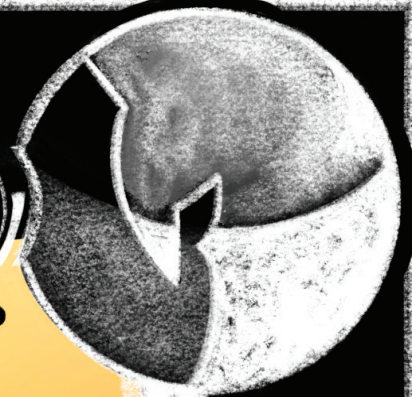


THE SPARTAN SHIELD



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'23

Soaring Aspirations

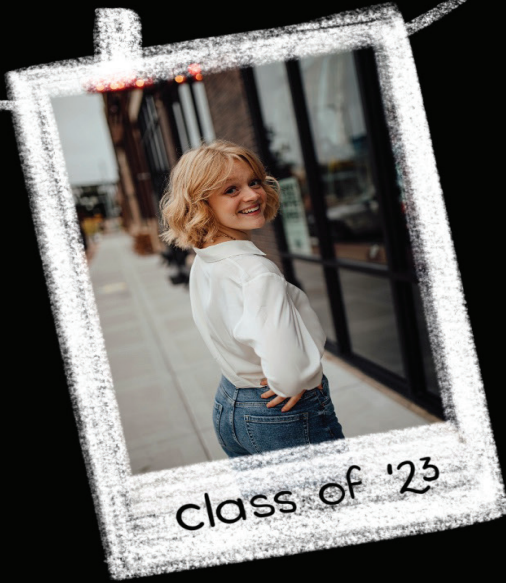
CLASS OF 2023 TAKES FLIGHT

Soaring Aspirations

Pleasant Valley's Class of 2023 is filled with talent. Here, The Spartan Shield highlights 23 ambitious seniors from the class of 2023, whose soaring aspirations are taking flight.



Leah M.



Having participated in choir since 4th grade and singing for most of her life, senior Leah Mendelin knew that a vocal performance major was the next step for

her academic and musical career. Mendelin will attend Des Moines' Drake University in order to obtain a higher musical knowledge. "The music department and faculty at Drake are full of so many passionate and inspiring people that have made me feel so excited to be able to continue my musical training," Mendelin said. "I really felt at home in the department and I'm excited to be on campus this fall!"

Music has always been more than just a hobby for Mendelin. She attributes the constant and unwavering support from her family, friends, teachers and music directors for helping her choose to pursue music as a major. Meg Byrne is PV's Chamber Choir director and has enjoyed watching Mendelin flourish in music. "Leah is one of the most

accomplished singers I have had the honor of teaching, and I'm incredibly proud of her," Byrne said. "In both Chamber Choir and Leading Tones, Leah is an incredible team player with the skills to know exactly when and how to balance and when to shine her light. This is very rare, and I so appreciate all she gives to our choirs. I'm looking forward to seeing—and hearing—where her incredible voice and skills will take her!"

Mendelin is ready to step forward to the next stage in her musical career; however, she also knows that she will always remember her PV choir family. "I'm definitely going to miss PV choirs, my directors and all of the friends I've made along the way," Mendelin concluded.

Gretchen H.

Gretchen Highberger is a powerhouse of a student. She's worked unfathomably hard to achieve some of the finest academic achievements the district has seen, and Clemson University saw her incredible potential, offering her not only admission to their honors college, but also selecting her as a finalist for their National Scholars Program.

Clemson's National Scholars Program is an incredibly selective scholarship community that seeks out the top high school students and encourages them to work together as an academic society. The scholarship provided covers the full cost of attendance, which is the maximum amount of financial aid Clemson is legally permitted to provide.

On top of the major financial grant, National Scholars are recognized across the campus as Clemson's finest. There are certain classes that are offered specifically to this selective community,

such as their annual research trip abroad. Furthermore, they are trained in fellowship and graduate applications, and many students go on to win highly-selective future scholarships.

"The application process was rigorous, but so fulfilling and confirmed that Clemson is where I want to spend 4 years of my life," Highberger stated. "They invited me to the NSP finalist weekend in March, where I spent a couple days getting to know the Clemson faculty, the current NSP members and touring the university. About 25 finalists were invited, and they conducted a panel interview to cut that number down by about half. They weren't typical interview questions—it was more akin to ethics bowl scenarios."

After her intense individual interview process, Highberger participated in a group interview and an activity round, where she answered complex questions

about international government with the other candidates. In the end, she was selected for her ability to think on her feet and her personality.

On paper, these financial benefits alone are enough to make most prospective students consider Clemson and the National Scholars program. However, Highberger also greatly appreciates the aspect of community that is not only present on the campus of Clemson University, but is central to the National Scholars Program itself.

"The faculty at Clemson and the rest of the National Scholars made it clear that they support me no matter what. They wanted to ensure that I was making the best decision for my future, even if Clemson wasn't in the picture," Highberger explained. "They want me to explore all of my academic opportunities, and explained that the scholarship would apply regardless of



what major I switch to. That flexibility is an aspect that puts Clemson and the NSP above the rest of my options."

As Highberger enters the next stage of her life, all eyes will be on her, her absurdly-intelligent mind and her undying drive.

Nikhil R.

The Ramaraju twins are an unstoppable sibling duo whose success will continue far beyond PV's walls. Nikhil and Sophia's academic and athletic accomplishments will be taking them to both Harvard and Stanford respectively.

Nikhil began rowing in 8th grade and will continue as a member of Harvard's lightweight rowing team next year. While in high school, Nikhil was on the



United States Junior National team where his boat placed 12th. He also broke the course record at the Head of the Charles, the largest rowing event in North America. Despite having to wake up at 4:30 a.m. every day and having two-a-day practices almost every day of the year, Nikhil credits this determination for his success. "It is so

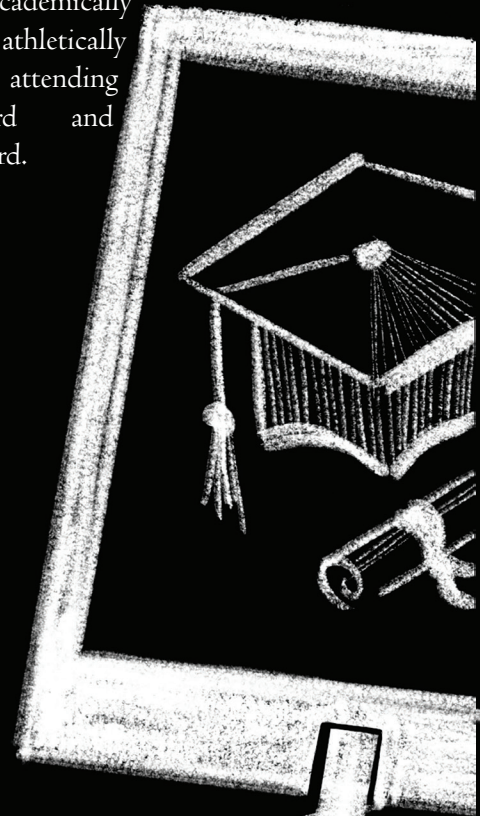
important to be motivated on bad days and perform well, even when you don't want to or don't think you can," he said. "That is what separates good or average people from great people."

Ramaraju's good friend, Senior Nolan Graham has high hopes for Nikhil's college experience. "Nikhil is a great guy and has a bright future ahead of him. He will do a lot of great things at Harvard," Graham expressed.

Similar to Nikhil, Sophia has been involved in rowing since 8th grade and has seen immense success throughout her career. "In 2021, I got silver in Youth Nationals. It was an important and huge race, so I was incredibly proud," she said. Additionally, both Sophia and Nikhil set the course record at the Head of Charles, making the Quad Cities team the holders of the course record for both men's and women's doubles. Beyond rowing, Sophia immersed herself in academics by taking challenging classes like AP Spanish, AP Language and Composition and organic chemistry, all of which are beneficial in her pre-med journey.

Having lived in Iowa all their lives, Harvard and Stanford

will place Sophia and Nikhil on opposite sides of the country. Despite this substantial change, the twins are ready to continue their rowing and academic endeavors. "College will provide a lot of opportunities for me," Nikhil explained. Though they will miss each other, both of the twins are ready to explore more of their interests, both academically and athletically while attending Harvard and Stanford.



Sophia R.



Senior Seth Bennion's high school experience is characterized by socialization and memorable experiences. Bennion's favorite high school moments include spending time with friends and meeting new people. Bennion is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called the Mormon Church.

Seth B

Members of this church are given the unique opportunity to serve a two-year voluntary mission before or during their college experience.

and teachings of Christ to others who are willing to hear it," he shared.

This upcoming fall, Bennion looks forward to serving a mission. "It is important to me because I want to be able to spread the gospel

In emulation of his older siblings, Bennion eagerly anticipates attending BYU-Idaho Post-mission, where he looks forward to continuing his education.

congrats!

Maddie C.

Senior Maddie Cubbage is on the forefront of a hot-button issue, and if anyone can handle it, it's her. She will be attending the University of Iowa with a major in biology and a minor in women's health. She asserts that her career goal is to be an obstetric gynecologist, "I've always been interested in the medical field throughout my

life, and I decided I wanted to be an OB GYN about 3 years ago," she explained.

Her interest in this field has driven her to major in biology, where she will gain a deeper understanding of human anatomy. "From a young age, I've been interested in science, and the STEM field helped me fully realize that passion.

Now, I can apply it to my future career."

She has meticulously crafted her future plans to uplift women in a time when it's needed more than ever.



class of '23

Payten R.



The path to success looks different for every senior, for Payten Rascher it will begin at Scott Community College. It is no secret that the cost of college attendance is growing each year, and for many seniors, the idea of a smaller college for a smaller price is becoming more appealing. Rascher was heavily influenced by affordability and location in her post-secondary decision,

"The main deciding factor was money. My first plan was to go to Iowa for the full four years. Then, I decided that I just wanted to get my general ed's done at Scott to save some money, and I'd be closer to home."

Rascher is excitedly awaiting the change in schedule that SCC will welcome into her life as she completes her introductory

courses there. Once she completes her second year, Rascher is unsure what her future holds for her, "I'll obviously go for the two years, but after that, it's kind of up in the air. I might already have a good job that doesn't require any more schooling." No matter what path Rascher ends up taking, there is no doubt she will find success.

Alex & Jason P.

From preschool to senior year, Alex and Jason Payne have been playing on the same soccer teams; whether on a club team or a high school team, the twins share special athletic memories. For the first time in their lives, they are going to be 379 miles away from each other, with new teammates and new milestones within their soccer careers. It is bittersweet, but also exciting to see how they will fit in with a new group. Senior Alex Payne had some

doubts about his future team, but ultimately remained positive, "It will take a while to get used to not having my brother on the team, but we can both motivate each other to succeed at this higher level of soccer," he expressed.

Twins share a special bond and experience a connection like no two others—an idea that is extremely powerful. Senior Jason

Payne shared how it will change things, "It's going to feel weird because I've been playing soccer with him my whole life, he's my brother and knowing he's playing with me will be different—and I will have to learn to embrace that change."



Alexa V.



Senior Alexa Very is taking the epic leap from small-town Iowa to big city New York. "I am moving to Manhattan after graduation to attend NYU, and I could not be more nervous and excited," Very stated. Very is currently undecided on her major but plans to pursue a degree in consumer psychology paired with a minor in business.

in the Big Apple. "The city has so much to offer and I can't wait to live there. I plan on drinking a lot of coffee, sitting in Washington Square Park, and eating bagels when I'm not playing softball." But nonetheless, Very will miss home, and plans to bring her midwestern charm to the big city, putting her own special touch everywhere she goes.

However, the process of joining such a prestigious school to study happening fields was no underwhelming task. Very underwent hours of recruitment and professional conversations before finally landing on the perfect fit. "I chose this school after a long recruiting process with softball, and I knew it was a perfect fit the second I stepped in the city."

Very is off to do great things in the world of business and athletics, and we wish her the best of luck.

NYC's lively scenery and bustling streets seemed to be the ideal match for Very. She is eager to explore and find her place

Senior Lexi Pelzer is a force to be reckoned with. As a four-year member of choir, theater and track, she's an inspiring, multifaceted individual. With a multitude of passions and countless talents, she could easily take the stage as a professional performer or make headlines as a star athlete.

That's not her plan, though. Pelzer discovered her dream career in second grade and has since worked relentlessly to achieve this lifestyle. Now, as she faces the next chapter of her life, she's finally stepping up to the plate as a marine biology major at the University of Tampa.

"I've always wanted to leave a positive impact on the environment," Pelzer explained. "Also, I love swimming and the ocean."

Making her decision on where to attend was tough, and her admissions process was filled with nerve-racking reveals and changes to her plans. "Meeting deadlines was difficult, and the essays were carefully-crafted over months of work, but the hardest part was deciding. I got a similarly-great offer from Eckerd College, and when it was between UTampa and Eckerd, I was consumed by deliberation." Pelzer stated. "In the end, though, the communities and opportunities at Tampa make it an easy sell."

Now that she's made it though, her work is not over, "I know marine biology will be tough, but the world needs us right now." Pelzer concluded. "Our planet needs care, and I'm willing to work harder than I ever have to heal our oceans and the creatures that inhabit it."

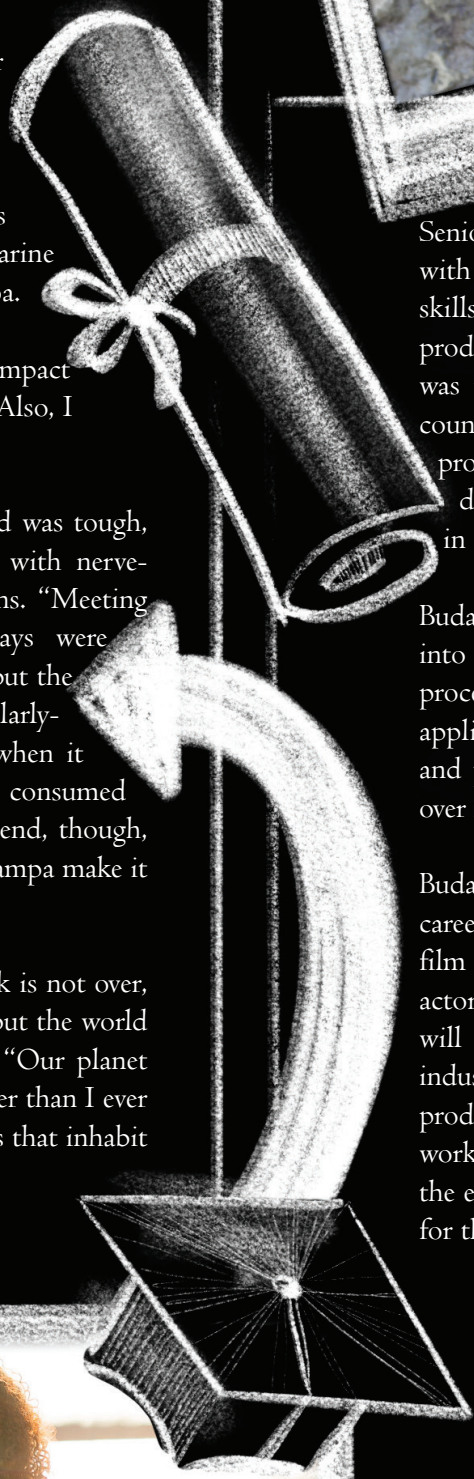


charles b.

Senior Charles Budan's passion for drama began with a love for film. While tuning his acting skills through community theater and school productions, Budan found that performance was the only route for him. After undergoing countless auditions, the search for the perfect program led Budan to New York University's drama program, where he will pursue a BFA in drama.

Budan is one of only 400 students accepted into NYU's drama program. A highly selective process: Budan had to submit a common application essay, an essay for NYU specifically and performed two contemporary monologues over Zoom for his artistic review.

Budan hopes to find work on stage in his early career, in order to prepare him for possible film and television roles later on. "The best actors are stage actors first," says Budan. Budan will be among like-minded creatives in the industry, allowing him to make connections with producers and writers who can help him find work. "You don't go to school in New York for the education you'll get," concluded Budan. "It's for the connections you'll make."



lexi p.

Julianne B

Senior Julianne Binto has a clear passion combined with a purpose: to heal the world. Binto is embarking on a journey to study neuroscience as a part of Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) highly selective Bachelors of Science and Doctor of Medicine (BS/MD) extended degree program. Through the program, she has been offered conditional acceptance to FAU's med school, as long as her portfolio remains excellent. Though undergrad applications are already incredibly demanding, the application process specific to med school is exacerbated in stress tenfold. The BS/MD program is ideal for Binto, resolving some of these future conflicts. "[BS/MD] program is perfect for me because I'm certain about my commitment to medicine, and the program allows me a clear pathway to becoming a doctor while still giving me the freedom to apply to other medical schools if I wish. With med

school admissions being more competitive than ever, the BS/MD program gives me so much peace of mind!"

But earning admission into this program was no simple feat. FAU's highly selective program only admits 12 future students from their entire pool of applicants. Binto endured seemingly endless hours, pouring in time, her blood and sweat, and thoughtful effort to earn a spot in the renowned program. "I had to be admitted to FAU in general, and then fill out a supplemental application with around 5 different essays. I learned a few months later that I was chosen to interview for the program, which led me to participate in a whole-day virtual interview event. During the event, I was interviewed two separate times and provided with more information about FAU and the BS/MD program." Binto concluded, "I was

exhausted by the end of it all, but so happy to learn I'd been admitted!"

After months of hard work, Binto is ready to enjoy a well deserved summer off. Although, she is still eager to start this exciting, academically stimulating program next fall. "I'm embarking on the first steps of my journey towards becoming a doctor. I can't wait to explore all the medical opportunities FAU has to offer, meet other like-minded people that are passionate about healthcare and also enjoy the beautiful Florida weather!"



Sarah K

Many young Iowans dream of moving to a bigger, better place. For senior Sarah Kowing, this dream is about to become a reality. She will be attending the University of San Diego with an undecided major while also

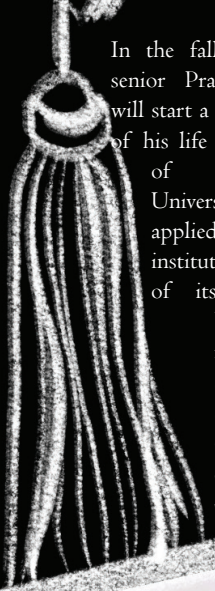
competitively rowing next fall. Throughout high school, Kowing has been a member of the girl's swim team for three years and a member of the Y Quad Cities Rowing team in Moline, Illinois for two years. Her successful rowing journey helped her accomplish her aspiration of attending USD.

bring a fresh start and new opportunities. Kowing has always been interested in finding a change of pace, "I'm looking forward to experiencing a different place. I have lived in the Midwest for most of my life, so I'm excited for a change." Not only is Kowing excited to meet new people, but she also hopes to become more independent.

Moving across the country can



P R A N A V



In the fall of 2023, senior Pranav Suresh will start a new chapter of his life in the halls of Columbia University. Suresh applied ED to the institution because of its appealing balance of rigorous academics and a diverse social scene. Suresh

will be pursuing a degree in Economics while furthering his knowledge by applying himself in the fields of mathematics, philosophy and behavioral sciences. The interest he has cultivated for his field of study stems from his appreciation of the quantitative analysis of scenarios, in addition to his curiosity regarding the philosophy that supports an individual's decision making skills.

During Suresh's high school years he was an active member of the cross country team for four years and the track team for three years. The sports helped him foster a strong

sense of discipline, which he attributes to his success. He was also a member of Ethics bowl, and helped lead the team to nationals held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill two years in a row. Through his time in the club, his love for the subject was amplified leading him to form an even stronger interest, while developing his morals and individual thought processes. Suresh also spends his summers volunteering at a refugee camp that helps members adjust to a new life; he hopes to find similar programs at



watching

my teachers and

working with my peers," Brown stated. "What really drew me to elementary education was my work as a volunteer tutoring elementary students." With her incoming knowledge, she hopes to inspire future students.

She will attend the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in elementary education. "It's been so rewarding volunteering, and I found so much joy getting to know the students and helping them learn," Brown explained. "I hope

that

a career

in teaching will give me the opportunity to help kids both academically and in life in general, and hopefully I can work to make a change in the difficult environment of teaching." From everyone here at Pleasant Valley, we wish Amory Brown all the best in her future education, and look forward to the generation she helps lead.



To prosper in one's life and achieve their dreams, an individual must have a drive. For many children, they look up to adults for guidance about this matter—specifically their teachers. One PVHS student who will pursue her dream of studying education next fall is senior Amory Brown. "I've known I wanted to teach for a long time just through

A M O R Y

Senior Zuzu Vincel will attend Davenport's Capri College in the fall of 2024 to obtain a certificate in cosmetology. The wait list for esthetician training is lengthy, hence Vincel's delayed start, as the profession is currently in high demand. "I'm excited to start; makeup is what I love to do," said Vincel.

We are excited to see what Vincel will do in the future. We wish Vincel the best of luck in all endeavors.



Senior Caroline Pope is truly going places. Taking an unconventional, yet exciting path after college, Pope is patiently awaiting a move to Finland in early June, for a gap year filled with new experiences and a reconnection to her former culture. "I grew up in Finland and have citizenship over there so I want to take advantage of it," Pope explained. Pope is ready to make the best of the big move. As a Finnish-American, Pope has always felt drawn to her roots, and she is excited to finally make this longing a reality. "I've always wanted to move back to Finland ever since I moved back to America. It became a goal of mine to move back freshman year, and it feels great to be able to reach this goal!" Pope exclaimed.

Life in Finland varies strongly from life in the United States, attracting Pope back to this Nordic country. "I've wanted to go back

because of their free education and their style of life suits me more. I'll be finding a place to work and live when I'm there," she stated. Finnish education is far less testing-based than the US and their work culture is less productivity-centered and more focused on individual interest. Finland is also famously known as the country with the happiest citizens, which Pope will be sure to experience.

But with most students staying domestic for the post-high school plans, Pope is taking a huge step away from the community she's built at home. "I'm very excited to leave, but sad that I'm leaving friends and family behind." Nonetheless, Pope is ready for adventure and is anxious to see where her

path will lead. "I haven't fully decided if I'm living there for the rest of my life, just kind of going with the flow honestly. I also don't know what I want to do with my life so I'll be figuring that out too." Pope is sure to find good fortune on her journey and everyone is excited to see the great things she will do around the world!



Zach S.



congrats

Senior Zach Schneider is about to embark on the journey of a lifetime- in combination with studying his life's passion, nutrition, at Western Illinois University, Schneider will also gain a new knowledge of military science through his recently awarded ROTC scholarship. From the moment Schneider was introduced to the benefits of ROTC scholarships he was interested, but it was not an easy quest, "I was never at the top of the crop academically so fighting for my scholarship took a lot of aid from some amazing people. You can choose to take the ROTC as a college student, while the scholarships are competitive."

Schneider is determined to curate a successful future for himself, "I have been into fitness ever

since my sophomore year. And because exercise science doesn't have many job opportunities, I wanted to look at something that has always piqued my interest, how food and supplements work in the body." Evaluating the potential of various job fields was important to Schneider, and in the end he was able to find the best of both worlds, a field of interest with a guarantee for success.

When it comes to the specifics of his path, Schneider is grateful to have options, "I plan on at least serving my 4 required active years, followed by another 4 either in the guard, reserves, or active again. Since I will be taking money from them in my later college years, after my contracted years, that is something I will decide when the time comes." Given the impact Schneider has made on PVHS in just four short years, there is no doubt he will be a strong force in either field.



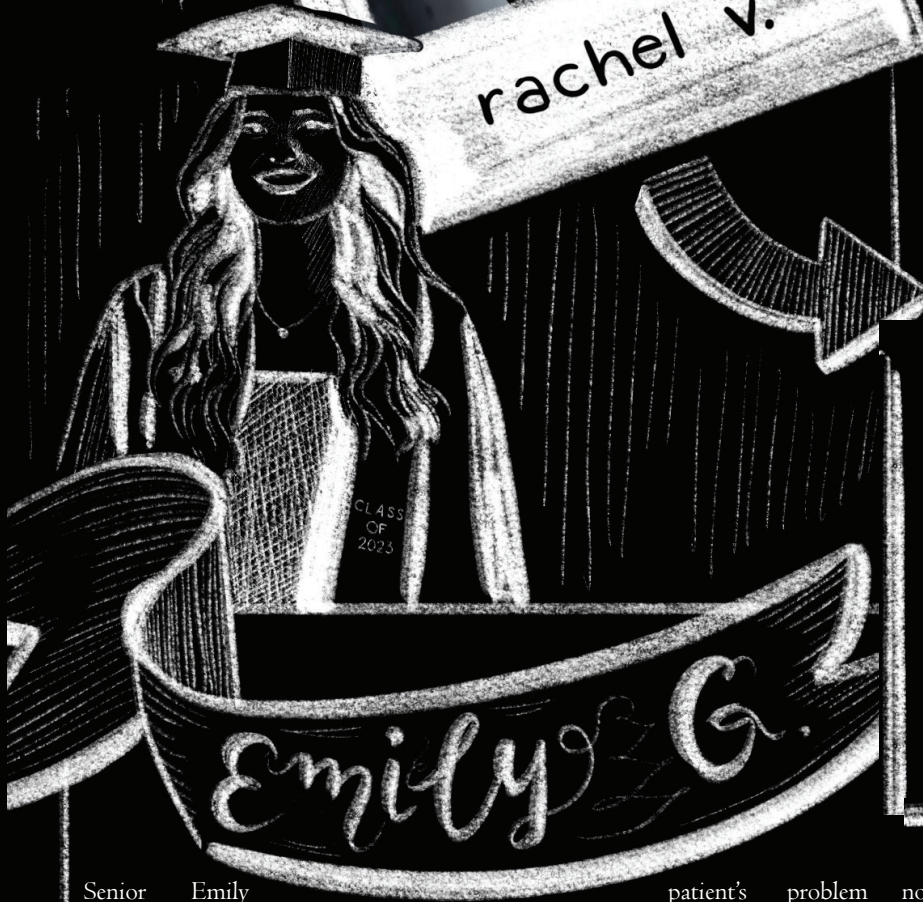
rachel v.

Senior Rachel Vonderhaar plans to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado this upcoming fall, joining her older brother who currently plays football for the school while attending the academy. Admittance into the academy is an honor and one that Vonderhaar worked hard to achieve. "The application process for the Air Force Academy is very rigorous. It includes several essays, recommendations, a physical fitness test, medical screens, and a Congressional Nomination. Your acceptance to USAFA is conditional to you receiving a Congressional Nomination which includes its own application process."

Applying, and being admitted to, the academy is a feat in itself, but her time there will prove to be challenging—yet rewarding. While studying at USAFA Vonderhaar will complete basic training while also furthering her education. Vonderhaar plans to continue her academic studies on a pre-med track, majoring in life sciences.

Vonderhaar's interest in the academy was sparked by her older brother, Luke. "I was introduced to the Air Force Academy when my brother was offered to play football there last year. It was then that I started to learn about all the amazing opportunities that are presented to the people who attend the Academy. These opportunities and the unique experiences I could face had a profound impact on my decision."

As she finishes up her senior year, Vonderhaar is becoming excited for her future endeavors at the Air Force Academy and the knowledge she will gain from them, "I'm looking forward to many things, but mostly I'm excited to learn lots of new material in a variety of different subjects and experience things that I never would have had the chance to experience without attending this academy." When her studies are complete Vonderhaar will serve a minimum of 5 years, while tackling a job in the field of medicine.



Senior Emily Goodpaster is committed to play volleyball at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio while she continues her academic studies on a pre-med track. Throughout high school, Goodpaster has heavily involved herself with the medical community and affirmed her passion for the career. From starting the Future Physicians of America club here at PV to sending medical aid to Ukraine or job shadowing surgeons, Goodpaster's excitement for college and her future work has grown. "Ever since my first day of shadowing surgeries I've known that medicine is the field I want to be a part of. Stepping foot in the operating room is so exhilarating, and I love the excitement of being able to fix a

patient's problem with my own hands. I also believe it is one of the most rewarding careers. Finishing up a surgery and being able to tell the family that everything will be okay is what I look forward to the most and I can't wait to make an impact on the lives of those in need of medical attention," she explained.

On her commitment to Case Western to play volleyball Goodpaster said, "I chose CWRU's volleyball program because I knew I would be participating in a competitive environment and conference. I also knew I would find it motivating to be playing with teammates who also have ambitious career goals." Goodpaster is

no stranger to the commitment being a student athlete requires. Playing for a competitive team while studying on a pre-med track will be challenging, but Goodpaster feels the environment she experienced in high school—playing on high level teams while taking numerous rigorous courses—has prepared her well. Goodpaster will complete 4 years as a student athlete at CWRU and then move on to medical school to become a surgeon.



Aden O.

Whether out on the baseball diamond or in class, Senior Aden O'Donnell's high school experience is distinguished by camaraderie with his team and peers. Through the course of O'Donnell's life, baseball has been a recurring motif that has taught him lessons which transcend the boundaries of baseball.

At the age of 5 O'Donnell discovered his passion for baseball. However, when he was 6 his family moved to Finland where baseball is not a prominent aspect of their culture. For the most part, his baseball career was on pause until he moved back to the United States several years later.

Now, from eating out with his teammates after double headers to winning the 4A state championship his sophomore year, O'Donnell's high school years have established that baseball will continue to play a fundamental role in his life.

O'Donnell loves baseball for its lessons regarding life and the sport itself. He argues that baseball requires more strategy and detail than any other sport, citing if a pitch is misplaced by just an inch, it can make the difference between strike three and ball four. "I have been able to carry over this mindset to life and apply it to everyday situations at school and at home. Being able to execute the little things is the difference between a good player and a great player. It is also the difference between being average and being successful in life," he explained.

While searching for his undergraduate institution, O'Donnell wanted a school that would allow him to develop skills both as a player and as a person that would extend beyond the diamond. He felt that the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign would best allow him to achieve this goal. "The school has a great reputation for building not only great baseball players, but providing an exceptional education for their athletes. This allows them to be successful once their baseball career is over," he shared.

O'Donnell accredits the Illinois baseball coaching staff and team spirit to his confidence for his personal development and success. While interacting with the team, he felt the same sense of camaraderie at Illinois that he has felt on the PV baseball team. At this point he could clearly identify that Illinois was where he wanted to continue his baseball journey.



Katelyn K.



Senior Katelyn Kiefer found her passion for architecture at a young age, as her family looked to expand upon their house. She recounted her family struggling to find a professional to draw plans for the new addition, so finally she decided to take the project into her own hands. "I started drafting plans myself, and I have taken several engineering classes both at the high school and through SCC to help develop my critical thinking skills needed for architecture," she explained. Kiefer was determined to apply her new knowledge to help solve problems she was seeing outside of school.

likely attend Judson University in Elgin, Illinois—where she will be working towards her Master of Architecture through a 6-year program. She believes that Judson will provide her with the best resources to succeed academically and socially. "It's a really cool program because during my 5th year, I will be doing an internship which will allow me to gain real world experience while also completing hours toward my professional degree. Another aspect I love about the school is the smaller environment," she stated.

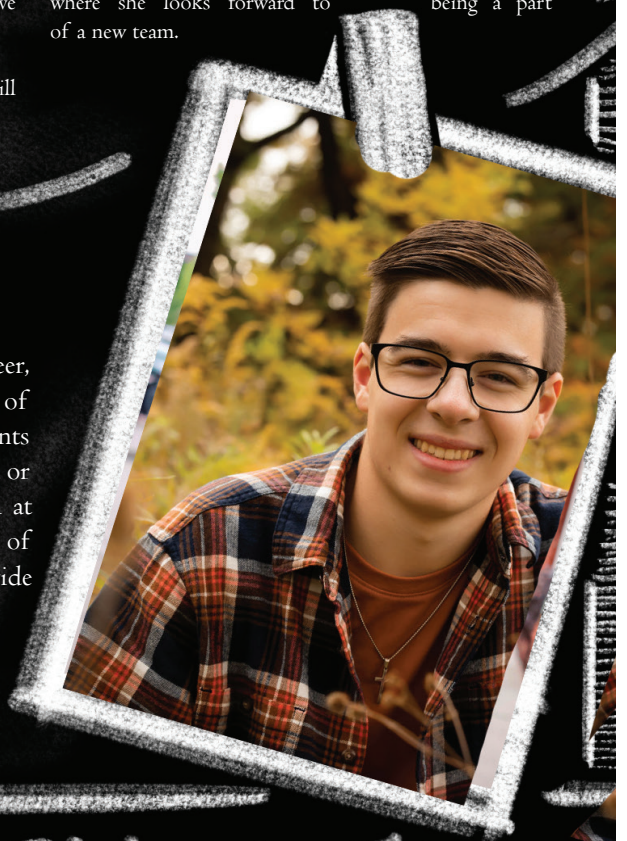
While working towards her Master of Architecture, Kiefer will also be continuing her competitive bowling career, where she looks forward to being a part of a new team.

Hoping to expand on her knowledge and skills, Kiefer will

Scott Z.

From a young age Scott Zimmerman has loved traveling to see new places. It was on the flights to new destinations that he found a keen interest in aviation. As he began to interact with social media posts related to the field he realized it might be his calling. Zimmerman booked an introductory flight with a local school and the minute he lifted off the ground, he knew he wanted to see the world from that enhanced perspective for the rest of his life.

In order to transform his passion into a career, Zimmerman is attending the University of North Dakota in the fall. In the future, he wants to fly as a professional pilot for either Delta or United airlines, and the fantastic program at UND will prepare him by providing some of the best flight experiences available nationwide



PVHS senior Alex Banerjee is currently preparing to attend the University of Iowa next fall. Banerjee is planning to study political science on the pre-law track. Although he is currently considering a double major, he is uncertain as to what that may entail.

Alex B.



Banerjee's passion for law stems from a certain frustration in

witnessing injustices within law represented in the media time and time again, especially in the United States. Flaws in the justice system have empowered Banerjee to pursue a career in law to combat these inequalities, disproportionately affecting the impoverished, "I've always wanted to do what's best for those underrepresented in the world. I think it is awful that those who cannot afford representation

don't get the defense they need, while the rich can more easily get away with their crimes."

Banerjee hopes to work towards defending underrepresented clients who otherwise may not have been able to afford a lawyer in order to work towards correcting societal wrongdoings. "Going into law is my way of doing what I think is best for the world."