

# THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Olympian

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## *Senior Issue 2024*





# Class of 2024 heads off to the future!

**Arizona State University**  
Nathaniel Joseph, Karis Kan

**Arkansas State University - Beebe**  
Dominic Pairis

**Aviation Institute of Maintenance**  
David Iniguez

**Boston College**  
Esaias Goodwin

**Bowie State University**  
Faith Anderson

**Brown University**  
Emily Lee

**Chabot College**  
Aidan Abe-Cerezo, Eduardo Acosta, Melissa Arroyo, Precious Bandiola, Darius Barnes, Ka'Leigh Beck, Jesse Bystedt, Enzo Castilho, Kylie Chandler, Becky Chen, Christopher Dalby, Crestiano Delgado, Emma Dugan, Ezra Elyas, Kai Emerson, Manuel Enriquez, Kyle Faris, Carlos Fernandez, James Fitzgerald, Makena Flowers, Natalie Gonsalves, Edward Greene, Manuel Guerrero, Jiaxuan Huang, Fnu Ishant, Rishi Jadav, Nathan Jew, Naara Jimenez Mendez, Lillyanna Klepatsky, Ayden Kovacs, Kenneth Krainski, Garrett Liang, Katie Liang, Juan López Gómez, Deanna Mallari, Austin Martin, Jordan Martins, Aaron McMurrian, Akaila Mello, Ashley Mendez, Marissa Meza, Stephen Mikowski, Elijah Montalvo, Sean O’Gorman, Jeremy Ochoa, Sara Odeh, Michael Olsen, Juan Orozco-Sanchez, Olivia Ortega, Josephine Paik, Isabella Pearson, David Pedroni, Toni Perez, Emma Pham, Isabella Pimentel, Carmina Cassandra Quebral, Summer Renslow, Angelina Rivas, Alejandro Rodriguez, Christopher Rodriguez, Abigail Romero Maciel, Arianna Rosillo-Rivera, Melanie Saldivar, Daniel Salinas, Alix Sanders, Zackery Smith, Rosemary Sontag, Aidan Spence, Evan Sta. Maria, Daniel Teplov, Andrew Thrash, Devon Torrey, Nayeli Ulloa, Sophia Urbach, Andres Verdugo, Jackson Wallace, David Welch, Brian Xie, Usukherdene Yeruult, Janice Zeng, Junwei Zhang, Andrei Zhuze

**City College of San Francisco**  
Dom Chatman, Leah McCollister-Papp, Amanda Rodas, Jackie Tang

**College of Alameda**  
Nathan Foidl

**College of San Mateo**  
Camila Chávez, Nicole Guzman, Margarita Sanchez

**Concordia University, Irvine**  
Jaidyn Torres

**Cornell University**  
Clare Chung

**CSU Chico**  
Kaz Cheung, Jason Steele, William Tran

**CSU East Bay**  
Yosef Alfawadeleh, Madilyn Allen, Gabriela Arechiga, Lauren Au, JaKai Bell, Austin Bolender, Jordan Crisolo, Miguel Datu, Sevag Hakimian, Nayef Jaber, Carson Jager, Madhav Kochhar, Kaitlyn Lady, Archer Nelson, Lina Nguyen, Ethan Nguyen, Isabella Omori, Lilia Poon, Adim Rai, Cristina Rodrigues, Elias Saleh, Tasha Schauer, Joanna Shafer, Ava Thomas, Arianna Van Kleeck, Nathan Yamamoto

**CSU Fresno**  
Michaela (Kylie) Giannecchini, Adrian Mendoza, Carmen Ocampo

**CSU Fullerton**  
Cassandra Antinero, Camile Arre, Gina Chuong, Justine Fong, Brianna Garcia, Tyler Hummer, Andrew Lee, Jordan-Alyssa Liwanag, Nathaniel Yee

**CSU Humboldt (Cal Poly)**  
Rosalyn Luong

**CSU Long Beach**  
Ryan Barouki, Alyssa Chen, Jaden Kwock, Maggie Liu, Avery Sein, Nico Silva

**CSU Monterey Bay**  
Isabella Bustamante, Ailana Frey, Josh Hoops-Rogers, Lucas Parra, Angel Smith, Kobe Thomas

**CSU Pomona (Cal Poly)**  
Nicole Dong, Alvin Lau, Bryan Lin, Sofie Ortiz, Vilius Staraitis, Issac Tam, Sarah To

**CSU Sacramento**  
Christina Gaxiola, Sparkle Hicks, Dasia Medley, Elijah Schult, Michael Walker

**CSU San Bernardino**  
Kimberly Rivera

**CSU San Diego**  
Ella Barrios, Quentin Hansen, Riley LaRosa, Natalli Mishreky, Somaya Panjwani, Riley Parnell, Scarlett Sims, Gabriel Soubra, Paul Vilcheck

**CSU San Francisco**  
Danielle Brown, Isabella (Lilith) Castaneda, Gianna Gee, Adam McNabney, Salma Messaoudi, Bella Treloar, Julie Yee

**CSU San Jose**  
Ajibola Ajiboye, Owen Benson, Ally Castro, Jack Chen, Erica Chen Chen, Joshua Choy, Ava Cristobal, Nathaniel de la Torre, Logan Gee, Audrey Guth, Dylan Huang, Qixin (Winny) Huang, Alex Hurley, Roane Kelly, Matthew Kim, Natalie Kwan, Michael Lac, Kenny Li, Natalie Ma, Isabella Mangundayao, Elinor Matyovits Barrero, Oryna Myrhorodska, Max Ngan, James Ngov, Anthony Ouch, Meliani Ramos, Salvador Rosas, Charley Sanders, Ekam Sandhu, Scotland Shen, Alexia Suciu, Marcus Thai, Ryan Thlang, Tyler Wang, Danny Wu, Latisha Wu, Emily Xu, Liam Young, Aidan Zheng

\*This list is from a senior survey and is not a complete reflection

**CSU San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly)**  
Vera Beck, Kyle Giammalvo, Lillian Horne, Gavin Huynh, Hanna Losinski, Michael Ly, Jesymae Olympia, Alyssa Oum, Margot Peterson, Wyatt Traski, Haoyang Zhang

**CSU Sonoma**  
Emily Carr, Christopher Claas, Natalie Jaime, Gisele Lafon, Katarina Rolf

**CU Boulder**  
Zander Trafton-Hancock

**Cuesta Community College**  
Diego Anguiano

**Diablo Valley College**  
Shannon Ball, Jayden Chung, Anika Fuhrman, Eric-Giulio Hedes, Maya Navasero, Diego Perez, Noura Rabah, Brooke Robinson, Evan Swartz, Sean Trinidad, Bailey Zweifel

**Flight School**  
Aimee Schmidt

**FlySchool Air Academy Cuatro Vientos, Madrid**  
Lucas Menéndez Gómez

**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
Linus Nagata

**Grand Canyon University**  
Emily Dorn

**Harvard College**  
Dan Nguyen

**Howard University**  
Catalina Baldwin

**Laney College**  
Jace Carden, Lanai Windsong

**Las Positas College**  
Ruben Aguirre, Kristine Alcocer, Alyseah Andrade, Alec Balica, Nayeli Barajas, Nathan Blumberg, Preston Boyd, Jase Brede, Ansel Burnama, Nicolas Colmenares, Valerie Corona, Maxwell Deene, Hannah Margaret Domingo, Annelise Drouet, Carolina Flores, Jessica Fong, Jaelyn Garcia, Nikesh Gautam, Lily Hammermeister, Kate Hinrichsen, Anthony Kleinschmidt, Gabriel Leyton, Matthew Mac Leod, Jaylin Mccombs, William McMurray, Alex Min, Allison Mitchell, Miyuki Miyahira, Vedika Naiker, Jacob Oh, Mario Perez, Darius Pesic, Haseeb Rashid, Aiden San Julian, Estefano Sanchez Garcia, Miguel Sevilla, Kari Xian, Caleb Yi

**Louisiana State University**  
Niyah Barber

**McGill University**  
Jad Yehia

**Military - Air Force**  
Aiden Anguiano, Qiomy Espinoza, Blake Larkin, Ava Rardin

**Military - Army**  
Ivan Pan

**Military - Coast Guard**  
Gabriel Alvino  
**Military - Marines**  
Adrian Dueñas, Seborá Harten, Gabe Marchbank, Alvaro Yanez

**Military - Navy**  
Romeo Dunning, Olivia Martinez

**Minerva University**  
Dianne Jin

**Montana State University**  
Phoebe Bruns

**New York University**  
Tien Nguyen

**Northeastern University**  
Connor Ni

**Nursing School**  
Jason Sanchez

**Ohlone College**  
Avery Bland, Londyn Potter, Ethan Wei

**Oregon State University**  
Samantha O’Brien

**Pace University**  
Carlos Sanchez

**Paul Mitchell (Beauty School)**  
Alexis Dones

**Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts**  
Emon Dost

**Pitzer College**  
Tatum Peterson

**Portland State University**  
Oli Baker

**Santa Barbara City College**  
Emilia Donovan, Arianna Erickson

**Santa Clara University**  
Tzintzuni Tohlakai

**Savannah College of Art and Design**  
Dae Fernandes

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago**  
Olivia Sharkey

**Simmons University**  
Lena Dempsey

**Sophia University, Japan**  
Adan Shiga

**Texas Southern University**  
Sanai Colver

**UC Berkeley**  
Ava Alburo, Lucas Chang, Heidi Chen, Wendy Lin, Lauren Mac, Andrew Mitsuyoshi, Lynne Ozawa, Alexa Piscil, Lauren Seiji, Dhruv Shah, Nikolas Sommerhalter, Santiago Soto, Porter Tien, Arianna Villarreal, Mark Zaydman

**UC Davis**  
Melissa Boussaroque, Ethan Dinh, Amani El-Sheikh, Goran Fehimovic, Emma Graw, Ernest Hang, Brady Hogan, Ashley Huang, Kelsey Huang, Lim Kaden, Subhi Karki, Zoe

Lawrence, Melody Liu, Erin McGowan, Jishnu Sanyal, Greyson Scaboo, Xander Shih, Lauren Siopack, Zoey Yu

**UC Irvine**  
Ian Choo, Kyle Gard, Clarisse Hernadez, Sidney Ho, Hannah Kinsley, Rolan Kosciusko, Stephanie Lin, Nicole Mendiola, Megan Sin, Ashley Tan, Emma Wallace-Wilmot, Kevin Wang, Lukas Winn, Angelina Xie, Madelyn Zavala

**UC Los Angeles**  
Rachel Koo, Lillian Sequeira, Kaitlyn Tchang, Austin Xie

**UC Merced**  
Rhea Acholkar, Hyunsuh Kim, Angel Lau, Raimund Warbasse

**UC Riverside**  
Isabel Chaiyasith, Andrew Fong, Maximus Leung, Joshua Mak, Luis Ochea, Jalen Tran

**UC San Diego**  
Malik Wu

**UC Santa Barbara**  
Tomi Chen, Natalya DelaCerde, Wilson Lee

**UC Santa Cruz**  
Shannan Chan, Naira Curiman, Ella Donovan, Annabelle Everson, Kylie Henrick, Mackenzie Hespelt, Jayden Ho, Dylan Hummer, Conner Kim, Katella Lazaro, Haylie Masilang, Sydney No, Richard Paseman, Laurel Ramsdell, Madeline Ramsdell, Benjamin Rogge, Chloe Smith, Julian Tran, Ryan Widdel, Kalaya Williams, Sofia Núñez

**UNC at Chapel Hill**  
Akshay Gupta

**Universidad Carlos III (Madrid, Spain)**  
Alberto Rodriguez Utrilla

**University of Hawaii, Manoa**  
Owen Santiago

**University of Houston**  
Sabrina Chu

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
Daniil Novak

**University of Nevada, Reno**  
Payton Pacheco, Joshua Mitchell

**University of Oregon**  
Camden Heuer, Nicolas Bucuroaia, Cassidy Cu, Shayley Stirtz, Manav Patel

**University of Portland**  
Emily Acevedo Sahagun

**University of San Francisco**  
Annabella Torres, Alex Alejandre

**University of Southern California**  
Samuel Hiester

**Utah State University**  
Bella Moran

**West Virginia Wesleyan**  
Katrina Longoria



# Seniors pursue diverse pathways



Jad Yehia  
International

Jad Yehia is excited to attend McGill University in Canada for the next four years.

“The quality of education is similar, but it is cheaper,” said Yehia.

Yehia did a lot of research into options here in the US but also over the border.

“It was a very hard choice, moving away from everyone, it’s very adventurous living in a different country,” Yehia said.

However, it won’t be his first time living in Canada. Yehia is a Canadian citizen and he lived there for a little bit of time when he was younger.

“Canada is not that different from the US, but the colleges are more urban than the ones in the US,” he said.

Yehia explained, he is looking forward to city life, though he mentioned that he is prepared to deal with snow and doesn’t mind shoveling it. Two things he wanted to tell students at CVHS are “don’t stress out over college,” and “AP exams are overrated.”



Alexa Piscil  
UC

Alexa Piscil will be attending UC Berkeley next year to major in bioengineering.

“I didn’t want to go out of state, and my mom and I both liked the idea of going to a UC,” said Piscil.

After getting admitted to several other schools such as UC Davis and UC Irvine, she ultimately decided on Berkeley.

Piscil likes the stand-out diversity that comes with UC Berkeley; students throughout California and even out of state are encouraged to apply to Berkeley.

After attending UC Berkeley’s “Cal Day” for admitted students, Piscil is especially interested in their bioengineering program, as she said that the program “isn’t big but it’s a very tight-knit community.” The program is also good for her major.

After college, Piscil has a few pathways that she can take, including public health and biology, but it will ultimately be left open as she continues to pursue higher education.



Arianna Rosillo Rivera  
Community college

Arianna Rosillo Rivera looks forward to the next two years at Chabot College.

“My reason for picking community college is because I’m not sure what I want to do yet,” said Rivera. “I feel like going to a four year college right away and spending a lot of money for being unsure of what I want my career to be wouldn’t be a very smart financial decision on my part.”

At Chabot, Rivera is excited for the music program as she plans to transfer with an associate’s in music composition. She also plans to join choir and other clubs that allow her to connect with others through art.

Overall, Rivera is happy with her post-high school decision.

“I feel like community college gets a bad rep for being an option, when you can get into an even better school,” she explained. “I would also avoid burnout in the best way, transitioning slowly from a community college into a four year university.”



Aimee Schmidt  
Flight school

Aimee Schmidt plans to attend flight school after high school.

“I’ve wanted to be a pilot for a while now,” she explained. “I’ve always known that I want to travel the world and I think getting paid would be a good way to do it.”

One perk of attending flight school is that Schmidt will be able to graduate with a private pilot license in just nine months.

“Then, I can work through that company as a certified flight instructor until I’m old enough to be a commercial pilot,” she said.

Her love for planes has developed over time. At CVHS, working on cars in the auto class cemented her determination to one day be a pilot.

Additionally, outside of school, “I’ve done a couple discovery flights to see if I like it,” Schmidt said.

She cannot wait to pursue her passion and start working towards her future career, flying around the world.



Dae Fernandes  
Art school

Dae Fernandes looks forward to attending the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia next fall.

Her choice to attend an art school was motivated by a desire to “be surrounded by creatives like me.”

“I’m looking forward to developing new skills,” said Fernandes.

One benefit of attending an art school is, of course, the focus on studying and developing career skills in art and design.

“They have more opportunities to do things related to your field,” Fernandes explained.

At the same time, she also enjoys how students have freedom to explore other pursuits: “You don’t need to stick to one thing; you can move around a little bit.”

Fernandes plans to focus on design, specifically in user experience, user interface, and graphic design, and hopes to one day work as a user experience designer.



Logan Lei Chong  
CSU

Logan Lei Chong cannot wait to attend San Jose State University next fall.

SJSU is an excellent college for Lei Chong’s interests and major.

“I am majoring in computer engineering,” Lei Chong explained. “SJSU is in the heart of Silicon Valley, and that valley is one of the most economical places on Earth.”

At the same time, its proximity to Castro Valley is a plus: “it is not that far but also not that close to home,” he said.

Additionally, in terms of academics, SJSU has a “really good engineering program” that he is excited to attend. Lei Chong hopes this will help prepare him for his future career in computer engineering.

Besides taking classes, Lei Chong, who currently serves as a captain of the CVHS badminton team, looks forward to participating in college activities.

“I am most excited about joining the badminton team [at SJSU],” he said.



Zander Trafton-Hancock  
ROTC

Zander Trafton-Hancock is excited to go into the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corp after graduating high school (NROTC).

“Since I was a young child I’ve always wanted to put my life into protecting others and saving lives,” he reflected. “Going into the Navy will allow me to protect the lives of people all around the world.”

Many financial benefits come with the NROTC program, including \$160,000 of paid college tuition and a guaranteed military officer job after college.

“I will earn about \$98,000 yearly, plus benefits. After four years of service I go into the reserves where I can work on getting my masters degree while being paid by the Navy.”

After going through the whole program, Trafton-Hancock is contemplating between two different routes for his future: staying in the Navy or pursuing a corporate tech job. He is also considering pursuing music, as it is one of his “main passions in life.”



Cassidy Cu  
Recruited athlete

Cassidy Cu is thrilled to be attending the University of Oregon next year as a D1 athlete in the acrobatics and tumbling program.

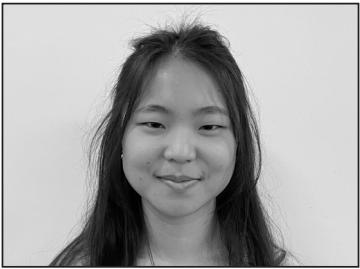
“I’ve done this sport for my whole life, and after going on a recruitment trip I really liked the program,” said Cu.

She has been training in acrobatics for over ten years now, and has even won a gold medal in the world championship. Several schools wanted to recruit her, but Oregon stood the most out to her.

“The school has really good academics, and the sports program specifically focuses on your academics. I also got a really good scholarship,” added Cu.

After taking a break from the sport this year, Cu is excited to return to it next year, as well as pursue her other career plans for the future.

“I was accepted into the Business major, but I really loved my marketing class this year so I’m also thinking of going into marketing,” said Cu.



Emily Lee  
Private university

Emily Lee is excited to attend Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island next year.

“I wanted room to explore, and I felt like going to a public school, it [would be] harder for me to explore and that’s why I chose a private [school],” she explained.

One benefit of attending Brown is its open curriculum, meaning Lee will not have to take requirements to graduate, just requirements for the major she chooses.

For instance, “I’m interested in engineering, but I never got to really take it at [high] school,” Lee stated. “So now I can take it in my first year because I don’t need to meet other requirements.”

Lee looks forward to exploring future pursuits in her next four years at university.

“I’m definitely headed towards either computational biology or biomedical engineering for a career,” she said. “But again, it really depends after I take classes, see what I like, and learn more about the subject.”



Olivia Gerasimov  
Gap year

Olivia Gerasimov looks forward to taking a gap year after high school before committing to a college.

“I want to work on my health, both mentally and physically, before I go on to college,” she said on her choice to take a gap year.

She is excited to be able to spend more time hiking outdoors and with family. Gerasimov also hopes to get a job and begin researching more into her future plans of becoming a dietitian.

“I am planning on doing community [college], and then UC Davis is good for a dietitian’s program, so I’m thinking that [I’ll transfer there],” she explained.

After many consecutive years of schooling, a gap year is an excellent option for seniors who want to rest and prepare before diving into college.

“It’s a nice break because you’ve been in school for 13 years,” Gerasimov said. “I just don’t want to jump into school again after all that.”



# These stunning seniors brought you the news!



## Kaitlyn Tchang

Kaitlyn Tchang has been with *The Olympian* for two years, serving as staff writer and now editor-in-chief. She has thoroughly enjoyed writing and editing stories, working with her fellow student journalists, and interviewing people in and around the community. She has written articles covering topics ranging from the CV Visual Impairment and Wellness Center programs to soccer and voting for the first time. One of her most memorable experiences was interviewing KQED journalist Mina Kim and gaining insights about working in the journalism industry. She is excited to attend UCLA studying political science in the fall.



## Melissa Boussaroque

Melissa Boussaroque joined *The Olympian* in her sophomore year as a staff writer. Since then, she has served as Arts and Entertainment Editor, and is currently editor-in-chief. In her highly enjoyable three years, she has explored several topics, such as gender inequality, course reviews, and breakfast. She also enjoys creating graphics and funky banners, as well as laying out pages for the print issues. She is very grateful for all the friends she has made in her three years in journalism. She is incredibly thrilled to spend her next four years at UC Davis, studying mathematics with a focus on secondary education. Peace out girl scouts!



## Shannan Chan

Shannan Chan has been with *The Olympian* for the past two years, starting off as a staff writer junior year and currently being Feature Editor. All she really does is cover features, but has covered all topics, sports being her second favorite to write about. Despite complaining about InDesign page formatting not working the way she wants to, she has truly enjoyed her time in the journalism class and goofing off with friends during zero period. Shannan loves word games including Wordle, Word Hunt, Anagrams and the daily crosswords journalism has introduced her to. She looks forward to attending UC Santa Cruz, majoring in cognitive science.



## Luis Ochea

Luis Ochea joined *The Olympian* in his junior year as a staff writer to get his CTE credit. He has covered a wide range of topics, from volleyball games to protests about pride murals. Currently, he serves as the photo editor, looking over all the photos the entire staff takes, while also improving his own photography skills, gaining a passion for photography as well. His favorite memory was going to the JEA/NSPA National Journalism Convention in San Francisco, which inspired him to pursue a career in journalism. For now, he will be attending UC Riverside for media and cultural studies.



## Kalaya Williams

Kalaya Williams started journalism just this year and has enjoyed her time here. She was initially placed in the class without choosing it, but after a few weeks she was glad she was. Being in journalism has allowed her to explore a whole new career path and the many aspects that come with it, like photography, writing, and meeting new people. She is one of the artists in the class and has used her skills to design many graphics for the paper. Being a part of *The Olympian* has been an amazing experience for her. She looks forward to studying microbiology at UC Santa Cruz.



## Zoe Lawrence

Zoe Lawrence has only been a part of *The Olympian* for a year, but has gained and expanded many skills during her short time here. Originally taking the class out of curiosity, she never could have foreseen the connections and experiences she would have. Her love for writing has flourished this past year with the opportunity to work on hundreds of different topics and writing styles. The class helped her to discover her enjoyment for photography and the power in capturing a moment in time. She looks forward to going to UC Davis as a biology major this fall.



## Richard Paseman

Richard Paseman only spent a year here and has gotten to try a lot of things. He came into this class by accident, but it's been an informative experience. The most beneficial thing this class did for him was keeping him up with the world at large. It has helped him find journalists that cover content he is interested in and has helped him give more educated opinions about events in the world. He thinks this class is helpful for anyone who wants to improve their skills with media literacy. He will be attending UC Santa Cruz next year, majoring in robotics.



## Michael Lac

Michael Lac has spent only one year with *The Olympian* but has learned a lot of valuable skills in that time as a staff writer. He has written on a wide range of topics including opinions on Twitter/X and covered a multitude of events like the CVHS annual Lunar New Year event. His favorite memory was going out to cover the CVUSD Martin Luther King Jr. day celebration event, an event he would have never gone to if it weren't for the journalism class. He is excited to attend San Jose State University to study computer science and statistics.



## Ethan Dinh

Ethan Dinh has been in journalism ever since his junior year and came here originally because the option was available. It led him into venturing into unknown territory, learning with peers, and developing new skills as a multimedia editor. His favorite memory was going to the JEA/NSPA National Journalism Convention in San Francisco last year. The stories he enjoyed writing the most were arts and entertainment articles as well as an opinion piece about the current state of Hollywood. He is planning on going to UC Davis as an English major this fall.

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