

CENTRAL ACADEMY

SUMMER, 2012

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2012

To the 148 seniors who comprised the Central Academy class of 2012, the arrival of spring held special meaning this year. On a warm day in April, the students and faculty of Central Academy along with parents, district officials, and community members came together to recognize the accomplishments of these outstanding seniors and celebrate their upcoming graduation.

For the students this celebration was the calm before the storm of AP and IB assessments, senior finals, and graduation celebrations. This was a time to reflect on their journey as a Central Academy student and enjoy the efforts of their years of hard work. Philip Dobrinov, a senior from Valley

High School, was chosen by his peers to give the address on behalf of the senior class. His message congratulated students while challenging them to continue their success in the future.

Each department presented an award to a student who showed dedication and success in a particular discipline. Award winners from the respective departments are listed below:

English—Kayla Jeannene Clark

Math—Luchang Wang

Science—Luchang Wang

Social Studies—Kayleigh Courard-Hauri

International Baccalaureate—Andy Troxell

Congratulations to the class of 2012!!



Calling all Academy Alumni!!

- "Like" the Central Academy Counseling page on Facebook
- Ensure your contact information is always up-to-date to receive the latest news from Central Academy
- Spread the word among your fellow Academy alum

CENTRAL ACADEMY SAYS GOODBYE TO THREE EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS

The last day of school signaled the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of three legendary Central Academy teachers. For Jean Ellerhoff (English), Jeff Hepburn (Science), and Michael Schaffer (Social Studies) June 1, 2012 was not just the beginning of the summer vacation but also an end to their time at

Central Academy. While their students and colleagues lamented the loss of their wisdom and experience, these three have big plans that include travel, work on national committees, and enjoying time with family.

While subbing may (or may not)

be in their future, like so many that have gone before them they leave a legacy of dedication to the students of Central Academy. They will be missed by their colleagues and the families and students of Central Academy. We wish them well!!

CENTRAL STUDENTS WIN REGIONAL WRITING AWARDS

Four Central Academy students have been recognized by the “The Belin and Blank International Center of Gifted Education and Talent Development” for their entries to the Scholastic Writing Awards for the Midwest Region for 2012. Tyler Foley was awarded a Gold Key for his personal essay, “Jenga.” Jeannene Clark, Sarah Ramundt, and Grace Payer received Honorable Mention Awards for their entries.

These students participate iAdvanced Creative Writing with teacher Jean G. Ellerhoff, Amy Finnegan, and Diane Morain. Congratulations to the students and their teachers on this outstanding accomplishment!



Pictured Above—Sarah Ramundt, Tyler Foley, Grace Payer

Pictured Left—Diane Morain, Kayla Clark, Amy Finnegan, and Jean Ellerhoff

ACADEMY STUDENTS KNOW HOW TO PLAY

On Friday, April 13th students donned their game-themed costumes for the annual Central Academy dance. Among the evening’s festivities were board games, dance contests, a Monopoly money shower from the balcony, and



a giant life-sized game of human chess. The event, located at the Temple for Performing Arts in downtown Des Moines, featured a host of creative costumes from Clue to the popular Hunger Games characters. Some teachers even got into the spirit of things! Ms. Morain donned a maid’s costume complete with feather duster in her role as Mrs. White from Clue, while Mr. Hepburn

dazzled the crowd in a tuxedo as Mr. Monopoly.

After the crowd dispersed, organizer Henry Fender and the student committee agreed the dance was a roaring success. They have already begun to think about next year’s event. Stay tuned to see what creative ideas this group has in store!



FIRST ANNUAL CENTRAL ACADEMY HISTORY DAY

Central Academy students have a tradition of excellence in many academic contests. One of those contests, National History Day, was so popular a qualifying event was added to determine which students would advance to the state competition. Social Studies teacher Canada Snyder, who coordi-

nates the event, led a team of Central Academy teachers and students as they researched, wrote, and created

impressive displays of their historical knowledge.

Students chose topics based on this year’s theme:



“Revolution, Reaction and Reform”. Adhering to strict guidelines, students researched primary source documents, created extensive annotated bibliographies, and presented their findings to a panel of judges at the Central Academy competition held on March 8, 2012. Winners in each category advanced to the state competition held on April 3, 2012.

FRESHMAN WOWS WITH POETRY

Freshman Susan Stacy, a self-described “wall flower” wowed her classmates and teachers with a first-place finish at Central Academy’s Poetry Out Loud competition. Stacy, who did not initially want to participate, explains “I was prepared for the class contest and yet I didn’t want to take that risk and stand up in front of people who could judge me, who might not

enjoy my performance. People tell me I have potential and yet I don’t see it that way, almost, but I am glad I did it because it brought me back into my younger days and being able to share and yet have this knowledge that it’s not just you, it’s everything around you. Those two pieces together make the best experience for the audience and the performer.”

Theresa Manivanh and Sarah Johnson tied for second place while Julian Gruber came in third. Participants in the contest must deliver a poem from memory and are judged in various categories including voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness and level of difficulty. Congratulations to



Poetry Out Loud Winners 2012
Front: Susan Stacy & Theresa Manivanh
Back: Julian Gruber & Sarah Johnson

16 CENTRAL ACADEMY STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Sixteen students from Central Academy were chosen as 2012 National Merit Finalists. This despite the fact that the cut score for semi-finalists actually increased in the state of Iowa for 2012. The seniors were chosen based on their strong performance on the PSAT exam taken when they were juniors. Of the nearly 1.5 million students who take the PSAT annually, only about 16,000

students are chosen as semi-finalists. Of these, approximately 15,000 are then recognized as finalists.

Principal Kathie Danielson from Roosevelt High School summed up this accomplishment. “I never cease to be amazed by the brilliant and talented students who attend our schools in Des Moines. From having terrific teachers to a wide array of educational

offerings, these students are able to benefit from great opportunities as they prepare for their future.” The finalists are:

Jack Bequeaith
Kayleigh Courard-Hauri
Zoe Eagle
Brady Edwards
Rachel Jacobs
Sarah Liu
Margaret Long
Matthew McKay
Stephanie Manivanh
Megan Mansfield
Sarah Mansfield
China Mauck
Alisha Smith
Luchang Wang
Danielle Ward

Did you know...before moving into its current location at 1912 Grand, Central Academy used to be known as the “third floor, nerd floor” at Central Campus?

AP AND IB TESTING TAKE OVER CENTRAL ACADEMY

As the weather warms and flowers begin to bloom, many students miss nature’s annual spring show. Heads

buried deep in books mean the annual assessment season has also arrived. This year, Central Academy stu-

dents took almost 800 AP exams. That represents half of the total exams taken by all DMPS students. Additionally, five IB Diploma candidates took a series of exams capping two years of rigorous and time-consuming academic studies.

AP and IB exams could mean big savings for

college-bound students. High scores could translate into credit earned, saving thousands in college tuition and fees. Because of this and the outstanding preparation students receive, approximately 81% of students enrolled in AP classes at Central elected to take the AP exam, far surpassing the DMPS goal of 60% participation.

Results of the exams are available in July.



IB students pose for a picture after a breakfast study session.

CENTRAL ACADEMY

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Central Academy offers students from across the Des Moines metro challenging, academically advanced coursework in core academic areas and world languages. Home to Iowa's only International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, Central Academy also offers a wide variety of Advanced Placement courses and six world languages, many of which are unique to central Iowa.

CENTRAL ACADEMY SUCCESSFUL AT MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The 24th annual Model United Nations of the University of Chicago (MUNUC) was held this spring, consisting of four days of intensive work by conference staff, delegates and the personnel of Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago. In 2012, as in the previous 23 years, thousands of high school students gathered to recreate the legislative and decision making process of the various branches of the United Nations and other similar inter-governmental bodies. These simulations have provided opportunities for delegates

from diverse backgrounds to cooperate and collaborate in their various committees. This year MUNUC and the Palmer House Hilton hosted over 2,300 high school students from over 100 schools, 17 states and 7 countries across 4 continents.

Widely regarded and one of the largest and most prestigious high school conferences in the world, MUNUC is famed for its approach to Model United Nations, introducing new formats and topics that are then widely replicated at other conferences around the world. This year, current is-

ssues up for discussion ranged from pressing and current problems such as the militarization of speech and underground economies to recreation of historical events like the Historical Security Council of 1950 and the Ethiopian Derg of 1975. Students were able to represent a wide array of parties, including member states of the United Nations, mayors of world cities, and mem-

bers of governmental intelligence services in the effort to produce resolutions on global issues. Two Central Academy students, Carolyn Evan and Andrea Nikic earned Honorable Mentions for their work. Tom Forsgren and Canada Snyder sponsor and provide support for students to attend this event.



ACADEMY STUDENT HONORED WITH \$50,000 GRANT



Talia Leman is a very busy young lady. At 17, she is not only a high school student, but

is also the founder and CEO of a very successful non-profit called Random Kid. At ten years old, Leman saw Hurricane Katrina devastate New Orleans and was moved to organize other kids in her hometown of Waukee, Iowa to start a Halloween trick-or-treat collection of coins for victims in the Gulf Coast. The idea quickly caught on across the country and resulted in millions of dollars raised. Leman,

now went on to found RandomKid.org, a Web site where teenage social entrepreneurs connect with one another to "develop, manage and accomplish" their goals of helping others. Using the site to raise money and organize efforts, 12 million children in 20 countries have taken on projects that range from building schools in Cambodia to constructing wells in Kenya. Collectively having raised close to

11 million dollars through the site, Leman saw that for every dollar invested in a youth project there is a 200 to 1000 percent return on that investment.

In March, Talia was honored with a \$50,000 grant to Random Kid to take the organization to the next level for driving innovation. Congratulations to Talia!!