

The 56th Street Journal

Veritas Preparatory Academy's Monthly Student Newspaper Volume 1, Issue 1
October 2017

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Homecoming 2017!



Teacher of the Month: Mr. Paul Boyer

By: Megan Forrester



On deciding our teacher of the month for the very first issue, we thought we should not go any farther than our sponsor of the club, Mr. Paul Boyer.

Outside of being a Humane Letters teacher, Mr. Boyer is a state representative in legislative district 20, as
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Mock Trial "Empire" Competition

By: Abby Kaup

What do you get when you combine 300 pages of case law, only 80 days to prepare and 8 passionate lawyers?

A diligent mock trial team eager to represent Veritas at the 2017 Empire Mock Trial Competition in San Francisco, California. Veritas has competed in the annual Mock trial season for two years now. However, the Empire mock trial competition differs as it is a rare opportunity because each team must submit an application and be accepted into the program.

The Veritas Mock Trial team decided to apply to the Empire Mock Trial Competition and we are extremely grateful to have been accepted. Through this experience we hope to hone our skills in the courtroom and better prepare for the 2017-2018 mock trial season.

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Teacher of the Month, continued from page 1

well as the Chairman of the Arizona House Education Committee. But, he never thought he was going to be involved in politics.

“That [politics] was the last thing I ever imagined doing,” Boyer says. “I thought I was either going to be a journalist or a pastor.”

Mr. Boyer is considering running for the State Senate, but is quite pleased with where he is now.

“I really believe that I can do and have done a lot of good in my time at the state legislature and until I think otherwise I am going to continue there,” Boyer says. “More importantly, I love teaching here. This is my love and the legislature is my labor.”

Mr. Boyer came into the Great Hearts community with the intention of receiving a communications job. However, the Arizona Constitution states that an elected official cannot also act as a city, state, or county employee at the same time. There is one exception- to be a teacher.

“I brought in the Arizona Constitution to my interview and stated that 51 percent of my job has to be teaching,” he says. “They offered me a position to teach and I loved teaching so much that I never decided to even try the communications job.”

Mr. Boyer relates the challenges of teaching to Plato’s Republic, when Socrates discusses the art of *techne*, to get the students to turn towards being.

“How do you get a class of 20-25 students to desire and want to learn? You want students to write well, to think well, to speak well through the discussion of great texts. Getting them [students] to love learning as much as you do- that’s hard.”

Although there are many challenging aspects of teaching, Mr. Boyer says when those goals are fulfilled, that is the most rewarding part.

“When you see the lightbulb and it actually clicks with

a student and you can see it on their face- either when they are excited about something in history or a passage in *The Republic*-that’s pretty cool,” he says with a smile.

Even though Mr. Boyer loves to spend his free time outdoors, specifically rock climbing and hiking the Grand Canyon, having done rim-to-rim six times, his true passion is reading.

“I am always reading something. In fact, I went to a boxing match the other night and everyone made fun of me because I brought Cicero’s *On Duties*,” Boyer says. “I love talking about good ideas- it’s not just here at Veritas, but outside here too.”

Favorite word: discombobulated

Least favorite word: moist

Have dinner with anyone famous living or dead:

Socrates

If you could attempt any profession either than your own: writer

Favorite quote: “...their [children] not being set free until we establish a regime in them as in a city, and until - having cared for the best part of them with the like in ourselves - we establish a similar guardian and ruler in them to take our place; only then, do we set them free.” (*The Republic* 590e-591a)

Mock Trial “Empire” Competition, continued from page 1

We will be competing with teams from all over the world- teams right in our backyard (California), and teams all the way from Hong Kong. We will face teams who have a legacy and have been competing for years.

Although our team is fairly new to the mock trial world we have one advantage over all the other teams: our education as Veritas students. Each of us have been taught critical thinking skills through the Socratic method of teaching at Veritas. Critical thinking skills are essential to being successful in the courtroom, just as they are in the classroom. In trial, you constantly have to think on your feet and respond to the opposing

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Mock Trial “Empire” Competition, continued from page 2

side’s arguments. There is no one there whom you can rely on to tell you the answer.

We have been preparing vigorously since July, putting in countless hours to understand and articulate an extremely complex case. However, none of this would be possible without our two phenomenal coaches, Judge Pamela and Bill Gates, who are practically celebrities in the mock trial world. As if their jobs weren’t demanding enough, they show up to every practice and dedicate their time to help us improve. Their role in this team is invaluable and should not go unrecognized.

On October 6th, we will be headed to San Francisco to seek justice and truth in a 3-day trial, and hopefully win glory for the Veritas Falcons.



Homecoming Football Game

Veritas v. Bisbee



2017 Varsity Volleyball Team

By: Emily Gates

Bump, Set, Spike!

The girl's varsity volleyball team is smoking the competition this year with their outstanding performance. The Falcons are 6-0 so far this season and continue to spread their contagious falcon spirit.

The team is deep with talented players that bring positivity to every match. The team consists of: Julia Sharko, FR, Claire Orkild, JR, Johnna Godzich, JR, Katie Coulter, SR, Tia Hamann, SR, Ellie Coulter, SO, Jessi Medlin, SO, Grace Khan, JR, Emily Lytle, JR, Sara Frankowski, SO, Averi Miller, SO, and Jacalyn Sharko, SR.

Averi Miller, a setter/right side, gave some insight into the team behind the Falcon blue jerseys and the roughed up kneepads.

She credited the Veritas varsity volleyball coach, Emily Lindley, for creating "a family like relationship" among the players and coaches.

Miller stated that one of the highlights about playing for Veritas is the motivation she receives from her fellow teammates even though it's not as glamorous as it may seem to be one of the volleyball elite at Veritas.

The players have a rigorous schedule of weight lifting, two hours of practice, and the heavy load of homework that the Veritas curriculum entails.

The Falcons are on track this year to make the state play offs and to bring home a championship. If you'd like to see them in action you can catch one of their games. The dates and times are available on the veritas website. Go Falcons!

Young Artists Exchange Project

By: Lilly Golich

In the summer of 2017, four Veritas students were selected as youth ambassadors for the life-changing summer exchange program run through Phoenix Sister Cities. And this summer, if you're a current sophomore or junior, that could be you!

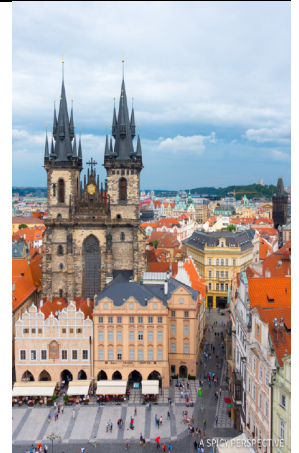
This summer Lauren Cashdan (senior) traveled to Himeji, Japan. Beck Kinerk (junior) spent the month of June in beautiful Catania, Italy, which Vergil describes as the land of the cyclops. Jackson Young (junior) experienced the culture of Taipei's capital city, Taiwan, and I, Lilly Golich (junior) spent half of the best summer of my life in Prague, Czech Republic.

Phoenix joined President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Sister City movement in 1972, and as a nonprofit has been building international relationships for over 40 years!



As of 2017, Phoenix has over 10 Sister Cities:

1. Calgary, Canada
2. Catania, Italy
3. Chengdu, China
4. Ennis, Ireland
5. Grenoble, France
6. Hermosillo, Mexico
7. Himeji, Japan
8. Prague, Czech Republic
9. Ramat-Gan, Israel
10. Taipei, Taiwan



However, it's not just the incredible cities which participants travel to that make this program so extraordinary.

According to the Phoenix Sister Cities mission statement, the program "exists to create people to people relationships between the residents of Phoenix and its

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Young Artists Exchange Project, continued from page 4
sister cities through commercial, educational, cultural, and artistic exchange programs and events that create and sustain global, long-term, international partnerships and business opportunities for the citizens of Phoenix.”

The Youth Ambassador Exchange Program is a six-week reciprocal exchange program. So while three of those weeks are spent abroad with a host family, the other three are spent in Phoenix hosting your foreign counterpart, and spending time with all the other U.S. and international ambassadors.

Everyone wants to go abroad, and that part is definitely amazing. But, as a former participant, I can honestly say that being back in Phoenix and getting to know everyone was equally incredible if not more so. I wouldn't give up the friendships I made in July for anything. That's why I recommend this program so highly.

Applications open online in October at phoenixsistercities.org and if you want to know more, Phoenix Sister Cities is hosting an informational YAEP preview night November 6, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the City Council Chambers downtown. I hope to see some Veritas students there!



Homecoming Dance 2017 Under the Misty Seas

