

# George Washington High School's I.B. Broadcaster



**World School** A publication of the IB Parents Association of GWHS

April 2010 – Vol. 36, Issue 17

## From the Board

With spring in sight, change and new growth are the themes of the moment.

### 168 IB freshman acceptance letters received

Thanks to the efforts of IBPA volunteers and many enthusiastic students, teachers, and parents, Welcome Fest was a huge success, showcasing IB and GW, its clubs, activities, and athletics, its chemistry demos and visual art projects. **Suzi Geimer, Marjie Lane, Principal Steve Goldstein, Asst. Principal Doug Tucker,** and several club sponsors and coaches were available to meet and interact with our new parents and students. I especially want to thank **Linda Williams** for orchestrating this high energy event, and **Kelly Morrison, Linda During, Dave Marsh, Cora Neslin, Leslie Lilly, Kristen Scheldorn, Gail Sigman, and Janice Kempe-Thomas** for greeting newcomers, answering questions, and helping to make this wonderful event so upbeat and exciting.

### Mark your calendars!

There will be two separate IB Parents Association meetings held on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Both are **MANDATORY!** One is dedicated to helping **JUNIORS** and their parents plan how to use their time between now and the end of 2010 to get through the college process smoothly and calmly. It will include a brief update on how the Class of 2011 is expected to meet CAS requirements. The other is dedicated to helping **SOPHOMORES** and their parents understand and prepare for CAS requirements for the Class of 2012, as there are some significant changes in IBO's expectations..

### Welcome, one and all!

Get Involved!

This is the time of year when the IB Parents Association Board must begin thinking about filling the Board positions for next year. Please take a moment to look at the list of Board positions on the last page of this Broadcaster and consider volunteering for one of the positions. Kristi Butkovich would welcome sharing her responsibilities with a Co-President. Parents of rising freshmen and sophomores are particularly encouraged to join our team. If you have any questions, please email me at [kbutkovich@comcast.net](mailto:kbutkovich@comcast.net).

**We thank you for your support on all fronts.**

Thank you so much for attending the IB Parents Association meetings and for supporting our parent organization as you do – we have a strong and committed group of families and we feel fortunate to be a part of such a unique blending of ideas, activities and interests. The years we share with our high school kids are so special, and we hope you are enjoying every minute! The IBPA Board's current progressive work is aimed at making next year a successful one for everyone at GWIB.

**Kristi Butkovich, IBPA Board President**

## IB EXAM PROCTORS NEEDED PARENTS, PLEASE HELP!

SEE THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3  
FOR DETAILS

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

**Parents and Students, help bring the Class of 2014 and new transfer students on board with a bang!**

**Contact event chair and IBPA President Kristi Butkovich if you can help - 303-829-4414 or [kbutkovich@comcast.net](mailto:kbutkovich@comcast.net). See "Welcome" article on page 2 for details**

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## **2009-2010 Events Calendar**

Throughout April	Junior interviews with Mrs. Geimer – please use the online scheduler on the GWIB website
March 24 & April 7	Senior CAS presentations to IB faculty – see schedule on IB Office bulletin board
April 12	RSVPs due for Senior Brunch
April 13	Mandatory meeting for IB juniors and their parents, 6:30-8:00 PM, Auditorium AND Mandatory meeting for IB sophomores and their parents, 6:30-8:00 PM, Cafeteria
April 19	DPS early release day: Noon dismissal; sophomores to Auraria Campus Library for a session on “Research and the Extended Essay,” 9AM - 2 PM.
April 22 and 24	Math and Foreign Language Placement Tests for incoming students – see Welcome article below
April 28	ACT testing for juniors in the morning; mandatory small group CAS meetings for sophomores
April 30	Last day of classes for IB seniors
May 2	IB Senior Brunch: A celebration for the Class of 2010, their parents, and the faculty
May 3	Last day of classes for IB juniors
May 4 – 24	IB Exams (aka External Assessments or EAs) for IB seniors and some juniors
May 15	Junior/Senior Prom, 8-11 PM, Infinity Park Events Center; After-prom to follow
May 21	GW Graduation, Ritchie Center, U of Denver: rehearsal in morning, ceremony in evening
May 26	Last day of school for freshmen and sophomores

## **WELCOME, CLASS OF 2014!**

GWIB had a record number of applications this year, and is delighted to be welcoming 168 new students for 2010-2011. Please join Mrs. Geimer, Ms. Lane, and the whole PIB/IB faculty in welcoming this bright, energetic, talented (and exceptionally large) group to George Washington High School and to our GWIB community.

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION** will be held on Tuesday, **May 11, 6:00-8:00 PM**. Current students will serve as tour guides, showing groups of incoming students around the building and introducing them to members of the pre-IB faculty, who will provide some early information about next year’s classes. During the tours, parents will gather in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library for their own orientation, complete with a panel of current students and brief presentations by Mrs. Geimer and members of the IB Parents Association. Parents will have the opportunity to join the IB Parent Association, to provide information for listing in the directory, and to register e-mail addresses for the GWIB list-serve (for eblasts and *The Broadcaster* online).

**NEW STUDENT PLACEMENTS TESTS** will be offered on Thursday, April 22 (Math at 4 PM., Foreign Language at 5 PM) and on Saturday, April 24 (Math at 9 AM and Foreign Language at 10 AM). All new students must take a math placement test; bring a pencil, but no calculators. Any student who would like to be considered for placement in Spanish 2 or French 2 (sophomore level classes) must take a language placement exam as well. No appointment necessary – just come to one of the test dates.

**DPS’ FRESHMAN ACADEMY** is tentatively scheduled for July 26-30, 8 AM-Noon. All incoming freshmen are encouraged to attend. A summer **IB LITERATURE CLASS** is being planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, details TBA. **FRESHMEN REGISTRATION** will be take place prior to the Academy, at a date and time to be determined soon by GW’s main administration.

Questions? Send a message via email ([Marjorie.Lane@dpsk12.org](mailto:Marjorie.Lane@dpsk12.org)) or phone 720-423-8673.

### **Mark the date! May 2<sup>nd</sup> is your Senior Brunch**

**Doubletree Hotel DTC, 7801 East Orchard Rd Greenwood Village, 80111.**

**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. \$28 per person.**

*Please consider sponsoring a teacher or student with financial needs.*

**Please turn in your childhood picture and senior picture to [kellymorrison2@gmail.com](mailto:kellymorrison2@gmail.com)**

**or drop off to box in IB office, by April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**RSVP’S ARE DUE BY APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>.**

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this fun event, please call  
Dave Marsh at 720-252-2920 or e-mail [dave@BellaBasil.com](mailto:dave@BellaBasil.com).



## VOLUNTEER PROCTORS NEEDED FOR IB EXAMS MAY 4 – 24

Seniors and some juniors will be taking IB examinations during May. IBO has stringent guidelines for the conduct of these exams, and meeting them is a logistical challenge that Mrs. Geimer manages to meet every year – but she needs our help to do it.

Parents, this is a golden opportunity to get an insider's glimpse of the IB External Assessment experience. Please consider volunteering to proctor ("invigilate," in IB-speak) one or more of the May exams, being held at Fallis Elementary School, two blocks east of GW at 6700 East Virginia Avenue. Morning exams begin at 7:30 AM and afternoon exams begin at Noon. Sign up using the online scheduler, from a link on the home page of the GWIB website at [www.georgeib.com](http://www.georgeib.com).

Proctor training will be offered on Friday, April 16, 7:00-8:30 AM. While not required, it provides helpful guidance, particularly for those new to the process.

You can see the complete IB exam schedule at ([http://www.georgeib.com/pdf/IB\\_Exams\\_2010.pdf](http://www.georgeib.com/pdf/IB_Exams_2010.pdf)). Don't be frightened by it! GW offers only a subset of the subjects listed.

## WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THERE ARE NO IB CLASSES FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF MAY?

### A primer for the parents of juniors & seniors

You gaze at the calendar in disbelief. Your student regards it with glee. Does it really mean that school's out for summer by May 3? In a word - **NO!**

So what are students expected to be doing with all that time?

**Seniors** should be preparing for their IB exams, both on their own and by attending review sessions as scheduled by their IB teachers. Do not underestimate the power of the reviews. Experience tells us that students who skip them do so at their peril. Reviews include test strategies that improve scores. This is not HL Math!

<http://www.georgeib.com>

Reviews = better exam results = more points toward the IB diploma. Period.

**Juniors** should use their time in May to prepare for whatever IB exams they are scheduled to take this year, including attending review sessions. All juniors take individually scheduled English orals during the IB exam period. In addition they are expected to use the time to work on their extended essays, to meet with their EE advisors as necessary, and to turn in their EEs to advisors on May 25 between 7:30 AM and Noon. Juniors should also be using their "free" time to complete and submit at least one CAS essay and activity form (with signatures) by May 14.

The IB exam schedule has absolutely no flexibility. If a student misses an exam **for any reason**, the only options are to take it the following November or May or to forego the IB credit and IB diploma. This is not a GWIB rule; it comes from the IBO and cannot be modified for weddings, graduations, illnesses, etc.

Final notes: Some IB classes require a final during GW's exam week in late May. Students should make sure they understand each teacher's expectations. Class attendance/absences and exam requirements for any non-IB classes must be worked out with individual teachers by the student.

Think of May as a time to practice the kind of self-discipline and time management that college life requires.

## WELCOME FEST - A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS THANKS TO MANY VOLUNTEERS!

Everyone played a role in making it happen. Linda Williams would like to thank each one of you for your help in making Welcome Fest the event that it was. Thank you for bringing goodies, buying water, greeting guests, taking pictures, reminding club sponsors to get their members to attend, guarding the pizza, water and cookies, encouraging the athletes to participate, demonstrating the coolness of Chemistry, loaning out the bull horn, setting up and helping tear down the tables and last but not least, **being there.**

~Linda Williams

## CSC NEWS

You probably know by now that Principal **Steve Goldstein** announced his resignation on March 10. (See the GW website for more information.)

The CSC has been working with DPS representatives to assemble a Principal Selection Advisory Committee, whose job it will be to interview a short list of candidates for the position. Responsibility for assembling the short list and for reaching a final hiring decision rests with the District's central administration and with the Board of Education.

If we are fortunate enough to find a very strong candidate quickly, a new principal could be hired by the end of this school year. If more time is needed, the District could appoint an interim principal and the search would continue.

The uncertainty that accompanies this sort of leadership change can be uncomfortable. Please rest assured that the CSC and the Selection Committee are keeping the interests of GW's students, including IB students, in the forefront of the deliberations. Our goal is to find the best possible person for the job, and to create the smoothest possible transition. Wish us luck!

In other news, the CSC will be holding elections in May. At this time we anticipate that both IB parent representatives will continue to serve, and the bylaws do not allow for more than 2 reps from any one year or program. But please consider running for the CSC in the future, and please remember to complete your ballot in May.

**Linda During, CSC Co-Chair**

### SUMMER EXTENDED ESSAY WORKSHOP

Smoky Hill HS has invited GWIB students to participate in their annual EE seminar, August 2-6, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM at Penrose Library, University of Denver. The seminar costs \$140 and registration is due by April 15. The cost of the seminar includes a Penrose Library access card and an international cuisine celebration lunch on the last day of the seminar. Please call Mr. Nick Droege at 720-886-5677 or Mr. Perry Weissman at 720- 886-5586 with questions and/or to make registration arrangements.



### USED BOOK BUY-BACK & SALE AND NEW BOOK ORDER FORMS COMING SOON

Despite no longer having a student at GW, parent volunteer extraordinaire **Debi Roads** is hard at work helping IB students acquire those IB course texts that are not provided by DPS. As soon as IB faculty members send her detailed book lists, she scours the Internet for discount vendors and compiles a book order list for our students. Look for it in the May *Broadcaster* and on the GWIB website.

Ms. Roads also orchestrates the annual used book sale. Current students will have the opportunity to sell books from completed courses at the end of May. Continuing students will then be able to purchase used books at prices much lower than new. Dates and times for the buy-back and used book sale will also be announced in the May *Broadcaster* and on the website.

Participation in the used book sale and/or the IB book orders is convenient and generally cost-effective, but completely optional. Students may prefer to purchase some or all of their books on their own. In any event, the order form will list the books that students will need for next year's PIB and IB courses.

Please note, however, that students will have to acquire the books on the order form one way or another. Order your books either through Ms. Roads by the stated deadline or through your own arrangements – but be sure to take care of this chore **before school begins in August**.



Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch can request financial assistance with book orders. They will be asked to provide proof of eligibility and must meet all deadlines.

## GROUNDS & GATEWAY NEWS: Spring Tree Planting



Please plan to join us again this spring for our **Spring Tree Planting** on **April 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** (Lunch provided.) The action takes place on the south side of the school, planting trees to shade the hot classrooms and long walkways on that side

of the building.

Trees will be donated by **Million Trees Initiative**, a project of Greenprint Denver to plant one million trees in the Denver area by 2025. Each planting group on April 10<sup>th</sup> will have a leader and lots of visual aids showing how to plant a tree so it will thrive in our dry climate. CSU Master Gardeners have agreed to take part and lend their expertise.

This is all part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Go Green & White Community Clean-up Day and the pre-IB **Freshman CAS Day Project**. So, join us on **Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate spring! Registration in the North Lobby.

### SCHOOL-WIDE FACULTY FEASTS Teacher Appreciation

Please join in our efforts to appreciate all of GW's teachers and staff. To join the committee for the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Lisa Lancelot [lisaspoodles@gmail.com](mailto:lisaspoodles@gmail.com) or Julie Freshman [j.freshman@hotmail.com](mailto:j.freshman@hotmail.com).

### GW BASEBALL is selling ROCKIES TICKETS (\$15)



For Tuesday, **June 8th v. The Astros** or Monday, **September 13th v. The Padres**. Both games start at 6:40pm. The seats are good (sections 115-117 & 144-145). To order, please contact Cora Neslin [dcnes1@comcast.net](mailto:dcnes1@comcast.net) or [kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com](mailto:kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com)

<http://www.georgeib.com>

## 2010 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GO GREEN & WHITE COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

**Saturday, April 10th  
8:00am to 4:00pm**

Please join GW students, faculty & parents to help spruce up the school and grounds. We hope to have at least 150 volunteers. For more info or to volunteer:

[kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com](mailto:kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com),  
[meryl\\_cohn@dpsk12.org](mailto:meryl_cohn@dpsk12.org),  
[Marjorie\\_lane@dpsk12.org](mailto:Marjorie_lane@dpsk12.org)

## PROM NEWS



### SENIOR PARENTS

Please don't forget to send in your tax-deductible donation for GW's After-Prom. The funds will subsidize this safe, after-hours event so that all Patriots can afford to attend. Questions? Contact [kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com](mailto:kendrablack.gwhs@gmail.com).

### AFTER-PROM

Plans are underway for the 2010 Prom & After-Prom. Email or call Kendra Black if you'd like to join our group, volunteer, donate or chaperone.

- ✓ Please don't forget to send in your **tax-deductible donation for the 2010 After-Prom**. Your donation will help to ensure that the event is fun and that students will be safe during the wee hours following the Prom. Checks can be made out to GWHS, indicate "After-Prom" in the memo portion, and mail to GWHS in care of Kendra Black.
- ✓ We will be forming a committee for 2011, so that we can re-establish this important high school tradition. To be involved in the 2011 event, please email Co-Chair Heidi Hoyt [heidihoyt@aol.com](mailto:heidihoyt@aol.com). Another 2011 Co-Chair is needed.

# STUDENT NEWS YOU CAN USE

## GW SPEECH/DEBATE TEAM WINS STATE CX TITLE, SEVEN MORE HONORS

Congratulations to IB juniors **Sam Clark** and **Miles Owens**, who won the state title in Cross-Examination/Policy Debate at the March 12-13 State Speech and Debate Tournament!

Congratulations also go to the following teams and individuals who earned awards at State: seniors **Madelaine Czufin/ Chase Kernan** and juniors **Sarah Tran/Tanner Sandoval** who tied for third place in Policy Debate; senior **Jamie Tran/sophomore Olivia Czufin** who placed fourth in Policy Debate; seniors **Ryan Boyd/Josh Carson** who placed third in Public Forum Debate; sophomore **Angie Neslin** who placed fourth in Original Oratory; sophomore **Richard Medina** who placed 5th in Poetry Interpretation; and sophomore **Dan Morgan-Russell** who placed seventh in International Extemporaneous Speaking

We are also extremely proud of all the team members whose successes throughout this competitive season earned them the right to compete at the state tournament: US Extemporaneous Speech - **Langston Williams**; International Extemporaneous Speech - **Gabbie Atsepoyi** and **Chiamaka Isiguzo**; Original Oratory - **Heather Yin**; Dramatic Interpretation - **Julia Sigman**; Public Forum Debate - **Ethan Melnick, Gabe Neslin, Brendan Patrick, Madi Pluss, Gabe Rusk, and Lawson Williams**; Lincoln-Douglas Debate - **Michael Homiak, Emma Thompson, and Matt Zavislan**; Duo Interpretation - **Rachel Crowe** and **Alexandra Wollins**.

## BEN REILLY WINS STATE POETRY OUT LOUD CHAMPIONSHIP

IB sophomore **Ben Reilly** won the Poetry Out Loud State Championship March 9 in Lakewood. He receives an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC to represent Colorado in the National Finals April 26.

Ben is the first DPS state winner since the Poetry Out Loud competition began five years ago. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, the competition now attracts students from every state in the union. Last year 300,000 students representing 1500 high schools took part.

As Colorado's winner, Ben receives \$200 in prize money, and George Washington High receives \$500 to

use toward poetry books for the school. The top national Poetry Out Loud winner receives \$20,000, and the top twelve winners receive a total of \$30,000.

Competitors select from over 500 poems at the Poetry Out Loud website and recite their selections from memory. Winners progress through levels of competition from the classroom, to school, state, and national finals. George Washington's Poetry Out Loud coordinator is teacher Anna Wadsworth.

## INTRAMOLECULAR BONDING PROJECT HEADS TO THE STATE SCIENCE FAIR IN APRIL

IB Juniors **Alex Port** and **Devon Stork** earned first place in the Seniors Team category at the Denver Metro Regional Science and Engineering Fair on February 24th at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Their project was entitled "The Effect of Intramolecular Bonding on the Structure of Odor Binding Protein-4" (OBP4). The pair has been invited to compete at the state science fair. Theirs was one of only 12 projects to receive that prestigious nomination at Metro Regionals, and the only DPS project so honored.

The following summary was provided by Alex:

"To put the project into context, I originally obtained the unrefined model of the protein at the beginning of last summer while working for Dr. David Jones at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. The lab's purpose was (and is) to study these OBP's which are found in mosquitoes, specifically those carrying malaria. I spent several weeks in Dr. Jones' lab learning how to use software programs (Coot and PyMOL), and then used these programs to refine the protein structure to its current state of accuracy. Meanwhile, Devon took a summer biochemistry course at Brown University, which got him interested in protein structure, so we decided to collaborate for this science project. Starting with my model of OBP4, we analyzed protein structure by searching for significant intramolecular bonds (hydrogen bonds and disulfide bridges). The current version of our project has around 40 hydrogen bonds and 3 disulfide bridges."

Mere mortals struggle to grasp the concepts, but we know that we are extremely proud of these fine young scientists and wish them luck at the State Science Fair at CSU on April 8-10.

## NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IS ON THE WAY!

GW Patriots, 60 strong, will participate in the Denver Public Schools History Day Competition at Hill Middle School on Saturday, April 10. This year's theme, "Innovation in History: Impact and Change," is the focus of our 8 research papers, 2 web site designs, 8 Individual Exhibits, 8 Group Exhibits, 5 Group Documentaries, and 1 Individual Performance. Competing with several other DPS high schools, the top four finishers in each category will compete at Colorado History Day, sponsored by the University of Colorado at Denver, at the Auraria Campus, on Saturday, May 1. The top two finishers in each category at the state competition will then represent Colorado at National History Day, held at the University of Maryland, June 12 thru 17, 2010. Sponsoring teachers are Ms. Guggenheim, Ms Gale-Martinez, Ms. Lamitie, and Ms Kohan.

## WE COULD USE *YOUR* NEWS!

*The Broadcaster* is YOUR newsletter, and we want to include even more of your IB students' good news. We tend to receive articles about GW-based activities like Speech and Debate, Model UN, Newspaper, and various school-related competitions. But we have only received sporadic reports from sports teams and even sparser items from students' outside involvements.

Please help us make the newsletter even more news-y, and help our IB community recognize and congratulate even more student accomplishments by sending your news items to *Broadcaster* editor Laura Whalen at [lewhalen@gmail.com](mailto:lewhalen@gmail.com).

## THE IB FOUNDATION: SUPPORT FOR A GREAT PROGRAM!

To continuing and newly-accepted students, my congratulations on your enrollment in the best educational experience in the Rocky Mountain region! This year, like the 25 past ones, has brought great achievements and performances by our IB students. The Friends of IB Scholars Foundation salutes all of you, and thanks parents, teachers, and administrators for their contributions to maintaining the excellence of the GW IB program.

Many of you are new to IB (come this Fall), so this is a good place to introduce you to the Friends of IB Scholars Foundation. The Foundation board was established by a group of IB parents and faculty in 1995 to support the IB program at George Washington by funding activities related to the GW IB program. These activities include loans to needy students for the cost of IB exams and books; grants to teachers for advising on IB extended essays; requests from IB teachers for equipment, books, subscriptions, and continuing education; loans to the Model UN group, support for National History Day participation by IB students, and other such requests. The Foundation also funds the position for the part-time college counselor for IB juniors and seniors. Through its tax exempt, 501(c)(3) status, the Foundation offers the opportunity for tax-deductible contributions. The Foundation Board, comprised of IB parents, an IB faculty member, IB Program Director Suzanne Geimer, and alumni parents, meets throughout the year concerning funding requests.

It is never too early to donate to the Foundation, which in turn will support the IB program. You will hear from me repeatedly about that throughout the year. We rely on the generosity of parents, alumni, the community, and other friends of IB to fund needed programs that, unfortunately, are under greater and greater pressure due to DPS budget constraints. Please think of helping out by sending a check to: **Friends of IB Scholars Foundation, c/o Janice Thomas, Treasurer, 1634 S. Leyden Street, Denver, Colorado 80224**. And note that we will soon have running an easy electronic payment mechanism so you can fund IB through monthly or quarterly donations, or make a big donation by credit card. Stay tuned!

For now, my good wishes to newcomers and veterans alike! Please contact me with any questions you may have, at [tomzeiler@msn.com](mailto:tomzeiler@msn.com) or (303) 364-9181. And watch for news about our new alumni initiative (and if you know of alums who we've lost track of, please let me know!).

**Tom Zeiler, President, Friends of IB Scholars Foundation Board**

## PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW: Stephen Arichea



Instrumental music teacher **Stephen Arichea's** classroom is a welcome break from the monotonous linoleum and fluorescent lighting of GW's hallways. A wooden piano dwarfed by two multicolored tapestries sits in a corner of the room, flanked by a metal cart carrying a precious burden of crepe paper and muffin tins. A bicycle stands on spindly legs nearby, reflecting Mr. Arichea's "on again, off again" passion for cycling, while an eccentric collection of couches provides a backdrop for both his "nesting obsession" and a plaster cast of a naked woman's bust.

Mr. Arichea's roles in GW are as diverse as his classroom decorations. In addition to teaching band class, IB music, strings class, and mixed ensemble, Mr. Arichea also instructs students in guitar, is involved with the girls' volleyball team, and plays a major role in the production of the school musical each winter.

"I am thankful for the variety in my day," he said, settling into an armchair overshadowed by a suit of armor adorned with a Santa hat. "I'll be climbing up this ladder to the crawlspace in the auditorium so I can wade through dust to find some equipment for band, and within an hour, I'll be in this intense discussion about what the intent of a composer is."

In addition to that supplied by his various classes, Mr. Arichea also experiences variety through the school musical each winter.

"This was the most involved I've been in the whole stage-directing thing, because of Mrs. O'Clair's absence. That was a huge eye-opener," said Mr. Arichea. "I always knew she was irreplaceable, but now I really know how much she does."

In addition to his usual duties of running the orchestra and supervising the show's sound production, this year Mr. Arichea also took on the role of decision maker and discussion leader.

"I had to do a lot of things just so that they would get done," he said. "It was one of those situations where if you don't do it, it won't happen. But it was nice because the people I was working with really engaged in the process."

During the musical, Mr. Arichea and the other leaders of the musical would meet weekly to figure out "all kinds of issues" with the play, from finding keys to obtaining a permit for a fog machine. Despite these challenges, Mr. Arichea cites the musical as one of his most rewarding teaching experiences.

"Every year, for two months, I get to do what I thought I'd be doing as a music educator. It's not easy, and it's not just fun. We struggle and there's pain. But what we achieve is really rewarding," he said. "I always feel like a music teacher, but I don't always feel like a musician. With the musical, I get to be that. I get to be artistic."

Mr. Arichea acquired his taste for art and critical thinking at an early age when he attended an international school while his father, a theology professor at Duke University, traveled around the eastern hemisphere to translate religious texts with various native speakers.

"I was in the IB program [in high school], so it's interesting to see it from a different perspective," said Mr. Arichea. "For example, now I see that for the curious student who's interested in learning about the world, IB music is the best choice, but for someone who wants to make a career out of it, AP music is better."

Any way you look at it, Mr. Arichea's influence on both the GWIB program and the entire George Washington community has been astoundingly positive.

"My job is challenging and rewarding and fulfilling," said Mr. Arichea. "I feel like it's good for my soul, and the souls of the people around me."

**-Amelia Kucic, IB Student Correspondent**

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE COUNTDOWN

At press time in mid-March, our 96 seniors had received acceptances from the following 56 colleges and universities. The end of March brings a final rush of responses, and we join the Class of 2010 in hoping for many real and virtual “fat envelopes.”

Benedictine	McDaniel C	Syracuse U
Berklee College of Music	Montana State U Bozeman	Tulane U
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	New Mexico Highlands U	U of Colorado Boulder
Casper C	Northern Arizona U	U of Colorado Colo Springs
Chapman U	Occidental C	U of Denver
Clemson U	Oklahoma City U	U of Illinois Urbana
Coe C	Oregon State U	U of Mary Washington
Colorado C	Pomona C	U of Michigan
Colorado State U	Purdue U	U of Minnesota
Dartmouth C	Reed C	U of North Carolina Charlotte
Drew U	Regis U	U of Northern Colorado
Eckerd C	Rider U	U of Pennsylvania
George Washington U	Rochester Inst of Tech	U of Puget Sound
Hawaii Pacific U	Santa Clara U	U of South Florida
Ithaca C	Seattle U	U of Texas
Kansas U	St. Louis U	U of Washington
Lawrence U	Stanford U	W Lafayette U
Lewis & Clark C	Swarthmore C	Willamette U
Loyola U		

### MANDATORY MEETINGS – TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 6:30-8:00 PM

#### Juniors and Parents of Juniors

in the GWHS auditorium

**Extremely important college application and CAS information**

IB-specific college application process

Crucial deadline information

How to hit the ground running in August and more!

#### Sophomores and Parents of Sophomores

in the GWHS cafeteria

**“Becoming an IB Student”**

Information about CAS, TOK, and the Extended Essay

Be there or be . . . confused 😊



## THE IB COUNSELING AND COLLEGE CORNER

Congratulations, **SENIORS!** You survived the applications and the waiting, and finally have answers from all your colleges (assuming you're reading this after March 31). Here's your college to-do list for April:

- Inform Ms. Lane in the IB Office of your final decision ASAP, in a legible note or via e-mail ([Marjorie.Lane@dpsk12.org](mailto:Marjorie.Lane@dpsk12.org)).
- Enter all decision, financial aid, and scholarship information into your Naviance account. Details will remain confidential.
- If you have not made your final decision, compare your "yes" schools (and their aid offers) very carefully so that you commit to the one that truly fits you the best.
- You may want to appeal low awards if you have a better offer elsewhere.
- If you accept a place on the wait list at your first choice school, follow it up promptly with a letter of VERY strong interest that includes any new, positive information for your application, and/or with a campus interview if you haven't had one, and/or with a new and exciting letter of recommendation – but put a deposit down at your best-fit "yes" school at the same time.
- If you will be taking a gap year, call AND write to your college about your plan.
- Be sure to reply to ALL offers of admission ASAP (and definitely by May 1), so that students who are on wait lists do not have their suspense needlessly prolonged.
- Complete housing, orientation, course placement, and all other forms from your college sooner rather than later. Choice spots are generally allotted on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Seek help from Mr. Haynes, Mrs. Geimer, and Ms. Lane as needed to get through these last steps.

**JUNIORS**, you're almost rising seniors and your lives are getting really interesting. You've been introduced to Naviance and, at the April 13 mandatory meeting, you and your parents will learn much more about the Common App and IB's procedures and timelines for the application process. The next steps are simple but critical. From this point on, time begins to matter, so being in control of the process **and** keeping up with it are both important. Here's a checklist of some things to think about for the spring and summer ahead:

- Produce or update your personal résumé.
- If you have not already done so, schedule an interview with Mrs. Geimer, using the link on the GWIB home page ([IB Junior Interview Appointments](#)). You'll be providing her with specifics she will use to write your letter of recommendation, and your résumé will help with this process. Mrs. Geimer will not be available for interviewing after April, as her time in May is totally committed to conducting the IB exams.
- Prepare for the upcoming, mandatory Junior ACT on April 28.
- Attend the April 18 College Fair at DU, 1-4 PM, in the Ritchie Center.
- Register for the ACT plus Writing, the SAT Reasoning Test, and/or the SAT Subject Tests as recommended by your schools-of-interest (SOI's).
- Bookmark the websites (and, maybe, the admissions page) for your SOI's and browse them often to become familiar with their admission requirements, procedures, deadlines, etc., as well as with general information about each school. Deadlines and procedures can change from year to year, so you need to stay up-to-date.
- Plan campus visits.

- Book an appointment with Mr. Haynes, if you haven't already done so, to discuss your interests and the "right fit" for your future school.
- Work on your college essay.
- Develop a list of schools to which you may want to apply. Ultimately, you'll want to include a "dream" school and a "safety" school in the list. And remember that "dream" and "safety" don't mean the same thing to every applicant, nor should they!
- Talk to teachers about writing recommendations for you. Colleges, if they want them at all, usually require that these come from teachers you've had during junior and senior year. Give them a copy of your résumé.
- If you're interested in financial aid, begin searching for scholarship, grant, and loan help that may be right for you. Parents, this is an area where you can and should provide help and support.
- Continue working hard in all of your classes. This is the last semester that will be included on the transcript that will accompany the Secondary School Report Form and recommendation letter from Mrs. Geimer in the fall. (Grades from fall of senior year and a Mid-year Report will be sent to colleges in January.)

**SOPHOMORES**, the April 18 DU College Fair is a good way to get on board with college planning. Keep your grades up, follow your interests, and take advantage of whatever opportunities for personal development come your way. Plan to meet some CAS requirements this summer – you'll be glad you did, once the junior year course load hits.

**FRESHMEN**, remember that this year's grades will follow you all the way through senior year as part of your high school transcript. Make this a year to be proud of. Stay involved in your classes, in extracurriculars, and in your community, doing things that you care about and/or that you want to learn more about. Keep up some involvements over the summer.

**SAVE THE DATE:** On Tuesday evening, September 14, GWIB will host college admission consultant **Peter Van Buskirk**. His presentation on winning "The College Admission Game" by remaining focused on the student is engaging and eye-opening. You can learn more about Mr. Van Buskirk and sign up for free newsletters and blog postings at <http://www.theadmissiongame.com/>.

### STANDARDIZED TEST SCHEDULE

Standardized Test	Spring 2009 Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late (addl. fee) Registration
ACT with writing option	April 10*	Passed	Passed
ACT without writing (all CO juniors)	April 28*	N/A – Registration is free, through GW	
SAT or Subject Tests	May 1*	March 25	April 8
SAT or Subject Tests	June 5	April 29	May 13
ACT with writing option	June 12	May 7	May 21

On the dates marked with an asterisk (\*), GWHS is one of the test sites. Students who test on other dates will choose from other test sites, per the ACT (<http://www.actstudent.org/>) and College Board (<http://www.collegeboard.com/>) registration instructions. No testing available during the summer months. Plan ahead!

~Linda During, College Counseling Chair

# Contact Information

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