



# *TROY HIGH SCHOOL WARRIOR WEEKLY*



May 31, 2019

Congratulations to the Class of 2019! You did it! Words do not fully express how proud the Troy faculty, parents, friends, and our entire community are of our graduating class! It was a lovely evening graduation ceremony and the weather could not have been more perfect. Thank you for a fantastic four years from the Class of 2019. All the faculty at Troy High School wish the very best and continued success for our most recent graduates. Have a fantastic summer and rest up for college and career! ☺ More on Troy's graduation later in the *Warrior Weekly*!



Last Friday we held the final Choir concert of the year and the last time in our Performing Arts building before renovations begin. As expected, our choirs sounded fantastic

and it was perhaps the largest crowd I have ever seen. The concert lasted more than an hour and then there was a bonus concert after the main show in which our graduating seniors performed karaoke versions of a favorite song. It was like watching the finals of American Idol! These students can sing! I mean, we already knew it, but it was just another layer and it was amazing. We have a great choir program and all the thanks and accolades are well deserved for our singers and their teacher, Mr. Mark Henson. Great job Warriors!



At this point when referring to our NJROTC and the understanding we have about their work ethic, to say they are an active group would be an understatement. Last weekend a group of six cadets were in Atlanta, Georgia competing in the Quiz Bowl National Championships! While they did not win the competition, they greatly improved over their final score last year. Plus, with Commander Lauper as their tour guide in Atlanta, they were able to see some of the city and the Martin Luther King Jr. Museum. It was a great experience for our students and something they will remember for the rest of their lives.





There is more NJROTC news! Like I stated before, they are a very active group.



On Memorial Day, our cadets provided the Color Guard and were also active in the Memorial Day ceremony at Loma Vista Memorial Park.



Also, last Friday our NJROTC cadets were in Hacienda Heights to honor Chinese American veterans from WWII. For some of these veterans it was the first time they had been honored for their service. Pictured with one of the veterans are, Congresswoman Chu, Congressman Cisneros, and Congressman Takano.

By the time you read this story, our cadets and Commander Lauper have almost arrived or have already landed in Maryland to compete in the International SeaPerch Challenge Championships. This year the competition is being held at the University of Maryland College Park. Last year our cadets placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in this competition, so they are going back to finish the job this year. Our team is good and they are young with the primary team all being freshmen. Good luck Warriors!



Last but not least, five of our cadets were selected to participate in the Naval Academy Summer Seminar. Only 2550 students are selected from high schools throughout the nation, so having five being selected from a single high school is a special honor! Congratulations to our cadets for earning this opportunity!



The look on Science Teacher/Science Olympiad Coach, Mr. Kurt Wahl's face says it all. After 30 years at Troy High School he is going to take the big step into the next chapter in his

life and at least attempt to retire. He has assured all of us that he will continue to work with our Science Olympiad teams, of which he has been a key member of the coaching staff since Science Olympiad began. The twelve National Championships and the current trip of our Science Olympiad team to Cornell University in New York for the 2019 Science Olympiad National Championship is a testimony to his knowledge, teaching, and coaching ability. Also recruiting ability...we have some great students at Troy High School and they have the talent and ability to be coached to be a smooth running team that can overcome challenges. Congratulations to Mr. Kurt Wahl on a fantastic 39 year teaching career, 30 of those years at Troy! I am sure all these years of knowledge will continue to bring confidence to our students on the Troy team as the competition begins at Cornell University on Saturday! Go Warriors!



More graduation coverage as promised. Thank you to our Troy Difference Facebook page for so many of the graduation pictures from the ceremony yesterday evening. I am going to include more photos from our ceremony as well as the four Commencement Addresses from the ceremony. Here we go...

**Board of Trustees' Address: Joanne Fawley, Board President**

*Good Evening Parents, Community Members, Faculty and Staff and the Troy High School Class of 2019. Tonight, is a very special day for the graduating class of 2019. And in a small*



*way, it is a special night for me. 40 years ago, on a typically overcast spring day, I graduated from high school. Time is a strange thing. I clearly remember many things from high school and yet it was a long time ago.*

*What I did not realize then is that the entire high school experience, not only what I thought was most important at the time, prepared me for a variety of life experiences. On that spring day, I never imagined that I would be a school board member addressing graduates.*

*Your path may take unexpected twists and turns. Graduates, you should both make plans AND be ready for the unexpected. So, just as you were open to new experiences at Troy, allowing you to accomplish more than you ever imagined as a freshman, please embrace that same philosophy of taking chances and being ready for the unexpected opportunities as you journey forward. Congratulations to the Troy High School Class of 2019.*



### **Senior Commencement Address #1: Lawrence Wang**

#### ***“Lessons I Learned”***

*Ladies and gentlemen, teachers, administrators, Class of 2019, good evening. It is an absolute honor to be here. Six years ago, when I arrived in America, quite literally “fresh off the*

*boat,” I never imagined I would be standing here. When I first stepped foot on Troy’s campus, I was entirely clueless about my future. Now, standing here at graduation, I know exactly the direction I’m going in life! Just kidding, I’m just as clueless as freshman year, but I do know that my experiences at Troy will serve as the foundation of whatever I decide to do in the future. The past 4 years have been enlightening to say the least. I personally cannot count how many Spanish presentations I made (well at least now I know 15 is quince and not diecicinco), I learned that sometimes diamonds are produced from the pressures of procrastination, and who would’ve thought that the difficult times at Troy might actually bring people together! But I figured, since we’ve all seen the once clueless freshmen mature into aspiring models, journalists, entrepreneurs, and engineers, (oh and did I forget doctors?), since we’ve all witnessed how our eye bags grow exponentially on the daily during the college app season, and we’ve all heard about how we are “the worst case of senioritis” Mr. Rod has ever seen; so today, I would like to share some lessons I learned through the journey of high school with my fellow classmates, because it’s 2019 and sharing is caring.*

*First lesson is that you are what you love, and who loves you, but not who doesn’t love you. As a first generation immigrant, I used to be extremely self-conscious: of my appearance, of my slight accent (and my inability to English in general—to this day), and of anything that seemed mildly un-American. But through Troy, I learned that really, it doesn’t matter all that much. We all make mistakes and have our deficiencies, and that’s ok. A part of life is mastering the art of losing, losing the perfect image, losing that A+ in Fundamentals of Computer Science, and, most importantly, losing Snapchat streaks.*

*As the contemporary poet and metaphysician Taylor Swift once said, we shouldn’t care so much if we feel misunderstood by a lot of people who don’t know us, as long as we feel understood by the people who do know us, who will show up for us, who see us as human beings. Sometimes I think it’s fearless to say goodbye to a situation that’s exhausting or toxic, and oftentimes, by leaving things behind and being yourself, you will find much broader horizons.*

*Second lesson is to build yourself up strong but humble. Surround yourself with positivity and support. Know that criticism doesn’t have to defeat you: it can strengthen you instead. We’re all different, and although it might not seem easy to get past the things we don’t always understand, remember that it is absolutely possible. And when you’re under attack, just think*

*that the people who carry such negativity often have rather tragic lives themselves. So next time, pity them instead. Nobody is perfect, but humility always goes a long way.*

*I know, personally, that when Harvard University intimately tells us that they regret to inform us, or when Mr. Kim puts in that 0% on the acid-base titration Iodine Clock test, or when the all-nighter to cram the entire novel Frankenstein is no longer sustainable even with multiple cups of coffee, it can seem like the end of the world. But I also know that rejections are natural to the human experience, and that in the long, long marathon of life, obstacles will show up every step of the way.*

*But don't ever let those obstacles sidetrack you, because it may be a fight to live an interesting life, but it's a fight worth fighting for. Because if we are brave enough to chase after our ideals with unwavering determination, then there is a chance that we'll succeed. Because I know that someday, when we get to where we're going, the stories we write will be worth telling, and retelling, and listening to.*

*So don't become discouraged when the suffocating reality comes crashing down. Sometimes dreams are broken to make space for new ones. They represent a direction, but they're not always the destination. Perhaps we don't grow toward them, or for them. We grow to exceed them. Maybe we're not quite ready for them today, but I know we'll be ready someday. If we don't get there, we'll get somewhere. And I hope that the belief in someday, the dream of somewhere, will be our solace in midst of the ceaseless cluelessness of life.*







**Senior Commencement Address #2: Karen Alarcon**

***“The Troy Warriors”***

*Welcome family, friends, and significant others. AND WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2019! WOOHOO! I am Karen Alarcon, and as a fellow 2019 warrior, I am so honored to stand in front of the top-ranked high school in California, Troy High School. Today, I want to remind us how incredible each and every one of us are.*

*First, I would like to start by sharing a brief story. On a warm summer day 11 years ago, my brother told me when I was only 6 that we were going to read the Iliad by Homer together. I thought this meant story time where he would read it to me, how badly I was mistaken, I was the one that would be reading this time. My reading level at that time on par with Dr. Seuss.*

*We opened the first page and if I'm being honest I did not understand a single thing. My brother helped me understand the complexity of the Trojan War, a 10 year long battle, as depicted in Homer's epic poem. That war was fought with hard work, dedication, and resilience. As we went page by page, I became intrigued by the soldiers' courage and their perseverance. These soldiers would rise at the break of dawn to be led by Hector, the prince of Troy.*

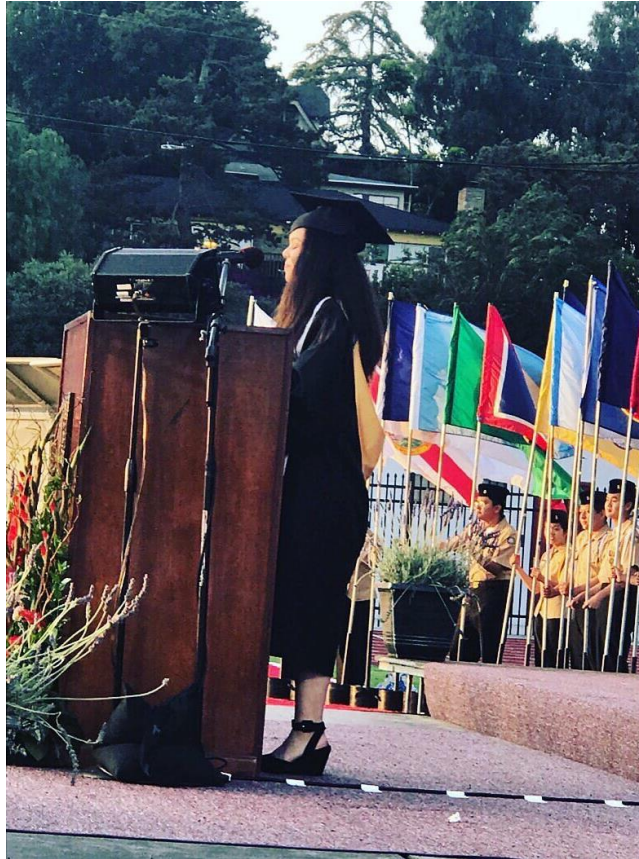
*We, too, rose at the break of dawn ready for battle with Biology, AP Calculus, World History, and Economics. Our Hector-like teachers would equip us each and every day with the best battle strategies to understand our many subjects.*

*We as a class of 2019 we have made some great milestones. We were one of the first to have Chromebooks, we have made some great achievements. We have excelled in areas that showed our intelligence, teamwork, and dedication. Kudos to our science olympiad, cybersecurity and golf teams for being the absolute BEST in their fields. We've also had teams that advanced to CIF in sports that have not done so in many years. Shoutout to Boys Soccer, and Softball. ALL of us have contributed to Troy's greatness.*

*We also suffered through more than our share of procrastination induced sleepless nights, now it is time to SLEEP (and party). Before the party starts, we must also thank our parents, friends, and teachers for their great support, incredible meals, and for providing a shoulder to lean on. Thank you for pushing us to attend and graduate from the best institution for high school education, the renowned, Troy High School. Our AWESOME teachers equipped us with the knowledge to fight and conquer AP exams, IB tests, and of course our finals.*

*That has led us HERE TONIGHT! Our struggles and triumphs have shaped and molded us into the individuals we are today.*

*A final comment on the Iliad, although that story did not end well, I know ours will. Wherever our next steps may take us we will shine, we'll be resilient because we now know who we are, and we are Troy Warriors! We valiantly fight through struggles and are ready to take on the WORLD! Go, Warriors!*



### **Senior Commencement Address #3: Rachel Paredes**

#### ***“Unity”***

*Hello, my fellow warriors. Today, we both celebrate and reminisce the end of the newest chapter in the book that is our lives: High School. In these past four years, we all have learned different things. Some of us have found a passion for math, others for science, and others for the arts. Indeed, we all sit here together, gathered as a diverse group of talented individuals, capable of changing the world.*

*But, as diverse as we are, there is one thing that we have all learned over the course of these four years, and it is arguably more important than what any history, math, or science class has ever, or will ever, teach us: who we are as people. Amidst all the tests and homework, we have made long lasting friendships, experienced heartfelt camaraderie, and have figured out how to have fun, even when the stress of tomorrow’s test was felt with utmost strength. We have faced difficult decisions, but what is important to understand is that we have grown from our choices. We have all been shaped throughout our time here at Troy, but it is important to know that the person you are today will change, as all things do in life. I have hope that even as we all*



*evolve, we do so with kindness and tolerance towards others, but most importantly, towards ourselves.*

*College now confronts us with looming inevitability, but I can safely say to all of us that we are prepared. No matter if you took AP classes, Honors classes, or regular classes in your high school career, we have all overcome the obstacles that we have faced, and are now stronger, more intelligent people because of them. I know that we all have had moments where we questioned ourselves; where we were uncertain if we could actually conquer the hurdles that we faced. These past four years were probably the most difficult ones of our lives to date, and I believe that is something we can acknowledge and recognize as true for each and every single one of us.*

*But it is clear to me today that we have all succeeded, and for that, we should be proud. Proud of the long hours spent studying for that Physics final. Proud of the training that took place to win a CIF championship. Proud of the after-school hours devoted to learning new ROTC routines. Proud of the fact that we are all sitting here, together, as one class, ready to accept the high school diploma that we have all worked hard to earn.*

*I implore you all, sitting here, in front of me, to keep a positive spirit. To look at every problem with the assumption that there is a reasonable, viable solution, and, most importantly, to never, ever back down from a challenge. We are warriors, of course, and we should never forget that. We should never forget our friends, our teachers, and our parents that have touched our lives for these past four years. Most importantly, we should never forget this day. To the class of 2019, I wish you luck on all your future endeavors.*





### **Principal's Commencement Address: William Mynster**

*Let me begin by offering my congratulations to the Class of 2019! Four years. For some of you this may have seemed like a long time. Four years. For others, the time went by very quickly. Class of 2019, do not think you are the only ones that have these thoughts about the last four years, rest assured you are not. Your teachers have the same thoughts as well. Regardless of which side of Theory of Relativity you may fall upon, this much is certain—you are changed because of your time at Troy High School.*

*Think about it. What were you like when you first arrived in 9th grade at Troy for Troy Tech Testing, Registration, Orientation, Summer Sports Camp, Health Class, the 1st day of school? Were you happy and excited? Nervous and scared? How about happy and nervous? Or excited and scared? My point is, regardless of how you first entered the gates of Troy, you have changed, and I think all of you changed for the better.*

*After tonight, you leave here as high school graduates and already you are looking for your next challenge. If you are a member of our twelve time and defending National Championship Science Olympiad Team, you will not need to wait very long for the next challenge as right after graduation tonight six senior members of Troy's team along with Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick will be on an airplane to Cornell University in New York to compete for the 2019 National Championship!*

*For the rest of you, what is that next challenge? For Troy graduates, 99.9% will go to college. Some of you may also work while in school, perhaps using some of those certifications*

*you have earned along the way while in Troy's Cyber, Media Concepts, Business, or Engineering classes. At some point all of you will find careers or they will find you. It may happen before, after, or during your continuing journey in education as you work towards earning your AA, BA, possibly, MA, MBA, or MD, or Ph.D. For some, you may have discovered your career during your Internship.*

*What is my point? You have graduated from Troy High School, and with the support of your teachers, counselors, friends, and families you have completed the hard work, and have built a fantastic foundation upon which to move forward. But it is exactly that, a foundation. It is up to you to complete the rest of the structure, to design yourself to be how you want to be. Keep pushing yourself. There is no growth without pushing the limit of what you think you can achieve. It is ok to fail, but keep trying. A great example of perseverance from history was demonstrated by American inventor, Thomas Edison while he was working to discover the right combination of filament and gases to create a lasting electric light bulb. Thomas Edison famously stated, "You must learn to fail intelligently. Failing is one of the greatest arts in the world. One fails forward towards success. I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."*

*In different example of perseverance, in April, Troy had great privilege of hosting Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant Leroy Petry for a talk with our NJROTC. During his talk he spoke of basic training for the Army Rangers and how difficult it was for all of them. Sgt Petry stated, "They would run, and run, and run." They were being pushed to failure. He said, "You would look to your left and to your right and you would see people sucking wind worse than you and struggling, and falling behind. But you don't leave them behind. You pick them up and bring them with you. Someday, you will be the person sucking wind more than the others, and you will need someone to pick you up and not leave you behind." In 2008 Sgt. Petry, lived this truth when he did not leave fellow soldiers behind while they were under heavy enemy fire in Afghanistan. Shot in both legs and grievously injured losing his right hand throwing an enemy grenade away from and saving his men, it was his fellow soldiers that continued fighting and helped helicopter Sgt. Petry out of the war zone. When his fellow soldiers needed him, he was there to pick them up. When he needed his fellow soldiers, they were there to pick him up.*

*None of us know the future or what it will hold. What all of do know is to prepare for the future and this is what you have done you entire life and especially the last four years. You are graduating today because of your hard work, and with the support of family, friends, and teachers. Continue to look out for one another and help one another. Let your legacy be not only one of academic achievement and personal fulfillment, but also one of caring for others. The road to success and fulfillment will have challenges and you will have to overcome them. You have the tools. At Troy, you have built your foundation and it is strong. I have every confidence all of you will succeed in creating the rest of your structure, your future, and be the next generation of citizens and leaders our country and world desperately need. The entire Troy community, past and present look forward to seeing what you will achieve in the future! Congratulations to the Class of 2019!*

*It is Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and the official end of the 2018-19 school year. For the students beginning Summer School, Sports Camps, and Troy Tech Internships, they will be busy but not as much as during the regular school year. Plus there is a lot of enjoyment in those activities,*



and I look forward to hearing about them during the summer and as we begin the 2019-20 school year on August 12, 2019 the first day of school with students! In the meantime, it is summer! I hope everyone will make sure to get in the needed rest, relaxation, recharge, all of us need to be ready for the beginning of the school year! Have a wonderful summertime, and I will see everyone back here on Monday morning, August 12, 2019!



*Resting, relaxing, and recharging...☺*

W. Mynster



*Troy NJROTC Quiz Bowl team in Atlanta, Georgia. Rest, relax, enjoy the summer!*