all involved.

CTE’s cast is made up of a mixture of juniors and seniors in Advanced Drama who have been practicing their skills during rehearsals over the past few months. The cast includes Eric Andrews, Katya Baker-Levine, Ansel Burk, Avra Freidman, Gabe Grossman, David Phillips, Cory Rand, Lila Scott, Bodhi Werner, and Charlotte Wimberly. The line-up will change nightly with just eight actors from the group performing each night. The stage managers, Alanna Adler and Matt Phillips, must also think fast as they make instantaneous decisions to call out cues to the technical team. Theo Evan and Chris Mauze are the musicians who round out the production. The challenge of long-form improvisation lies in the teamwork and skill needed to pull off the performances.

“Revenge, Love and Improv” will play Tuesday, February 10, through Saturday, February 14, at 7 pm at the Daniel Caldwell Theatre located at the back of Tam’s campus. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Bring your valentine and come see the unexpected in action!



Front row (L-R): Lila Scott, Charlotte Wimberly, Eric Andrews, Avra Friedman, Bodhi Werner, Ansel Burk; back row (L-R): Gabe Grossman, David Phillips, Katya Baker-Levine, Cory Rand.

Principal's Message

by Tom Drescher

Modernization

Keyser Hall is open! All student classes were transitioned out of the portables and into Keyser Hall for the first day back in January, except the Science labs, which were occupied two weeks later. Modernization crews are working to finish the exterior work, and are tentatively scheduled to complete work the first week of February. The "T-town" portables have been removed to allow additional space to complete the Tam pool, weight room, and tennis courts. The new Field House is well underway and is on schedule to be completed toward the end of June, well before Football season resumes.

Tour of Keyser

Tam Administration will provide a guided tour of the new Keyser Hall buildings on Wednesday, February 11, following the 7 pm PTSA meeting. The meeting will be held in the Lower Keyser building, second floor, room 318. Parents are encouraged to attend the PTSA meeting and join us for the tour.

09-10 Course Registration

The AP and honors course registration process will commence in early February. The purpose of the meetings is for your students to learn about course expectations, prerequisites, homework load, etc. Students must attend informational sessions for each AP or honors course they are interested in taking next year. In addition, many classes require a placement test or essay for class enrollment. An AP/honors matrix delineating dates, times and locations of the informational meetings and entrance tests will be made available on the school website in February and information will also be e-mailed to parents. The actual course selection process will take place in March. ♦

Notes from the Assistant Principal

by Corbett Elsen, Assistant Principal

Keyser Hall is completely open! As of Tuesday, January 20, all classrooms are officially open and operational. Special thanks to our custodians and support staff who sacrificed much of their holiday vacation and to our community members whose tax dollars built this beautiful facility!

Tam High values timeliness! Please encourage your son or daughter to get to class on time. Arriving to class after the bell is a tardy. Arriving to class 10 minutes after the bell is an unexcused absence. Three tardies in any one class equals one unexcused absence. Five unexcused absences equals loss of a credit. Please remind your child of this policy as we do not want any senior to be prevented from walking at graduation or for an underclassman to have to take summer school due to truancy. ♦

PTSA News

by Leslie Wachtel, PTSA President

Winter has been an exciting season here at Tam. All of the classrooms in our brand new Keyser buildings are open and they look fantastic. The students and teachers with whom I have spoken are enjoying the new space and the decreased amount of walking necessary to get from class to class! We were all thrilled to see the portables being driven down Camino Alto via flatbed trucks over the course of several days in January! We will wait patiently until the pool is completed and the tennis courts are resurfaced this summer and early fall.

Our next PTSA meeting on February 11 at 7 pm will feature a tour of the new Keyser building and a preview of "Classroom 2020" which will open in fall 2009. I would encourage everyone to come and see this beautiful new facility.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our fireside chat with Tom Drescher in December. We had a short PTSA meeting followed by an informal evening of sharing information regarding what's going on at Tam High this year. Several parent groups had an opportunity to share with the audience what they do at Tam and how anyone and everyone is encouraged to get involved and volunteer throughout the year.

We hosted All About Tam Night on January 14. This was an informal evening for students in the 8th grade and their parents to have an opportunity to come to Tam and to learn about various classes, extracurricular opportunities, athletics, as well as our counseling department. Thank you to all the faculty, staff and students who participated that evening. I received feedback from many 8th grade families that the information they received from the students and faculty that evening was very helpful in finding out about many of the programs they had heard about at Tam.

Thank you to Linda Brauner, our parent ed coordinator, Dr. Rick Levine (a Tam parent), Yvonne Milham (Peer Resource teacher) and several students from Peer Resource who participated in our parent ed evening, "Sex, Drugs and" This was an informative evening for the many parents present. Dr. Levine addressed the effects of alcohol and drugs on

continued on the right



The Tam Family

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Published 8 times a year

Extra! Extra! Read All About It: Tam High Foundation Funds State-of-the-Art Journalism Lab at Tam

by Julie Kertzman

If you haven't ventured into the new journalism suite in Keyser, you are in for a treat. Last year Journalism Advisor Jonah Steinhart applied for a major grant from the Tam High Foundation with an innovative plan to upgrade the journalism lab and classroom. Journalism now has two large classrooms connected with a glass wall and the lab looks like a newsroom. Along with the spacious work environment, there is new computer equipment on the way. The new equipment includes four new energy-efficient LCD monitors and 12 Dell workstations, computer towers and LCD monitors. Now the "Tam High Newsroom" will have 23 computers available at any given time allowing every student to have an individual workstation during the heavy editing/writing days leading to the paste-up deadline. The equipment will be up and running prior to the January production deadline. Over the past two years, the Foundation also purchased cameras, voice recorders and laptops for the program.



Mr. Steinhart said, "The students are very excited, both about the new learning space and the new technology. Future possibilities for the publication, now that the physical and technical infrastructure is largely in place, include opening up additional advanced journalism sections focusing on web and/or broadcast journalism as well as the continued improvement of the existing web site and print magazine."

Many of you may not be aware of the huge strides made in the Tam High journalism program during the past four years. In 2005-06, the "Tam News" consisted of a single advanced journalism class with 15 students working on six computers. Today there are nearly 50 students working with 23 computers!

Mr. Steinhart is very excited about the growth in the program and he models his program after the nationally recognized journalism program at Palo Alto High (where he was the editor not too long ago). The Palo Alto High program involves 300 of their 1200 students and features classes that produce a newspaper, monthly print magazine, web site, and a daily local access television broadcast. Mr. Steinhart has big plans for journalism at Tam and the Tam High Foundation is proud to sponsor his efforts.

The new journalism lab is another example of the Tam High Foundation at work! The teachers at Tam continue to innovate and enhance their programs and in tough economic times for schools, these programs could not happen without your support of the Tam High Foundation. If you haven't yet donated this year, please do so now! We need every family to participate. Save the Date: May 1 is the Tam High Foundation "Cinco de Mayo Party" at the Mill Valley Community Center! ♦

the brain and how drugs may affect kids differently. The audience was then given the opportunity to ask questions of the seven Peer Resource students about what really goes on in the life of Tam High Students. Many thanks to Taylor, Hilary, Caleb, Shea, Caitlin, Daniel and JoJo for coming and sharing their experiences with us. We appreciate your honesty and willingness to give up your evening to be part of parent education at Tam.

We will soon begin planning next year's PTSA activities and would love to get more parents involved in helping make the decisions about what the PTSA does at Tam. Please email me if you would like to get involved in planning for next year, become a committee chair, be on the executive board or volunteer to help at some of our events. Leslieann@ix.netcom.com. ♦

News from Parent to Parent Connection

by Janet Miller and Linda Siegel
P2P Coordinators

Our November P2P session was about four year college options for students with learning issues at which Jane McClure of McClure, Mallory and Baron discussed the following topics:

- SAT and ACT testing accommodations
- Admissions: How to get special needs students into college; what they need to disclose and the importance of the student understanding his/her own disability.
- Reviewed the 3 levels of services: Parents and students should research what is available and most effective for the student. Structured programs provide the most support and is the closest thing college students can get to a high school resource program; coordinated services provide moderate levels of support (subject matter and learning strategy tutoring, help with self advocacy, LD specialist on staff); basic service offers minimal amount of support necessary to comply with the law. These schools may have writing and tutoring services but not necessarily with LD specialists.

On February 19 our program will be: Four-year college isn't the only way: Real-life options that work for kids with learning challenges, including 2-year college programs. Robert Flynn has been an academic counselor at College of Marin for the past 30 years and will offer insight and information that will help both parents and students "find their way." There will be other counselors from the district who will speak about alternatives to attending four-year colleges. Location and time: 6:30-9 pm, Kreps Conference Center, Redwood High School; program at 7 pm, informal parent meeting time at 6:30 pm.

For more information about P2P and our schedule please visit our website www.tam-district.org/P2P. ♦

Best of 2008 ~ Just In Case You Missed It!

by Maureen Parton, member, Tam High United Music Boosters



On the eve of Thanksgiving, three Tam High senior music students, Theo Evan, Levi Gillis and Julian Moore, organized a sold-out, smokin' hot evening of musical entertainment at Caldwell Theatre. The show served up a dozen lively performances ranging from jazz combos, finger-style bluegrass guitar, original jazz and vocal compositions, as well as classical piano and flute that brought the capacity audience to its feet for a standing ovation! The all-ages audience thrilled to an evening of pure musical delight and left with first-hand experience of the strength and versatility of musicians and singers in the Tam High music program.

Led by enthusiastic Music Director Spiro Tsingarlis, the Tam High music program has garnered praise and acclaim for its innovative support and encouragement of excellence in band, jazz band, choral and orchestral music. Mr. Tsingarlis, affectionately called Mr. T., brings passion and enthusiasm to a program whose variety and breadth helps bring forth students' musical gifts.

Julian Moore, who along with classmates Theo Evan and Levi Gillis conceived of the showcase, described the evolution of the idea: "The idea was hatched in my driveway one night after a music rehearsal. We simply wanted to put on a night of music that represented the best and most varied musical talent that Tam High had to offer." He added, "We also wanted to raise money for THUMB (Tam High United Music Boosters) which helps raise money year round to support music education at Tam High."

Determined to shine the light of recognition on the music program at Tam, Evan, Gillis and Moore created eye-catching flyers and posted them all over school. The trio held lunchtime and after school auditions to find the right combination of performances to bring out the best.

"We tried to keep everything balanced. We wanted the audience to hear a nice balance of vocal performances, jazz combos, duets and groups, and classical groups ranging from soloists to string quartets. We looked for variety in the blend of genres as well as within the genres themselves," explained Theo Evan. In order to keep this process fair, the judging panel was composed of one student from each section of the music department (jazz, band, choir and orchestra). Gillis, Moore and Evan wanted to make the evening fun for all ~ performers and audience members alike.

Clearly appreciating the welcoming and encouraging environment that Mr. Tsingarlis and the Music Program create, Levi Gillis offered, "Tam Music has provided an excellent environment

in which we could push the limits of our creativity and musicianship. In jazz band, Mr. Tsingarlis gives us the time to work in small jazz ensembles to develop our soloing ability, which has been very helpful."

After a warm, smiling and characteristically brief welcome by Mr. Tsingarlis, Theo Evan, Levi Gillis and Julian Moore took up the hosting duties, each in turn, introducing the performers, including their own combos, and engaging in deftly delivered emcee banter. From start to finish, Tam music students delivered a cascade of one excellent performance after another. It was a thrill to watch, listen and appreciate the dedication, technique and passion of each singer and musician.

Anyone operating under the illusion that this generation's music is one dimensional or just rock or rap would have been amazed at the line-up. The evening was about variety and quality performances, just what Evan, Gillis and Moore had in mind. There were quite a number of original jazz and vocal compositions as well as some expertly delivered classical string and piano music as well as nightclub torch songs.

The students surged out on stage to take a final bow. They took the stage and their faces showed they knew that they had just nailed it. I looked around the theater hoping to see someone with a camera that caught every moment. The audience rose up applauding and whistling with delight. Filing out of the theater, there was a joyful buzz and smiles all around from being a part of this extraordinary evening of music. Walking to my car in dark in the back parking lot, I felt like I didn't need the light to find my way. I also couldn't help hoping that the Tam High Showcase might become an annual event. I'm counting on it.

THUMB is a parent-run organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and assist in instrumental and choral music activity at Tamalpais High School. If you would like to join in our ongoing work, please e-mail Sacha Bunge at sbunge@sfsu.edu for more information. All are welcome!



LOVE* IS IN THE AIR AT TAMALPAIS HIGH
*(*at Economic Stimulus Pricing!)*

Valentine's Day Concert and Dinner In Support of the Music Program at Tamalpais High School

Friday, February 13

6:30 pm Music, Doors open at 6 pm

Ruby Scott Gym

If love is like a red, red rose, a musical long-stemmed bouquet awaits you on Friday evening, February 13, at 6:30 pm in Ruby Scott Gym. This is the Tam High Music Program's premiere fundraising concert of the year for the support of music education.

A romantic banquet dinner of herb and citrus-perfumed chicken and all the fixings and a luscious dessert are included with the musical main dish. Master chefs at Gira Polli, a favorite Mill Valley restaurant, will prepare

the feast. Get in on the Tam High "bailout" package of the season! Dine and be entertained like royalty at a bargain price!

Drum roll please and a deep "Texas-dip" curtsy in honor of the real entertainment for the evening ~ the music of the award-winning Tam High Music Program. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, resident Redwoods elders, your lab partner or teammate and get ready to trip the light fantastic to the sounds of sweet, sweet music.

Tickets may be purchased at the door at 6 pm. Arrive early for the show if you plan to dine. Pricing: adults \$20, \$15 for teens and \$10 for kids and music students.

THUMB, the Tam High United Music Boosters, provides the evening's arrangements and volunteer help. For more information and to join the fun of THUMB, contact Sacha Bunge, THUMB Chair at sbunge@sfsu.edu

For more information about this concert, call Spiro Tsingaris at 380-3557. ♦



STUDENT LIFE

REEL NEWS: FROM THE ACADEMY OF INTEGRATED HUMANITIES AND NEW MEDIA (AIM) AIM Begins Recruitment for 2009-2010

Hard to believe, but it's time for sophomores to begin thinking about their options for next year. The Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media (AIM) provides an avenue for students with genuine curiosity about the world, an interest in filmmaking, a love of the humanities, a preference for working in teams and an ability to handle freedom and responsibility. It's not for everyone, but for those who embrace it, AIM can be a life-changing experience.

What is AIM?

AIM is a challenging, two-year, three-subject program for juniors and seniors. It blends required social studies and English courses with documentary studies and filmmaking, creating an academic program that not only includes film, but uses it as a powerful means to express student learning. AIM prepares students to excel in college and the world of work through rigorous, interdisciplinary projects that emphasize the academic, professional, collaborative and technological skills students need to succeed in high school, college and the workplace.

AIM and College

AIM offers regular, AP English and honors history classes within a project-based program. AIM students have been accepted to a variety of schools and programs like Stanford, RISD, Pratt, Emory, NYU, Tufts, Brown, USC, Wesleyan and all the UCs.

The Personal Connection

AIM fosters meaningful and sustained relationships among students and teachers over a two-year period. Students learn how to work with their peers for a sustained period of time on complex projects.

Relevance

Students ground their films in their social studies, English and documentary film curriculum to produce videos that educate the community about relevant issues. Students have made films dealing with themes of race, class, identity, power and the American Dream and presented them to audiences of over 400 community members at their annual film festival. Additionally, AIM films have won student Emmys, awards at the California Student Media Festival, and have been selections in the Mill Valley Film Festival, San Francisco International Film Festival and BestFest, the nation's largest student film festival.

continued on page 7

College and Career Center Services

By Susan Gertman, College and Career Specialist
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 6: Financial Aid Application Workshop

Representatives from the Marin Education Fund will be in the computer lab in Hoetger Hall during tutorial from 9:45-10:45 am, on Friday, February 6, to answer questions and help seniors and parents fill out financial aid applications. The Marin Education Fund is an excellent source of financial aid and scholarship information. Go to www.marineducationfund.org or call 459-4240.

March 4: Pre-Registration for College of Marin

A representative from the College of Marin will be in the College and Career Center on Wednesday March 4, during tutorial from 9:45-10:45 am, to meet with seniors interested in attending COM next fall. She will talk about the vocational, two-year and transfer options available at community college, financial aid and how to register. Students will have the opportunity to fill out an application.

PRACTICE TESTS

Tam offers practice SAT, ACT and subject tests to help students familiarize themselves with college entrance exams. The fee, \$10 each for the SAT and ACT and \$5 for each subject test, is payable in cash or a check made out to the Tam High PTSA. All fees support the PTSA Academic Scholarship. Signups are in the College and Career Center.

February 4: Practice SAT Reasoning Test

There will be a full-length practice SAT on Wednesday, February 4, a minimum day, from 1:15-5:15 pm, in the Student Center. Signup deadline: January 30. Co-sponsored with Princeton Review.

March 7: Practice ACT

A full-length practice ACT will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm, in the Student Center. Signup deadline: February 27. Co-sponsored with Kaplan.

March 25: Practice SAT Subject Tests

Students may take one or two practice subject

tests on Wednesday, March 25, from 3-5:15 pm, in the College and Career Center. Students must know which tests they want to take when signing up. Deadline: March 20. Co-sponsored with Compass Education Group.

SAT and ACT

Students may register online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com and ACT at www.act-student.org. Register early for a convenient location. Tam is not a test site.

Testing Tips: The counseling department recommends that juniors applying to four-year colleges take the SAT Reasoning Test in March, May, or June. Juniors may also want to take the ACT in April or June in addition to or instead of the SAT. The College and Career Center has registration forms, practice books and information on preparing for college admissions tests.

Juniors who plan to apply to the University of California and other competitive colleges and universities also need to submit two SAT subject tests. Sophomores and juniors who are completing an academic subject this year are strongly advised to take a subject test in that area this spring. For example, students now taking AP Biology should take the biology subject test in May or June and not wait until senior year when they will have forgotten some of the material.

CHSPE

The California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), which awards the legal equivalent of a high school diploma, will be given on Saturday, March 21. Students must be 16 or in the tenth grade to take the exam. For more information, go to www.chspe.net or call 866-342-4773. Pre-registration is required.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

The College and Career Center maintains files and has books on summer programs in the US and abroad. Come by and look through the materials, including a particularly helpful book, *Early College Programs: Summer College Programs for High School Students*, by Hydrisko. This book suggests programs in particular fields and includes sections on programs for underrepresented students and for students with learning disabilities.

Here are some other suggestions for summer programs and contact information:

The Academic Talent Development Program at UC Berkeley offers challenging summer classes for K-11 students. June 22-July 31. Deadlines vary depending on whether the student is new or returning to the program. www.atdp.berkeley.edu.

UC Davis Young Scholars Program is an interdisciplinary program in biological and natural sciences for sophomores and juniors with mentored research in university laboratories. June 21-August 1. Applications due: March 31. www.ysp.ucdavis.edu.

California State Summer School for the Arts offers four weeks of classes in animation, visual arts, creative writing, music, dance, film/video and theatre on the campus of Cal Arts near Los Angeles. July 11-August 7. Financial aid is available. Applications due: Feb. 28. www.innerspark.us

FINANCIAL AID and SCHOLARSHIPS

Information on scholarships and financial aid is available at the College and Career Center and online on PrepHQ (go to tamhigh.org, click on Academics, then follow the link to PrepHQ).

Students planning to attend a California college, including community colleges and vocational schools, are eligible to apply for a Cal Grant. In order to apply, a GPA Verification Form must be completed by the school registrar, Joanie Ross, and mailed by the student no later than March 2. It is a good idea to make a copy of all forms and obtain a certificate of mailing. Cal Grant forms are available in the College and Career Center or online at www.calgrants.org

EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Each year a few seniors receive good news early from colleges. Students have reported acceptances at: Bates, Boston College, Brown, Columbia, CSU Chico, CSU Humboldt, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU San Bernardino, Denison, Kenyon, Middlebury, NYU, Pacific, Pitzer, San Francisco State, Scripps, Skidmore, Southern Oregon University, Tulane, U of Chicago, U of Michigan, U of Oregon, U of San Diego, U of Wisconsin, Whitman and Willamette. When your student hears good news, please ask him or her to share it with the College and Career Center.

AIM continued from page 5

Technological Skills

Students learn professional skills on industry-standard equipment. The AIM lab is equipped with entry-level professional video editing equipment so that students can get jobs or enter film programs immediately after graduation. Many AIM alumni in university film programs have commented that they were ahead of the curve.

Student and Parent Comments

Don't take our word for it. Here's a sample of unsolicited comments we've received from AIM parents and students over the years:

"AIM has awakened an intellectual curiosity that was hidden somewhere behind his former 'only working for the grades' approach to learning. Congratulations on running an inspirational program." -- AIM parents

"Thank you for getting our kids to think outside the box, beyond the written word, to work together in a new way." -- AIM parent

"We have been blown away by the passion, creativity, depth and commitment she and her group members have shown to produce such interesting films." -- AIM parent

"AIM aids in bridging that elusive gap between high school and real life." — AIM Alum '08
"I can't imagine high school without AIM." — AIM Alum '05

AIM Application Schedule

Sophomores wishing to be in AIM must fill out an application and be interviewed. Their sophomore humanities teachers also fill out an evaluation form.

- > **February 2-6: AIM students visit sophomore history classes to introduce the program and invite sophomores to orientation meetings.**
- > **February 6 & 11: AIM information meetings for sophomores during tutorial upstairs in the student center.**
- > **February 11: AIM parent information meeting, 7 pm, upstairs in the Student Center.**
- > **February 13: AIM applications due.**
- > **February 25- March 4: AIM interviews.**
- > **March 6: AIM acceptances notified.**

From the Tam News Student Newspaper

by Sam Mandell

Out of a special session of the California State Legislature on November 6 came a plan for budget reform across California, including devastating cuts in the public university systems. Now, both the Universities of California (UC) and California State Universities (CSU) face cutting future enrollment by 10,000 each.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, CSU officials said California high school graduates will probably bear the brunt of the downsizing. The CSU system has never tried an enrollment cap, and officials are not yet sure how the reductions will occur and what the exact effects will be. The basic requirements for entrance to any of the 23 CSU campuses will be raised; now students will need a high school diploma, challenging courses that would be considered college preparatory work, and a B average. Students with a C average may be able to compensate with high test scores.

A recent report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education showed that the rising cost of college – even before the recession – threatens to put higher education out of reach for most middle- and working-class Americans.

Budget cuts come at a hard time, as the CSU system is already reporting a 17 to 20 percent increase in freshmen applications since last year. With the national economy so weak, many students are being pushed toward the less expensive state universities.

Senior Andie Liao has applied to eight colleges and universities, three of which were UCs.

"I know that UCs favor in-state kids," she said. "It's nice to know that if I don't get into my first choice schools, they are there." Liao's first choice schools include private universities, most of which are out of state.

"It's definitely scary now, since I can't really count on them for backups," she said. "I'm worried that if I don't get into a UC, I won't get in anywhere."

At the private universities, Liao has applied for merit-based scholarships.

"Now, I'm looking more and more toward the UCs, since they can be \$10,000 cheaper than some of the private schools I've applied to," Liao said. Since the economic crisis, Liao has been forced to focus more on cheaper, public in-state schools where she has an admission advantage.

Director of Student Outreach Services at San Francisco State University Dr. Frieda Lee said, "We will be raising admission standards this year, which is frustrating. Our goal is to provide a quality education to all who seek it and work hard ... the budget cuts are essentially suffocating our resources."

Senior Sinead McSweeney has applied to several CSU campuses, and has even already been accepted to a few.

"CSUs are a lot more affordable than out-of-state schools, and slightly less competitive than UCs," she said of why she applied. "I haven't really looked into financial aid, but I will be applying for it."

McSweeney said she is nervous about the financial crisis and how it will affect aid and admissions.

Like the CSUs, the UC system also is facing harsh cuts that will affect enrollment. State support for the UCs has been falling steadily in the last 20 years, and the new cuts will only decrease the dwindling funds. Students

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

who attend UCs may face tuition increases in order to maintain the quality of education on UC campuses, as well as possibly a nearly 10 percent increase in student fees.

“Merced is in a slightly different situation,” said UC Merced Admissions officer David Franke. “Whereas many of the other campuses have seen full capacity enrollment or over-capacity enrollment, Merced is new and we have room to accept more students. [But] we will be feeling the budget crunches – we all will.”

Franke said that Merced currently has no plans to increase tuition, but he is aware that Berkeley has requested the ability to individually raise fees.

Officials from both state university systems agree that those impacted most by enrollment caps will be minority students and those from underprivileged areas. Both groups are already underrepresented in the four-year college system.

Lee said that although she did not have the exact data readily available, students applying to CSUs from affluent areas like Mill Valley would more than likely be less affected by issues resulting from the budget crisis.

“Students from middle and upper-middle class families still have the money to apply to multiple campuses,” she said. “For low-income students, the money required to send test scores and pay application fees to multiple campuses adds up very quickly.”

Lee added that financial aid, though still available in the coming years, may be harder to come by.

Officials such as the chancellor of the California State University System have already spoken out against the budget cuts. Chancellor Charles Reed told the CSU Board of Trustees in Long Beach that he believes “we are heading down the road to funding and building world-class prisons and second-class universities.”

Public universities aren’t the only schools in trouble. On December 4, Harvard announced that the university’s \$36.9 billion endowment fund lost 22 percent of its value in the last

four months and could decline as much as 30 percent by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

A little more than half of Harvard’s undergraduates receive some form of financial aid. As families of students find themselves increasingly in need of financial aid, Harvard could see enrollment drop and revenue from tuition could fall.

Senior Robin Boedecker also considers UCs safety schools. She is applying to mostly small, private liberal arts schools.

“It’s a matter of personal preference,” she said. “I know I do better in smaller learning environments.”

Boedecker will be applying for financial aid, though she said she knows there are people who are in more need of the help than she is.

“I’m freaking terrified,” she said. “If I don’t get in, there’s a chance things cannot work out. But I’ve kind of decided that I’ll just have to find a way to make it work. Maybe I’ll be in debt for the next 1,000 years. I’m okay with that.”

Cash is in short supply at many other schools facing budget pressures and investment losses. Endowments at Duke, Columbia, and the University of Virginia are also suffering.

Many selective private schools are reporting large jumps in early-decision. Need-blind colleges say that they have been working to publicize their generous financial aid packages, which has correlated with rises in early-decision applicants from less affluent settings.

This article originally appeared in the January 2009 issue of The Tam News.

Tamalpais High School Crab & Pasta Feed

Benefiting ALL Red-Tailed
Hawk Sports Teams

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009

Mill Valley Community Center

ALL YOU CAN EAT! \$50 per adult
Fresh Dungeness Crab, Pasta, Caesar
Salad, Bread, Dessert

No Host Bar—Wine and Beer

Food and drink provided by:

Tam parent

Chef Vincenzo Stornaiuolo—
Pompei’s Grotto Restaurant

Eddie Savino - Brazen Head and
Liverpool Lil’s Restaurants

Tam football coach Tony Keefer - Clover
Stornetta Farms Inc.

Tam alumni parent Master Baker Floyd
Goldberg - Dianda’s Italian American
Pastry Co.

Faultline Brewing Company
(Geiszler family) and
Heather Glen Winery
(Sweet family)

• **5pm: Social Hour –
Music & mingle with coaches**

• **6pm: Tam athletes begin
serving crab & pasta**

• **7pm: Live sports auction & Music by
CLOSE ENOUGH**

TICKET INFO: Contact
Jackie, Jackson94942@aol.com



Boosters News: JV Girls' Basketball Has a New Coach

Matt Gillespie is the new coach of the girls' JV basketball team. Matt is a PE teacher and athletic director at Kent Middle School in Kentfield. His boys' teams at Kent have won several county titles over the past decade, and his last high school team, the 1999 Redwood JV girls, tied for the MCAL title.

A Mill Valley native, Matt attended Tam and was football team captain and an all-league guard in 1979. Matt attended UCLA where he played varsity rugby. Matt also coaches in the Mt. Carmel CYO program and with the Strictly Hoops AAU club, as well as coaching middle school track and field.

Matt lives in Mill Valley with his two children, Connor and Kaitlin, and his wife, award-winning sportswriter and Tam alum Ann Killion.

"I am excited to be here at the beginning of what I see as a new era in Tam High sports and the girls' basketball program," he said. "I have felt nothing but support since I started. From the varsity coach, Rob Viramontes, to the new athletic director and administration, to the newly-refinished floors of Gus gym, there is a sense of excitement and enthusiasm here, and a sense of building a program for the future. The girls have bought into it, and have really shown their commitment coming to practice and working hard every day, even at six in the morning. We know we have some big challenges ahead to compete with the more established programs in our area, but I think we are putting the building blocks in place."



Boys Varsity basketball. Coach Pribble psyching up his varsity team in Gus Gym.

Visit the "Hawk Attack Café"

Tam boys' varsity basketball is featuring a new "Hawk Attack Café" (named by Mitch Abramson) during home games in Gus Gym. The Hawk Attack Café offers clam chowder in a bread bowl donated by Pompei's Grotto, homemade chili by Monica Malmquist, baked potatoes, caesar salad and baked goods.

Fans, come to "cheer & dine" in Gus Gym while watching the Hawks play.

As word is spreading about the delicious food, the café is earning more and more for Tam's basketball program. Way to go "Hawk Attack Café". While you're at the café, you can also purchase the new basketball programs provided by Tam High Boosters. The programs include all the team rosters along with varsity team photos.

And while you're enjoying your delicious meal, look up and check out the new varsity basketball roster signs in Gus gym. They are near the scoreboard and they look sharp.

Thank you Boosters!

Boys' Varsity Basketball

The boy's basketball program, under the direction of new head coach Alex Pribble and assistant coaches Aaron Pribble and Eric Vierendeis, is looking to build upon the success of past Tam basketball teams. With a foundation based upon hard work and resilience, the 2008/2009 team earned eight preseason victories, compared to only nine wins the entire previous season. Despite a tough start to the MCAL season, the Hawks are looking to make a strong push towards playoffs. This should be a fun and exciting team to follow over the next few years.

SPORTS RECAP:**Wrestling**

Congratulations to Tam High sophomores Austin Kalai and Quinn Lima, place winners at the 2008 MCAL Novice Wrestling Tournament hosted by San Rafael High School. Lima took 2nd place and Kalai took 3rd place in their respective weight classes at the tournament, which is open to all first-year wrestlers in the Marin County Athletic League.

The Tam High varsity wrestling team finished 13th out of the 38 teams that participated at the 42nd Annual Peninsula Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Half Moon Bay, California.

Pablo Cortez placed 2nd at 103 lbs.

Josh Ren placed 3rd at 112 lbs.

Carson Schultz placed 5th at 171 lbs.

Junior Josh Phelps took 7th place in his weight class (119 lbs) at the 8th Annual Mat Classic Wrestling Tournament at Granada High School in Livermore. Over 30 high schools participated.

Tam JV Girls' Basketball

As of January 14, JV Girls are 14-2, 4-0 in MCAL, having taken second place in the Drake and Novato tournaments. Leading scorers are the May sisters, Sarah and Jenna. Junior small forward Sarah stretches defenses with her three-point accuracy from the corner, while freshman power forward Jenna provides inside scoring and rugged interior defense.

Junior point guard Martine Ehrlich runs the show on offense, with junior center Kenzie Schweitzer providing power in the paint. Sophomore guard Olivia Trombadore, sister of varsity player Cara, is the team's leading offensive rebounder.

Other up-and-comers on the team are freshman power forward Lena Geupel (younger sister of the varsity's Ava) who can score from the perimeter and inside, and freshman guard-forward Jane Lee, whose turn-around jump shot is becoming a real weapon and sure to be noticed by MCAL opponents in the next few years.

Sophomore Danielle Bowen and junior Malla Keefe back up Ehrlich at the point and give the Hawks two more outside threats, while sophomore guard Lara Zegart and junior guard Katie Lee provide energy coming off the bench.

**Fall Sports Wrap-Up
Cross Country**

Sophomore Daniel Milechman, a young runner with only two years of cross country experience, has already established himself as one of the top runners in Northern California by his performances in the North Coast Section Meet of Champions and at the cross country state meet. His times and places resulted with Milechman claiming the sophomore runner of the year honors on the 2008 All NorCal Cross Country team.

**Football
MCAL ALL LEAGUE**

Danny DeCarlo (Sr.): First Team Offense

Colton Danz (Sr.): Second Team Offense

Jake Orlick (Sr.): Second Team Defense & Honorable Mention Offense

Adam Kassover (Jr.): Honorable Mention Offense

Girls Varsity basketball. Coach Viramontes showing strategical plays to his girls' varsity team in Gus Gym.



Message from Boosters President, Patti Boston

When an athletic team, or a single athlete, experiences a great season, their school and their community are given something special to embrace. Whether you are a Tam alum or just a fan or friend, that success gives people something to be proud of, something to believe in and call their own. It's the feeling that makes fans spill onto the field or the court to congratulate the participants after a victory...satisfying and uplifting.

Tam Athletic Boosters has been working hard behind the scenes to elevate this level of pride by providing needed resources. Realizing that a successful athletic program promotes school spirit beyond the playing field, Boosters has had the full support of the administration. Through our new merchandising program and consistency in use of the Hawk logo and Tam colors, we are able to bring about the continuity and recognition our student athletes deserve.

What has Boosters done for you lately?

Here is a partial list of what Boosters has helped promote or fund, fully or in part, during the first half of the school year:

Football uniforms, promotion of concussion prevention at district level, homecoming programs, new equipment in football snack shack, cross-country uniforms, golf tournament fees, pre-season basketball tournament fees, permanent basketball varsity roster signs, basketball season programs, Hawk Attack Café improvements, Jerry Mac Night, new semi-permanent softball outfield fence, new portable bleachers for soccer and baseball, Hawk-of-the-Week award, Tam athletics website, spirit gear website, team-end-of-the-season awards, and established start-up fund for a new LED scoreboard for use by football, soccer, lacrosse and track.

Thanks for your support! GO HAWKS!

Hawks of the Week

Week of January 12:

Senior Molly Maloney, Basketball
Senior Matt Robertson, Basketball

Week of January 19:

Senior Kelley Charlton, Wrestling
Senior Josh Wren, Wrestling

Week of January 26:

Junior Martine Ehrlich, Basketball
Junior Jackson Palmer, Basketball

Go Hawks!		
TAM BOOSTERS PRESENTS		
BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL		
1	Grayson Goerss	Sr
2	Bernard Peters	Sr
3	Daniel Schwartz	Sr
4	Herb Wade	Sr
5	Mitch Abramson	Jr
10	Frankie Stornaiuolo	So
11	Ely Washauer	Jr
12	Tomer Sabo	Jr
14	Peter Malmquist	So
15	Caleb Prigian	Sr
21	JaVan Hall	Jr
22	Sean Betzner	Jr
23	Jared Key	Sr
24	Matt Robertson	Sr
25	Jerrell Milton	Sr
COACH Alex Pribble		

CTE Seniors Audition for Schools

It's that time of year when CTE students must face the judgment of the audition process when applying to schools. Several of our seniors have spent months choosing and practicing contrasting monologues that they will present to schools such as NYU, Carnegie-Mellon, BU, Emerson, North Carolina School for the Arts, UCLA, Cornish and the Theatre School at De Paul University, to name a few. These programs are highly competitive so each student must prepare for the pressure of the 3-5 minute audition for months in advance.

Bodhi Werner, Avra Friedman, Emily Hanley, Sarah Smithton, Morgan Thompson and Marcie Shepherd have worked with CTE guest artists including Julianna Rees, Bob Ernst, Joe Lucas and Julia Mueller to polish their monologues. They must deliver at least two and sometimes three contrasting monologues in each of their auditions. Auditioners travel to the major metropolitan areas to see students from all over the U.S.; the Bay Area is their stop in February when they see large numbers of drama students from the entire area at scheduled appointments in the city.

Join us in wishing them the best of luck during their auditions. They will hear the outcome of their efforts when their letters arrive in the spring. Whether thumbs up or thumbs down, the entire experience is a learning process that tests their abilities. ♦



**PTSA
Tamalpais High School**

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Mill Valley, CA 94941

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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FEBRUARY 2009

Date	Time/Event	Location
4	MINIMUM DAY – 12:35 PM DISMISSAL	
4	7 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	HAWKS' NEST
8	5 PM – BOOSTERS CRAB FEED	MILL VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
11	7 PM – PTSA MEETING WITH TOUR OF NEW KEYSER BUILDING	LOWER KEYSER 2ND FLOOR, ROOM 318
11	7 PM – PARENT INFO MEETING RE AIM PROGRAM	STUDENT CENTER
10-14	7 PM – CTE PRESENTS: "REVENGE, LOVE AND IMPROV"	CALDWELL THEATRE
12	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
13	END OF GRADING REPORT PERIOD 4	
13	7:30 AM – VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST FOR FACULTY AND STAFF	STAFF ROOM UPPER KEYSER
13	6 PM (DOORS OPEN); 6:30 PM (MUSICAL PROGRAM) THUMB VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER AND CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT GYM
16-20	PRESIDENTS' AND RECESS DAYS – NO SCHOOL	
19	7 PM – P2P MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
26	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	GREENWOOD MUSIC BLDG