



Retiring Teacher pg. 5

Summer Plans pg. 3

Senior Goodbyes pg. 6

Summer Fashion pg. 5

Dessert Quiz pg. 5

Urbana High School, 1002 South Race Street, Urbana, Ill.

# The Echo

May 2019

Editor-in-Chief: Zoe LaVigne

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## Creativity versus unity

*Perspectives on decorating graduation caps*

By Ayesha Mehta

Even with an academic year full of procedural changes, there is one rule the administration is not budging on: graduating seniors are not allowed to decorate their caps.

A senior letter sent to all households and passed out to seniors during the senior class meeting on April 24, clearly states, “Nothing is to be worn on your cap. Please refrain from using tape or any other kind of ornamentation on the cap or the gown.”

Jake Romano, Herff Jones representative, sees this as a way of uniting the senior class, telling seniors, “I want you all to look the same.”

Though traditionally this has been the rule at UHS, some seniors were hoping for a change this year. “Decorating caps is a way for people to express some of their best high school memories,” says Megan Rucker.

Vinh Vo believes similarly. “Students can show their accomplishments and creativity through decorating their cap.”

Some seniors believe that as long as decorations are.....



Photo Credit: listingmore.com

.....continued on page 2

## Next year's football leaders

By Michael Monreal

With the Urbana football program losing a large amount of seniors that led the team this past season, they are going to have to find new players to take a leadership role in an up-and-coming young Tigers team.

Coach Ordell Walker has a few people in mind when it comes to who can step into that role. “Seniors La’Voye Young and Eli Rogers have good varsity experience and when it comes to the line, LaVontae Pelmore who started on varsity as a freshman,” said Walker when

asked about future leaders.

When asked about next year, Pelmore informed us that he would not be at Urbana but said, “It means a lot that the varsity coach said this and it will push me even further at my new school.”

When asked about coaches, linebacker and running back Young says, “It pushes me even more with missing almost all last year with an almost season ending injury.”

continued on page 3.....



Page 6

# The Echo

Urbana High  
School

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Want to see your  
name here?  
Sign up for  
journalism  
next year!

# Criticisms of Omar obscure larger issues of antisemitism

By Michael Tessene

The newest class of congressional representatives, sworn into office earlier this year, have contained many controversial figures. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, from New York's fourteenth Congressional District, has been subject to broad support from progressives and hostility from centrists and conservatives. Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, the first two Muslim women to ever be elected to Congress, have been viewed similarly. Omar in particular has recently become mired in controversy.

The congresswoman, from a small district in the urban core of Minneapolis, has been deeply critical of US support of Israel. A series of her tweets, which lamented that Israel had "hypnotized the world" and accused American supporters of Israel of bribery from pro-Israel lobbying groups, were met with bipartisan accusations of anti-semitism. Omar was eventually driven to apologize for the tweets, though she maintained her previous positions. Despite the wide array of figures from all parts of the political spectrum who leveled accusations of anti-semitism against her, the arguments supporting these allegations ignore the larger issues at hand.

One faulty assumption made by Omar's accusers is the

idea that Israel can be seen as representative of Judaism as a whole. According to this reasoning, because Omar criticized Israel in a manner that can be interpreted as playing into anti-semitic tropes, such as the idea that Jews secretly control the world through financial influence, Omar herself must be anti-semitic. But the influence of pro-Israel lobbying in politics is unquestionably present. Though Omar may have been invoking antisemitism, it's impossible to know what her intentions were with the level of certainty her critics claim to possess. Equating criticism of Israel with anti-semitism is also misleading in that only around 40% of the world's Jewish population lives in Israel. In addition, according to the Pew Research Center, four in ten American Jews say that the Trump administration has been too favorable towards Israel, which would not be the case if criticism of Israel was synonymous with criticism of the entire Jewish population.

Framing criticism of Israel as anti-semitism also obscures the main sources of violence against Jewish people in the western world today. A vast majority of anti-semitic terrorist attacks in recent years in the US and Europe have been associated with the alt-right, not Islamic groups. The Pittsburgh

shooter frequented alt-right websites, and the perpetrator of the San Diego shooting has been connected with the arson of a nearby mosque. Though Muslims in the West do mostly side against Israel in the debate over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they tend to be victims of political violence from people who hate both Muslims and Jews, rather than the perpetrators of said violence.

The idea that Muslim politicians criticizing Israel is just a front for their hidden anti-semitism works to embolden violence rather than prevent it. Omar noted a substantial increase in the death threats she was receiving following the allegations of anti-semitism, including one that resulted in an arrest. It's comforting to conflate complex, layered tensions between people groups with a conflict among nations, but this level of simplification is misleading and dangerous.

Resolving conflict and keeping people safe requires a certain degree of honesty and rigor concerning who's at fault. Targeting politicians with legitimate concerns about American foreign policy, rather than the alt-right organizations that can be directly linked to dozens of violent hate crimes, does nothing but make the issue worse.

## Creativity versus unity *Perspectives on decorating graduation caps* cont.

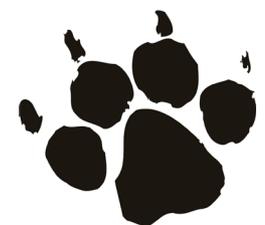
.....appropriate and not offensive, students should be allowed to decorate their caps. "I don't see the harm in having some fun with our graduation," says Emily Yan.

Class President Rachel Gatewood emailed administration with potential criteria and rules to allow for cap decorating, but was met with no response. The position of leadership seems to be that unity trumps creativity.

Esther Lugano agrees, believing that "we all should look like one. We shouldn't decorate our caps."

Erin Wright similarly says, "I don't mind the rule, I understand why they would want us all to look the same, it shows togetherness."

Whether you are team creativity or team unity, what is most important is celebrating the seniors who are graduating this year.



# Stressing about the SAT? *You're not alone!*

# Summer vacation destinations

By Molly Sweeney

Spring can be a stressful time for students because of standardized testing and how they have a substantial impact on students futures. To get the best score possible, many students retake the test, even during the summer.

Sriya Ekkirala, junior, has decided to retake the test because she "wants to raise [her] score." To do this, Ekkirala will "study about 15 minutes a day during the day and during the summer."

There are many resources you can use to study for the SAT. To find these resources it would be helpful to look online or check with a friend or counselor.

Masato Keeley, junior, suggests using Khan Academy. Keeley adds that "it gives you immediate feedback which is really helpful."

"I am going to wait to see my first SAT score before deciding if I want to retake it,"

Keeley says.

Ana Luiza Wegner, junior, "wasn't expecting to take the SAT because [she] wasn't sure how it would come in handy." Wegner is a transfer student from Brazil and she isn't sure how long she will be in the United States.

When doing some research, Wegner realized that taking the SAT would open some doors to her future, which caused her to care more about the SAT.

To do well on the SAT, Wegner decided "to study and cram a lot. I feel like I can do better if I try more."

In one last piece of advice, Wegner warns that you "shouldn't be stupid and to think about your future."

The most important thing to remember that your score will not decide the rest of your life. Even if you do not do as well as you think you did, don't let your number define you!

By Natosha Williams

Just because we live in the middle of a cornfield doesn't mean there's nothing exciting to do. Read below for some close-to-home destinations for your summer vacation that will break you out of your boredom:

Six Flags is the most popular family attraction featuring dozens of rides, shows, and activities. From Urbana, you have two choices: St. Louis, Mo. or Gurnee, Ill. If you decide to stay overnight, you can even book hotels through their website to create your own package!

Travel time: Approximately 3 hours

Wisconsin Dells is a combination of attractions including a theme park, entertainment centers, nature trails and camping. There are numerous hotels---and cabins for those who want a more outdoor feel. Travel time: Approximately 4.5 hours

Indiana Beach Boardwalk in Monticello, Indiana has a little



Photo Credit: Six Flags

something for everyone: a waterpark, boardwalk, amusement park, shopping district, beach (of course) and much more!

Travel time: Approximately 2 hours

Downtown Chicago and Navy Pier have different fun activities for people: the carnival, the beach North Riverside, Millennium Park, and the museum campus.

Travel time: Approximately 3 hours

With all of these destinations less than five hours away, use this summer to escape the cornfield!

Summer Plans  
By Spencer Walden

Let's face it: summer weather in Illinois can vary a lot. Too cold, too much rain, or even weather that's too hot can ruin summer fun. There isn't exactly an abundance of things to do in central Illinois besides watch corn, so a few Urbana students have their own summer plans taking them far away from here:

## **Jackson Null**

*Amsterdam, Netherlands*

"I'm going to the Amsterdam, Netherlands in June as an end of senior year final trip before going off to live on my own," says senior Jackson Null. Null will be there for a week with his mother, who is then leaving him for another week to travel on his own. "My older sister did a similar trip across Europe after her senior year so I guess it's becoming a family tradition," says Null.

## **Miranda Kowalski**

*Montana*

Junior Miranda Kowalski's summer plans include a trip to Montana. "I'm going with a youth group called Youthworks to the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation," says Kowalski. The trip involves painting and repairing houses on the reservation. "Our trip is really just one part of a very large program. Youthworks sends trips all over the country to help in many different areas," says Kowalski.

## Next year's football leaders cont.

.....Young has been a big part of this Tigers roster and has always given all he has to this team every year. Everyone can't wait to see what he has in

store for his senior season and where it leads him after high school.

Quarterback Eli Rogers has some similar responses. When asked about his coach's com-

ments, Rogers said, "I just don't want to let my teammates or coaches down. I'm proud that he looks at me like that and I'm up for the challenge."

This Tigers team is looking for a bounce back season after

finishing 0-9 this past year. We wish the Tigers nothing but good luck for this next season, and with leadership like this, they should be well on their way!

Make sure to come out and support this season!

# Summer Movies

By Jazz Broda

The movie lineup for the summer of 2019 is impressive. It has it all: action, comedy, horror, and superhero flicks. You should have no trouble finding a film to watch over this summer break. Here's a breakdown of the movies coming out by release months!

## May

May starts out strong with the third installment of a popular franchise: John Wick. The third movie in the John Wick franchise, Chapter 3: Parabellum, stars Keanu Reeves and comes out May 17th. This action thriller is sure to fill up the theater, so be sure to plan ahead.

Two films premiere on May 24th: Brightburn and Aladdin. Brightburn is about a child who crashes into earth, but instead of a superhero cliché, the tone seems to be sinister. If you're interested in a super villain-esque horror, check Brightburn out.

Aladdin should sound familiar. A live-action adaptation to the 1992 Disney film, Aladdin stars Mena Massoud as Aladdin, Naomi Scott as Jasmine, and Will Smith as the genie. If you're a fan of the Disney live action trend, you should check this out for sure.

Heavily advertised, Godzilla: King Of Monsters comes out May 31st. A sequel to the remake of Godzilla in 2014, this film stars not just Godzilla, but Mothra, Rodan,

and Ghidorah. If you're a fan of monster movies, there's no excuse for skipping this.

Rocketman is a musical-fantasy biography of music legend, Elton John. The film will go through his breakthrough years. Coming out not too long after Bohemian Rhapsody, music documentaries seem to be on the rise. If you're a fan of Elton John (as you should be), go see it when it comes out May 31st.

Horror movies are becoming increasingly popular. One of the films helping horror become more mainstream is Ma. Ma stars oscar winner Octavia Spencer as Sue Ann, also known as Ma. The film follows a group of teens who befriend a lonely woman who lets them party at her house. Things seem to be great until suspicious events start to take place. If you like getting scared check this film when it comes out May 31st.

## June

On June 14th, Men In Black: International comes out. It stars Tessa Thompson and Chris Hemsworth. The fourth film in the franchise, Men In Black: International follows the leads as they try to discover a mole in the agency. No Will Smith, but if you're fine with that, go ahead and see this.

A long awaited film, Toy Story 4 comes out June 21st. It's been 9 years since Toy Story 3 was released and this time

around, a new toy named Forky joins the gang as Woody reunites with Bo-Peep. A must see for everyone.

Another movie about toys comes out June 21st: Child's Play. A bit different, Child's Play is a remake of the 1988 movie of the same name. This time around, the infamous evil doll Chucky, takes a more robotic turn. This 2019 remake modernizes the film we all know. Well-known actress Aubrey Plaza will star as Andy's mom. If you're a fan of the Chucky franchise or the remake trend, make sure to check this out.

Interested in The Beatles? Yesterday is a film about a struggling musician who discovers that he's the only person on Earth who remembers the Beatles. A comedy starring plenty of huge names (Ed Sheeran, James Corden, etc.), this film has a good chance of entertaining, especially for fans of The Beatles. Yesterday comes out June 28th.

## July

July starts with an appearance from director Ari Aster, who directed his first blockbuster last year, Hereditary. This summer's Aster film, Midsommar is a horror film about a woman who reluctantly joins her boyfriend on a summer trip and things seem to go downhill. Not much is known at this time, but if you're a horror fan, this is a must see. Midsommar comes out July 3rd.

Marvel fans, don't worry, you'll get a movie this summer as

well! Spiderman: Far From Home comes out July 5th. Peter Parker goes on a vacation in Europe and ends up agreeing to help Nick Fury find out about some elemental creature attacks. If you're one of those rare people who prefer Spiderman, go see this.

Last on this list is The Lion King. The Lion King live-action remake comes out July 19th. This remake seems to

have a lot going for it with the cast: Donald Glover voices Simba and Beyonce voices Nala. The remake will follow the same story of the original, but is still an important watch for Disney fans.

A variety of movies have been listed, filling almost every genre. Now go, and plan your summer watch list.

## Build an ice cream sundae and get a fun summer activity to do!

By Molly Sweeney

1. What flavor is your first scoop of ice cream?
  - a. Vanilla
  - b. Chocolate chip cookie dough
  - c. Strawberry
  - d. Chocolate
2. Do you want a second scoop?
  - a. Nope I'm good with one
  - b. Rocky Road
  - c. Tutti Frutti
  - d. Cookies and Cream
3. Do you want a third scoop?
  - a. Mocha
  - b. I only want one
  - c. Superman
  - d. I only want two
4. What kind of fruit will you put on it?
  - a. Banana
  - b. Strawberries
  - c. No fruit
  - d. Raspberries
5. Want to add on some tasty extras?
  - a. M & M's
  - b. Graham cracker crumbs
  - c. Sprinkles
  - d. Chocolate Chips
6. What kind of sauce do you want on it?
  - a. Chocolate Sauce
  - b. Caramel Sauce
  - c. Strawberry Sauce
  - d. Hot Fudge
7. What finishing touch will you put on your sundae?
  - a. Whip cream
  - b. Cherry on top
  - c. Whip cream and a cherry
  - d. None for me!

RESULTS ON PG. 7

COUNT UP YOUR SCORE!

# Summer Fashion 2k19

By Brianna Jones and Cleo McGee



fashionnova

For the boys, Summer 2019 is about breaking out your comfort zone. Don't just stick with your typical plain t-shirts and shorts. This summer is all about switching things up with bright colors and unique patterns.

Summer is quickly approaching and with what little time we have left in school, it's time to show off your summer style.



dhgate



dresslily

For the ladies, summer 2019 is all about feminine dresses and two-piece outfits. Floral and checkered patterns are especially in this season. We also can't forget about the biker shorts! Try these under your short dresses or for the more daring look, or pair it with a crop top.



bate

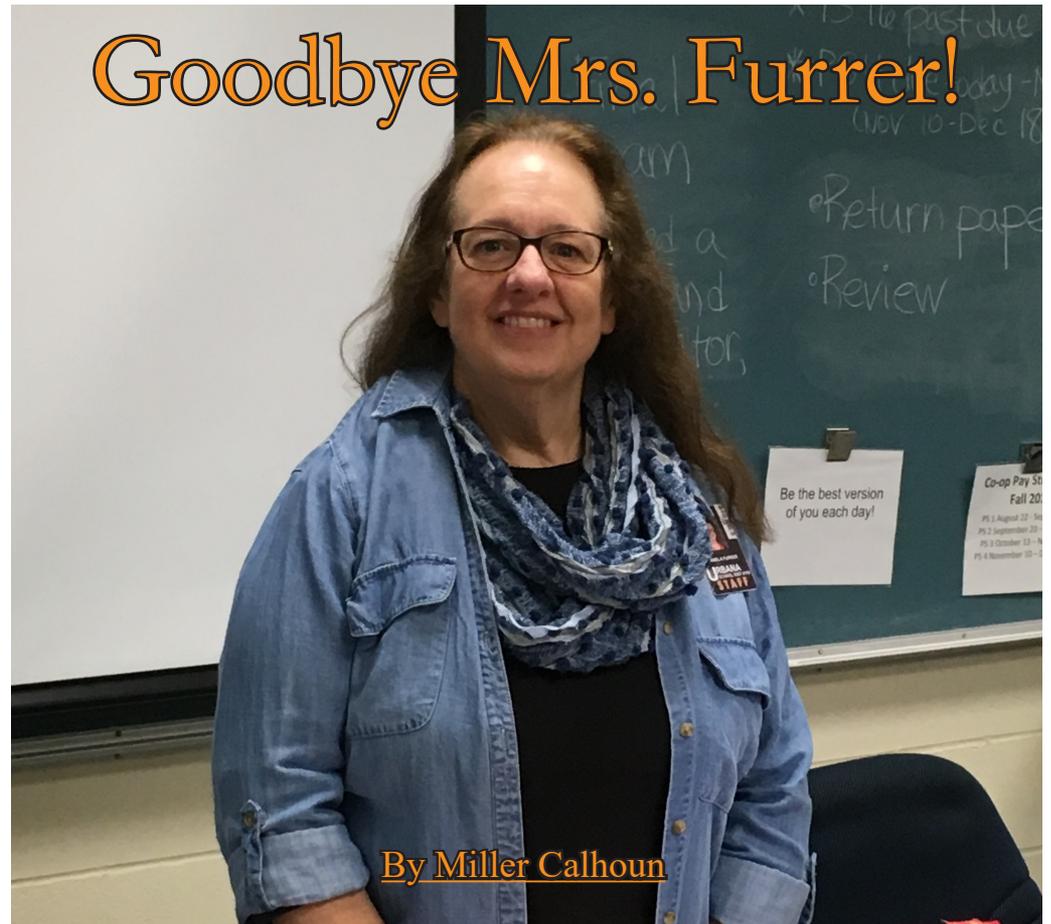


fashionnova



dhgate

## Goodbye Mrs. Furrer!



By Miller Calhoun

Urbana School District will be losing a tremendous teacher and a cornerstone of the middle school Family and Consumer Science and high school Career and Technical Education departments at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Pamela Furrer will be wrapping up her 15th and final year in the district, with 12 at the middle school and 3 at the high school. At UHS, she focused on running the CO-OP program where she assists students with job applications and teaches them the basics of being a trustworthy employee.

Furrer enjoyed seeing her students at their worksites and

improving in the classroom on a daily basis. One of her favorite memories is teaching a student at the middle school who happened to be very disruptive and rude and then seeing this same student in high school become one of her best students. The maturation process of students into young adults is something Furrer will reminisce about in her retirement.

Cleaning out her house, traveling, volunteering, and participating in her other hobbies are just a few things Furrer has planned for retirement, but the one thing she will not do is become a substitute teacher. She feels that she would be an "awful sub" and does not want

to get the added stress back from being a teacher.

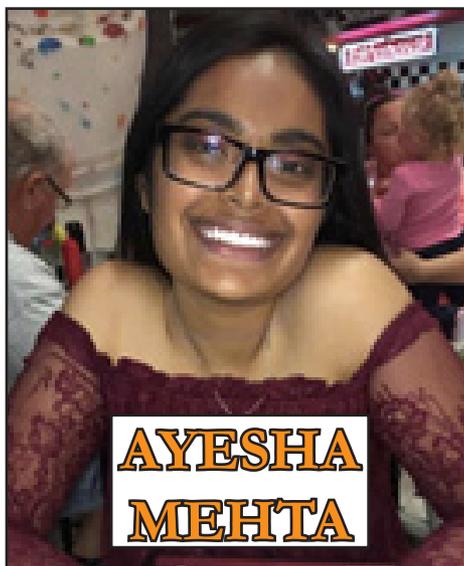
Overall, the daily interaction with students and coworkers along with the intellectual challenges of being a teacher is what Furrer feels she will lose heading into her retirement.

The one piece of advice Furrer has for future students of Urbana Middle School and High School is to "remember to be a person of good character" and the rest will take care of itself.

Good luck in retirement, Mrs. Furrer!



# Senior Goodbyes



I'm definitely ready to graduate, but there are lots of things I'll miss from UHS: my friends, teachers, and also writing for this newspaper.

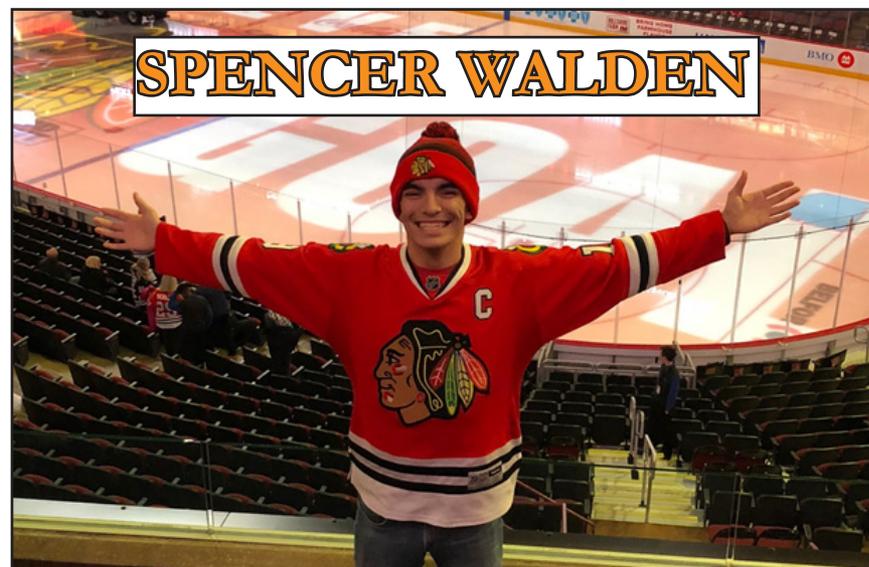
One of my highlights of the year was making it to state in two categories, my first (and sadly

last), year ever competing.

Journalism was my favorite classes this year, and honestly The Echo was something that kept me motivated my senior year. High school was hard; I often felt discouraged by school, but being able to write about things I cared about weekly gave me hope, especially being able to be a part of a team documenting a year at Urbana with so many changes.

This fall I will be going to UIUC, and hopefully I will somehow be able to continue journalism in the future.

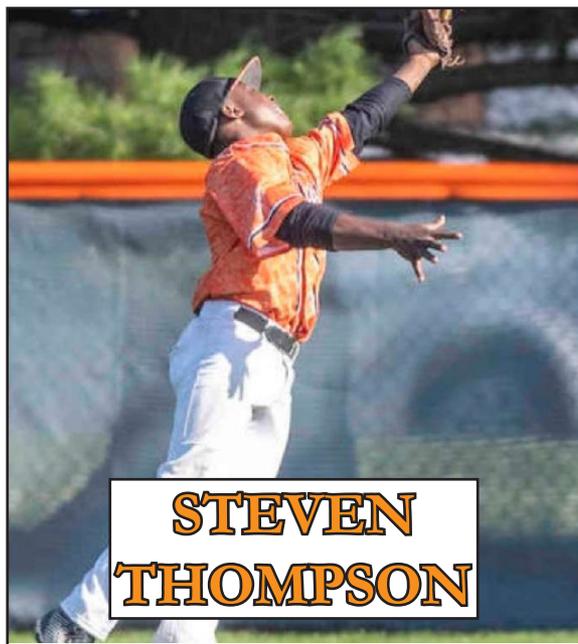
I wish the Echo the best in the future, and I'm very grateful for everything I've learned and all the memories.



One of my biggest regrets of high school is not joining the Echo earlier. I only joined for my senior year because I had a free period, but I'm really glad I did. English hasn't ever been my favorite subject in school (because of all the writing), but for some reason journalism just clicked. I think I enjoyed it more than english class because in journalism I get to write about things that interest me, like sports, the Tiger Marching Band, and what goes on at UHS.

Next year I will be attending the University of Illinois with Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Management as my major. I hope to somehow continue journalism in college, although I am hoping to get into the Marching Illini so I may be busy with band instead. Right now I hope to minor in music and journalism.

I will miss Urbana, but at the same time I will only be five minutes away for the next four years. Who knows, maybe I'll even come back and visit sometime.



In my four years at Urbana High School, I have broadcast many sports and announced starting lineups for more girls basketball games that I can

count. I have been a part of journalism and the broadcasting group for three years, which was the best decision I made in high school. Although I have been broadcasting since my freshman year, I can truly say that joining the Echo has helped me a lot in writing and editing articles and improving my broadcasting skills. I want to give a huge shout out to Ms. Tufano, the best journalism teacher I could ever ask for. I can truly say that she is a teacher who really cares about students and wants her students to be something in life.

I also want to thank Joey Wright for setting bars high in the broadcasting crew. We have come a long a way since my freshman year with Miller Calhoun doing a hell of a job filling in for Joey. We also can't forget about Michael Monreal coming in clutch, doing anything we asked him to do without questions.

In the fall, I will be attending Heartland Community College, where I will be playing baseball and majoring in Criminal Justice. I will always keep the Echo in my heart and for sure will be following all the broadcasts.

This is Stevie T saying good luck and goodbye. Oh yeah!!!



# Senior Goodbyes



With my time at UHS coming to an end, one of my biggest regrets was not joining journalism sooner (that, and predicting publicly that Oregon would make the college playoffs with their weak-back schedule).

This year has been so much fun mostly because I got to goof off with my friends (though I still did my work). It has been a great experience for me and I am so thankful that I decided to join. I just want to thank my journalism classmates and Tufano as well. This has been a great and I'm so thankful I got this experience.

In the future, I'm looking forward to getting out of here, though I'll probably be back to coach football and wrestling. For anyone who knew me back at Leal, this picture should bring back some memories.



I "joined" the Echo™ during the 2016-2017 school year. Every moment, every typo, every mistake, and everything has helped me gain the power and the skill to write on the level that I do.

Although I didn't win the sectional contests, I had a blast practicing for it and actually going on a field trip to the community college. It is unrealistically, mathematically,

mentally, medically impossible to express the good times I've had in this class. I may not have been on the class's roster but I felt the effect of the students who were. It affected me in a way I'll never forget. From Joey and Zoey to Lil' Steve and Big Steve, this class in this

period was epic.

In my future endeavors, I will be focused on writing short stories along with my graphic design major at Parkland College here in Champaign and later on to Full Sail University in the suburbs of Miami, Florida.

My name is Darian Younggren-Halliday and I have written for The Echo for three years. I have written a variety of stories for The Echo, but am most known for my features.

My years with The Echo have gone by fast but a highlight was definitely working with some talented broadcasters, such as Joey Wright and Jason Liggatt at UPTV.

To all of The Echo underclassmen, I wish you good endeavors. To those who aren't writing for The Echo, I question you on why you haven't joined The Echo yet. To Mrs. Tufano, thank you for supporting my writing. To my friends, thank you for support-

ing me. To all of those I have interviewed before, I truly thank you for giving me that experience!

I do not know where my future endeavors will lead me, but I may go into the Army or go to Parkland College to get a Music Education degree.

I wish all of you a great future! As Walt Disney once said, "If you can dream it, then do it!" (No, this does not apply to being a Unicorn, my future aspirations are up...just joking though)

But whatever you dream of, you can do that! Follow your dreams peeps!

## **Build a sundae quiz results!**

If you got mostly A's you should go camping!

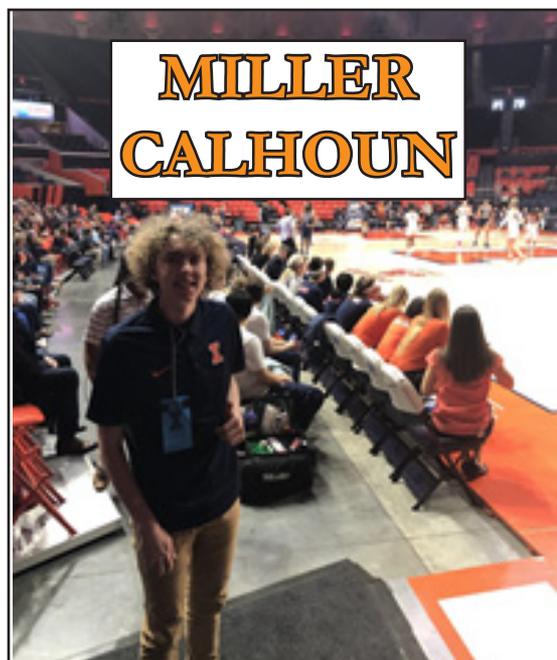
If you got mostly B's you should treat yourself!

If you got mostly C's you should finger paint!

If you got mostly D's you should host a summer party!



# Senior Goodbyes



**MILLER  
CALHOUN**

The Echo Newspaper, McKinley Field, Blackman Field, Oscar Adams Gymnasium, and the Smith Computer Lab will all hold a special place in my heart.

Although I was only in Journalism for two years in high school, it felt as if I was a part of this class for all four years with the countless broadcasts, multitude of stories, and endless conversations and memories I experienced within these walls. Specifically, I will always remember the soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, and baseball broadcasts I was a member of, switching from analyst to color commentator. I started broadcasting UHS sporting events before I was even in Journalism, with my first being a varsity boys basketball game against Peoria Notre Dame.

There will never be a limit to the amount of words that describe how grateful, appreciative, and thankful I am to have had the opportunity to join the best kept secret that nobody knows about in UHS: UHS Broadcasting Club.

I want to thank Ms. Tufano, first and foremost, for being an outstanding teacher and giving us the opportunity to express ourselves and make our own path. Also, her willingness to be flexible with me as an athlete and caring more about my performance than getting on my case over something I missed.

None of this would have been possible without our broadcasting producer, Jason Liggett, who I am honored to have worked with and gotten to know over these past three years. Although we have our differences (Go Brewers!), our love for sports and desire to increase viewership of UHS Athletics made ours a special connection.

Most people who have ever broadcasted know the toughest thing to do is perform a broadcast by yourself over a long period of time. Steven Thompson and Michael Monreal made sure that never happened and I am extremely grateful that they dedicated some of their free time to share their passion and knowledge about UHS Athletics with me on the mic.

Most of all, I want to thank the “Night Owl” and my original partner in crime, Joey Wright, because without him I probably never would have joined Journalism and never discovered my love for broadcasting. I know he is doing great things at Bradley and it was my honor to lead the UHS Broadcasting Club this year and who knows, maybe we’ll meet again some day, this time in a real booth.



**ZOE LAVIGNE**

I don’t really have the words to express what I feel, so I’ll keep this short. I’ve been in journalism for three years. Over the course of that time, I’ve found a passion, a career, and a future. I took this class

on a whim and ended up finding something I can see myself doing for the rest of my life. I’ve always loved to write and

I’m glad that I stumbled upon this class as it has led me to the next step in my life.

Thanks to Tufano for being the coolest teacher ever and not being mad at me when honestly you should have gotten mad at me a lot more. Thanks to Thomas for always making our shirts and always hyping me up at competitions. Also thanks to Ayesha and Molly for taking too many pointless BuzzFeed quizzes with me.

This is one of the best classes I’ve taken

at UHS and I’m going to miss it a lot. It’s more than just the field trips, competitions, and food Tufano brings in. The atmosphere of this class will be hard to replicate and I’m glad I had the opportunity to get to know the people in this class over the years and to have been a part of this community.

I will be going to the University of Illinois this fall and

majoring in Journalism. I am also pursuing a minor in Public Relations and possibly Communications or Creative Writing. I’m excited for the future, but I’ll also miss a lot of the friends I’ve made at UHS. However, I’m also ready to pass on the torch. Thanks for everyone who’s been a part of my life here and good luck next year!