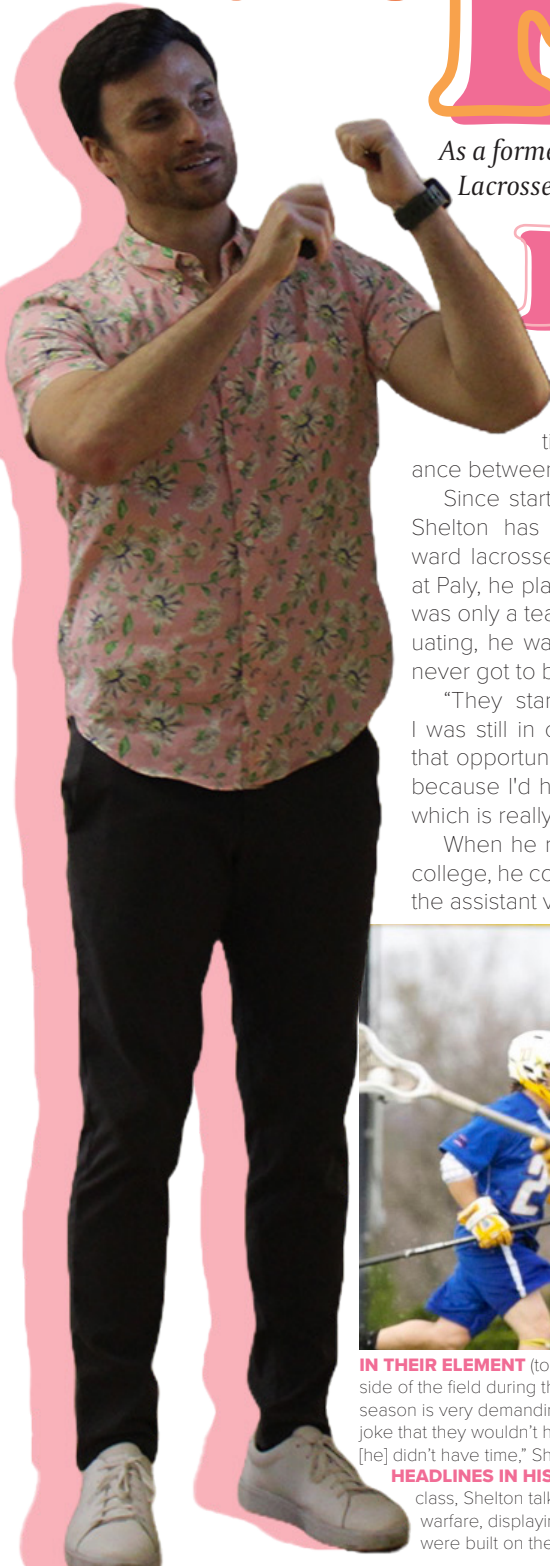


# ON and OFF the FIELD

Design by Hope Van Riesen



As a former Division 3 lacrosse player, history teacher DJ Shelton balances life being both a Lacrosse coach and History teacher.

From the early days of tossing a lacrosse ball with friends at school to coaching a high school lacrosse team while also teaching history classes, DJ Shelton's story is a combination of lacrosse dreams, teaching ambition, and the balance between both passions.

Since starting in fifth grade, Shelton has had a drive toward lacrosse. During his time at Paly, he played in a club as there was only a team for girls. After graduating, he was disappointed as he never got to be on an official team as a Viking.

"They started [a men's team] in 2010 when I was still in college," Shelton said. "I didn't have that opportunity, which is kind of a mixed blessing because I'd have to deal with creating a program which is really hard."

When he returned from playing D3 lacrosse in college, he coached in Mountain View for a year as the assistant varsity coach. To further his career, he

accepted an offer to take over the Paly Lacrosse team from the coach who started the program.

As he began to balance lacrosse and teaching history, he realized the time that was required.

"Running a program is very, very time-consuming," Shelton said. "Over a three-week period, I was spending almost twice as much time on coaching lacrosse as I was teaching in terms of classroom time and grading time."

After years spent balancing being a teacher and a coach Shelton realized that he didn't have the time for both. He felt it wasn't respectful to his students to spend so much time on something that wasn't his primary job.

This led Shelton to stop coaching at Paly after the 2021-2022 season. Although his time coaching at a high school has ended, he currently does some private coaching as well as playing on a local men's team. This has allowed him to continue his passion for teaching while continuing lacrosse.

Story by Helena Gonzalez Bondalowski

That was a dream of mine was to be able to play in college."

DANIEL SHELTON



**IN THEIR ELEMENT** (top) DJ Shelton shouts to his players on the side of the field during their game against Los Gatos High School. The season is very demanding for Shelton and his "friends would always joke that they wouldn't hear from [him] from January to May because [he] didn't have time," Shelton said.

**HEADLINES IN HISTORY** (cutout) Teaching in a freshmen history class, Shelton talks about the World War I stalemate and trench warfare, displaying different types of trenches and how they were built on the screen behind him.



**AS FAST AS YOU CAN** (left) Shelton runs across the lacrosse field with his D3 Lacrosse teammates around him, leading by 6 points. "That's another part that I left [coaching], I wanted to be able to still play," Shelton said.

**HUDDLE UP** (right) Shelton kneels down around his team at the conclusion of their game on the lacrosse field. He is surrounded by his players, his assistant coach, shadows behind him.

Photos courtesy of DJ Shelton and Edison Yoshinaga

# spin n' STYLE

With dancing as a hobby and teaching English as her job, Alanna Williamson is a busy woman. Oh, and by the way, she also teaches the dance team.

Photos courtesy of Hope Van Riesen



How did you get into dancing?

I've been dancing since I was three... growing up, I was on a competitive dance team at a studio and I eventually joined my high school dance team.

Qa



**STEP TO THE SPIRIT** (left) On Fridays after school, the dance team practices for a couple hours, starting with dance-oriented exercises to get warmed up. "The dance team is a competitive sport, but we are also spirit leaders on campus," Alanna Williamson said. "We perform at rallies and I really love the school spirit...it's nice to be connected."

**ANALYSIS IN AP LANG** (right) In 7th period AP English Language, Williamson passes around a yarn ball nicknamed "Jimmy" and shares from her journal before diving into rhetorical analysis and syntax. "English is something I love to do for work," Williamson said. "I love to help [my students] talk about books and analyze and be a support system [for them]."

What's your favorite part about being able to coach and teach?

They balance each other out really well. It's really nice when teaching can be exhausting to have the dance team to balance that exhaustion out, and sometimes it's vice versa.

Qa

What's different between your English and dance students?

I get to know my dance athletes so much better than I get to know my students in class because we spend so much time together. It's also a different relationship, like they [the dancers] call me by my first name and it's more casual... it's really about your emotions and your personal growth.

Qa

What is it like to work with your father as your football coach?

It's a cool experience for him coaching me because we can have different perspectives on things, and we can talk about it at practice and at home."

JEREMIAH FUNG (25')



**FAMILY PHOTO** (top) Jason Fung shares a postgame moment with his family. "In everything I've done leading up to this point, it's very exciting," he said. "It's something I've envisioned for a long time and seeing my own kids come through the school that I went to, that my wife went to...it's like a generational thing."

**BROS BEFORE FOES** (right) Quarterback Justin Fung celebrates after throwing a pass to his wide receiver brother, Jeremiah, who scored the first touchdown of the game. "Growing up, I've always been playing with them [Justin and my dad]," Jeremiah said. "Finally getting to play with them in an actual organized team sport was pretty cool because it's very rare to see that."

# like FATHER like SONS

Photos courtesy of Jeremiah and Jason Fung



P.E. teacher Jason Fung comes back to coaching the football team to work with his sons, freshman quarterback Justin Fung and junior wide receiver Jeremiah Fung.