

A FINAL BOW BEFORE THE CURTAIN FALLS

By: Ben Cercea
Editor-and-Chief

VHS Drama held their annual Senior One Act's on May 20th. Emily Sharp (12) was the only senior that created and directed her own scene this year. The Drama department holds this final play to show off the senior's ability to create their own play and to wrap up the year by performing some of the skits that the students perform throughout the year. Emily Sharp was inspired to write her play, *This is My Letter to the World*, from the poems of Ms. Dickinson, which she read in her Sophomore year. After reading some of Ms. Dickinson's poetry in Ms. Feighery's class, she became in-



SARHLI NECOECHEA AS THE YOUNG EMILY DICKINSON. PHOTO BY: BEN CERCEA

trigued by the events in Ms. Dickinson's life that led her to write about love, death, heartbreak, and loneliness. Upon listening to the music from the *Atonement*, Sharp's creativity sparked. She used the scene with the girl writing in the dark as her focal point to her own play--"at that point I decided it was a young Emily, and the rest is history." Aside for *This is My Letter to the World*, various skits were performed by Ms. Stanton's Intermediate and Advanced classes. There were so many brilliant scenes the night couldn't contain it all--they had to cut a few scenes in order to have the audience head for home before the night was done. The night ended the same way it began--with a thunderous round of applause from the audience.

DANCE SHOW: THE FINAL TRIBUTE

By: Reetu Inamdar
Reporter

The dance show held at our own, Valencia High School, took place on the 14th of May. The night was lit with great excitement to see Valencia's dance teams perform their plethora of dances. Many Valencia students and parents went to cheer on the incredible dance teams that performed. The girls dance team and the boy's hip-hop team performed their pieces and the audience watched in awe. The dance show took about two hours, and the Friday night was greatly celebrated with exuberance as well as liveliness thanks to the dance teams. The seniors in the girls and boys hip hop performed solos, duets, or trios as a tribute to

their hard work and final year performing. The show started with the girls dance team performing and later following the boys hip hop team. Mrs. Fenstermaker, the dancing advisor for three years, and contributing choreographer set up the dance show that exhibited the myriad of talents at this school. Mrs. Fenstermaker commented on her inspirations of teaching dance, "I always wanted to be a teacher and that is why I came back to Valencia. During my first year here teaching language arts I was offered the job of being the dance advisor. I was on the dance team when I was a student at Valencia. I knew how much the program meant to me and I wanted to be apart of that for other students." Her expertise was clearly shown through the choreography of

the dance. However, as much as she contributed in the choreography, the dance was certainly executed well by the dancers. The students took about three weeks choreographing the routine and all the hard work and dedication proved to be worth it as they shined throughout the performance. The students not only practiced every morning for the past 7 weeks to prepare for the show but also held after school practices. During the week of the show they practiced from 2-5 hours every day after school, along with managing their school load. For all the dancers, Mrs. Fenstermaker would like to say, "Thank you all for working so hard to make this show successful. I am so proud of each and every one of you!" Great Job to all the dancers, the show was amazing!



BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS DANCE TEAM SHOWING OFF THEIR NATURAL TALENTS. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: MRS. FENSTERMAKER

2010 KEYSTONES IS OUT

By: Wan Po
Reporter

It was not until Ms. Feighery gave me a version of *Keystones* of the year 2007, when I fully understood the reason why she left our interview with, "I dwell in possibility" -Emily Dickenson." Approximately 20 years ago, *Keystones Magazine* was given its first breath of life. There are so many histories about this annually published literary magazine that we can recall. The literary merit has been through so much with Valencia and there are so many strong reasons why our teachers decided to keep it for so long. It grew with Valencia, and from the versions from all these different years, we can see the patterns of history and events that have landed in this place. This is a tradition that we have kept for a while, and it need not to just be passed on but to be expanded into a bigger, bolder, better publication. It is no doubt that the process of creating beautiful art works is such an essential practice in all artists' lives, and some say that to publish one's work is in fact, quite unnecessary. But facing



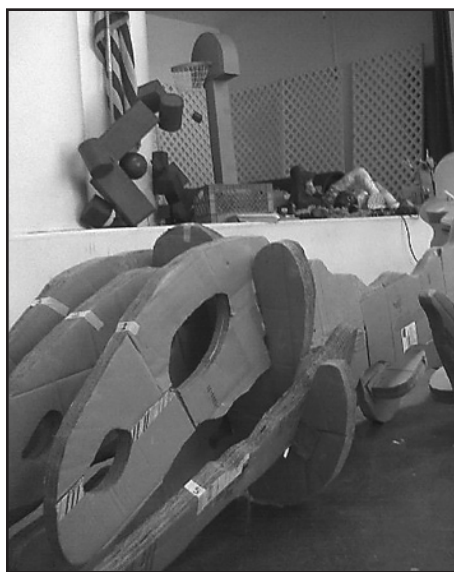
THE 2009-2010 KEYSTONES IS OUT. GET YOURS TODAY. PHOTO COURTESY OF MS. FEIGHERY.

the truths, we all know that the moment when someone's work which he or she may have spent continual time and effort on be published, it is just as wonderful as the inspiration of something so stunning comes. This is one of the biggest purposes of *Keystones*: it liberates the souls of numerous hidden artists this high school. It collects all kinds of works from students: poems, short stories, essays, drawings, photographs, designs, etc. With careful organizing, the *Keystones* staffs this year, under the lead Editor in Chief Alex Koster (12), have worked as hard as they do each year to create this sentimental little booklet for everyone in Valencia High School. Everyday, whenever the staffs have chances, they encourage students from any background to submit their works. It is just because they care and they understand the importance for students to just get published. It is quite funny that every year, the toughest challenge Ms. Feighery claims to have is the lack of time to finish all those works from small artists all over Valencia. "It's just a beautiful way for students to express themselves in a yearly published literary magazine," Ms. Feighery can say so honestly because she really believes so. And it is also a memory to continue, for those *keystones* in the wide ocean to be found.

ARTISTS SHOW THEIR TALENT

By: Isabel Hsu
Editor

On the week of May 24, the Valencia High School cafeteria was transformed into a gallery where many different works of art created by Valencia students were displayed. Photographs, paintings, ceramics, sculptures, and other works were laid out on tables and put up on walls while student-created films and productions played on a TV set for all to enjoy. "The intent of the art show is to give students [the opportunity] to display the artwork they have created throughout the year," explains Mr. Reich, who teaches Ceramics and 3D Art at Valencia. "Performance artists, like instrumental and vocal music, dance, and theater show off their artwork at per-REICH'S 1ST AND 2ND PERIOD 3D ART/DESIGN PERFORMANCES OR EVENTS. CLASSES. IT IS COMPLETELY MADE OUT OF RECYCLED CARDBOARD BOXES. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: MR. REICH



In addition to the artwork created by individual students, there are also a few special projects or group endeavors. One of the most awe-inspiring pieces was a large, three-dimensional cardboard sculpture of a dinosaur skeleton created by the 3D art classes. "I had my 3D art classes do a large group project which is the Stegosaurus," says Reich. "I have been wanting to do this for a couple of years now and finally took the opportunity of the excess cardboard from the smart board installa-

tion to build something big and amazing." Another stand-out project is the Valencia Photography Club's collage. Made up of photographs taken by several Photo Club members with disposable cameras, it is one of the art show's most interesting projects. "Photo Club has been aiming to do a collaborative project ever since it was started," explains Nicole Won (11), Photo Club president. "The collage is inspired by a work on [the internet] that established pictures in a vibrant color gradient. We wanted people to have fun creating their artwork... The best thing about film is its unpredictability, and our ten photographers who worked on this project embracing that quality." With school budget cuts and financial worries, the art show is also an opportunity to show how important art can be in schools. "A lot of schools are losing funding for art classes," says Steven Oei (11), one of the photographers for the Photography Club collage. "It's nice that we're able to have an art show, because it shows that our school district hasn't had to compromise art programs at school." Overall, this year's show was a fantastic showcase of the talent being nurtured at Valencia. "This year's art show is a wonderful display of the many different art medias that we offer here at Valencia," says Ms. Stalder, Valencia Photography teacher. "It is amazing to see such a wide variety of art, from hand-built ceramic teapots to huge cardboard dinosaurs to photo montages, all displayed in one place and created by the many talented students that Valencia boasts."

RETIRING TEACHERS: ONE FINAL GOODBYE

MR. MILLER

By: Sarah Rafiqi
Editor

In 1973, an ambitious man named Craig Miller stepped onto Valencia High School's campus for the very first time. He had lived his whole life in Long Beach and, when he had gotten the call for a teaching job at Valencia, he had had no idea where Placentia was. Things worked out, however, and Miller eventually took the job and found the elusive city that would soon be his occupational home. This was going to be the beginning of a whole new chapter in his life. Now, thirty-seven years later, that chapter is coming to a close.



Miller once taught drafting, architecture, and driver's education, but, currently, he is an economics and academic studies teacher. During the course of all this, he has grown fond of "watching the goofy ninth grade kids grow up to be nice adults," as he, so quaintly, puts it. On the other hand, the hardest thing Miller has ever had to do as a teacher was driver's training. He said it was difficult "trying not to dent or crash

the car" while the students were driving it. Through his daily experiences and adventures on campus, Miller has not only taught, he has learned as well. Most probably, some of his greatest teachers have come from our very own student population. Miller tells us that he admires "the diversity of the kids. Every kid has a story. Every kid is unique. God never made two kids the same."

Almost as if it were yesterday, Miller remembers his very first year as a teacher at our beloved school. In those days, school started at seven o'clock in the morning and ended at noon. Because of the gas embargo that year, daylight savings was all year and the sun did not come up until break-time. After the Valencia staff and students left school, everyday, Esperanza would take over the campus for the afternoons. Now those

days are over, however, and a new day is dawning. A day that will begin yet another chapter in Miller's life. It will be a chapter filled with even more adventures to experience and even more moments to remember. Still, the memory of our noble school will stay with Miller forever; all he will have to do to be reminded is think back to the great children that he taught and the wonderful friends that he met.

MRS. CALLAHAN

By: Madison Tang
Reporter

Mrs. Callahan, a long time staff member at Valencia, will be one of a few teachers retiring this coming year. She has been here at Valencia for ten years now, working as the Speech and Language Pathologist, but has been in the district for nearly 26 years. Primarily assisting the special education department, Mrs. Callahan provides an essential role in the development of these students' speech skills.

"Valencia High School has been the warmest, most open, and most welcoming school that I have ever had the pleasure of working at," says Mrs. Callahan. Graduating



from Savanna High School in Anaheim, Mrs. Callahan later received an A.A. degree from Cypress Junior College, after which she transferred to California State University at Long Beach. After earning a B.A. in Communicative Disorders, she continued on to Post Graduate work at the University of Laverne, Biola University, Chapman College, and California Coast College, where she was a doctoral candidate. Although Mrs. Callahan did

not get the opportunity to finish earning her doctorate, it is one of the many goals she plans to pursue during her retirement.

When asked what her fondest memories at Valencia were, Mrs. Callahan took a moment to reminisce, mentioning the time Mr. Boroch let her examine his science equipment as a particularly special memory. She also remains grateful for those who have been so generous in donating to her flamingo collection over the years, making her room in the library an incredibly cheerful fluorescent pink. Most importantly though, she will continually remember all those students with whom she has worked, who have, in turn, had a positive and uplifting effect on her as a teacher and a person.

Mrs. Callahan stated, "After retiring, I look forward to enjoying my leisure time, reading, playing golf, traveling all over the world, playing with my grandchildren and dogs, and looking at my options for the future."

Her ten loyal and diligent years of working at Valencia certainly have not gone unnoticed, as she has made a tremendous impact on the campus and those students that she taught. Those who have had the pleasure of encountering or learning from Mrs. Callahan are eternally grateful for her compassion and dedication in such an intrinsic field of the educational system. Mrs. Callahan will be dearly missed by all of the students and staff here at Valencia, and we hope she has a relaxing and rewarding retirement.

MR. BORNING

By: Jin Joo Hong
Reporter

Mr. Borning, who is the biology honors teacher at Valencia High School, is leaving us this year. He taught at VHS for 37 years and now it is his time to take a break. Even though he loves students and teaching, Mr. Borning is very excited for his retirement. He is looking forward for his future after the retirement and he is planning to do a lot of volunteers and help many different people. Although he is a great teacher, Mr. Borning is not planning to teach anymore. Lastly, Mr. Borning is going to use his money on his living. He was a great teacher and he will remain in our hearts forever as a great biology teacher ever.

Mr. Borning was a veteran here at Valencia High School. He always thought that Valencia is truly the best kept secret in Orange County. Mr. Borning graduated from Cal Poly Pomona and played baseball there for all four years.

He earned a degree in Physical Education and a minor in Biology. Also he earned a masters' degree at Cal State Fullerton in administration. He stated that he was fortunate to have been able to spend his entire career at VHS.

According to students, Mr. Borning's class is very refreshing and they feel like they actually learned something. In addition, his class is always filled with laughs and charms.

It was a great fortune to have Mr. Borning as our Biology Honor teacher because he is a great person and a great teacher.

Some of his teaching strategies are watching videos so that students can understand fully about what they are learning. Also, he quizzed students constantly so that they can work hard and pay attention during class.

"Teacher is one who makes two ideas grow where only one grew before." This quote by Elbert Hubbard describes Mr. Borning the best. He was a teacher who taught many things to students and helped them to grow in knowledge and to become a better person. Ti-

gers all hope that Mr. Borning will enjoy his retirement.



EL TIGRE APOLOGIZES FOR NOT MENTIONING ISABEL HSU, OUR NEWS EDITOR, IN LAST ISSUE'S CREDITS. ALSO, IN OUR SPORTS PAGE LAST ISSUE, *EL TIGRE* INCORRECTLY NAMED THE TENNIS PLAYER AS DANIEL KIM (10) INSTEAD OF DAVID KIM (12).

EL TIGRE

El Tigre is Placentia's oldest continuously published newspaper.

Editor -In-Chief
Ben Cercea

News Editor
Isabel Hsu

Features Editor
Stephanie Calleros

Opinion Editor
Shannon Hsu

A&E Editor
Dominique Riutort

Sports Editor
Sarah Rafiqi

Visual Arts Editor
Leeann Aguirre

Marketing Editor
Sergio Alfaro
Isaac Magallanes

Cartoonist
Leeann Aguirre
Holly Nguyen
Christina Chavez
Sergio Alfaro

Reporters
Angelica Mora
Wan Po
Nathaly Romanes
Josh Sumahit
Madison Tang
Boyoung Kim
Sargun Singh
Reetu Inamdar
Jin Joo Hong

Photographers
Jack Dauley
Wan Po
Michelle Powell
Vivian Hernandez

Advisor
Rachel Schiff

El Tigre is published by the newspaper staff at
Valencia High School
500 N. Bradford Ave.
Placentia, CA 92870

El Tigre welcomes letters and commentary on all matters and reserves the right to edit as needed.

Unsigned letters and commentary will not be printed. Letters and commentary may be emailed to rschiff@pylud.org.

Signed commentaries and editorial cartoons represent the opinions of the writer or cartoonist and in no way reflect the opinions of the *El Tigre* newspaper staff.

MRS. LOPEZ

By: Shannon Hsu
Editor

By the time school begins again next fall, there are several teachers who will no longer be teaching with the rest of the Valencia staff, instead, enjoying retirement. Among the retirees is Mrs. Lopez, otherwise known as Señora Lopez, a Spanish teacher who instructs Spanish levels 1 and 2, as well as Spanish 2 for native speakers. She has taught at Valencia for 27 years, which, according to Mrs. Lopez herself, "have gone by so quickly." Students



know her as a charismatic person who is able to create a vivacious atmosphere in class, effectively teaching Spanish. She is also known for her dedication in teaching and the manner in which she puts all her heart into her work. Fortunately, she has been able to enjoy her teaching experiences at Valencia just as much as her students have enjoyed being in her class.

"Valencia students are truly awesome," Lopez says about the students she has taught, "Every day you bring your humor,

enthusiasm, and desire to learn to class."

The students of Valencia are not the only thing she appreciates about the school. In addition, she also appreciates the hard work that the staff and administration put in. To sum up her feelings on the school as a whole, she stated that "Without a doubt there, is no other high school that has what Valencia has – our rich multicultural student body and the professional and supportive teaching, administrative and support staff here. I am so fortunate to have been a small part of this school for a long time."

Another unique characteristic of Mrs. Lopez that is well-known among her students is her love of dogs, including her own bichon frise named Jacques. "In the future I hope to get involved in dog rescue and dog foster groups and have more time for my family," she says, explaining her aspirations and things she would like to get accomplished after retirement.

The end of Mrs. Lopez's formal teaching career at Valencia does not indicate an end to everything. She undoubtedly still has a bright future ahead for her after retirement, and her students will always remember her enriching methods of teaching Spanish.

If there is one more thing Mrs. Lopez could say, she would leave her students with the phrase "Les doy muchisimas gracias a todos mis estudiantes por ser tan buenos en mis clases."

MS. FASSEL

By: Vivian Hernandez
Reporter

Ms. Deborah Fassel has been a great part of Valencia High School. She has been involved in many activities throughout her teaching career totaling thirty-two years of experience. Ms. Deborah Fassel graduated in the year of 1977 from the University of California State of Long Beach. She also attended Cal Poly Pomona and completed her Special Education Credential. Her entire career has taken place here at Valencia High School except for one year when she was transferred to Travis Ranch but quickly returned because she couldn't wait to get back. The first half of her career, she was actively involved in Valencia's athletic program. She coached volleyball, basketball, and the softball team for fourteen years. Ms. Fassel enjoyed the competitions and enthusiasm of the students at Valencia. As her career progressed she began teaching in the Special Education Program. She enjoyed helping and watching her students' progress each and every day during their four years of high school. She especially liked the bond that was cre-



ated between her students and their families and how they became closer to each other.

When asked about what inspired her to become an educator she replied with, "I have always liked school, and I had teachers in high school who I admired for their hard work and dedication. I personally could not have pictured doing anything else these past 30 plus years." Along side being inspired by her love for school her parents encouraged her to pursue education as a career.

Some of her most memorable moments here at Valencia High School have been reaching the Semi Finals in CIF with basketball and softball. Also seeing a number of her girls go on to college with athletic scholarships and even a few being named to the All American Team in their respective sport. While she is not teaching at school, she likes to work on her lawn and travel.

Her future plans after she retires, is to get a part time career and travel more so she can keep busy and have things to do in her personal life. Ms. Deborah Fassel will miss all of her colleagues and students at this school and the family atmosphere on campus as well as everybody at Valencia High School will miss her. Ms. Fassel says that her experience here at Valencia has been great, especially when you talk about tradition, pride, and excellence.

MRS. GERACE

By: Stephanie Calleros
Editor

After 17 years of teaching at Valencia High School, Mrs. Gerace is finishing out this school year with her retirement after a 30-year teaching career. She has taught at a total of five different schools; four of those schools in Orange County and one school in Los Angeles County. When asked which word best describes her experience here at Valencia, she responds, "Wonderful. I think Valencia High School is the best school I have ever taught at. The parents, the students, the faculty has made it such an amazing experience for me and a hard one to forget." She then continues saying how Valencia High School truly demonstrates Pride, Tradition, and Excellence. During her teaching career at Valencia, she has taught Life Science and Biology, but at other schools she has taught Physical Science and was also a Physical Education teacher. Her favorite experiences teaching has been making the students feel comfortable learning and enjoying themselves in her class. Her motto is "the world is here for us to learn."



Even though Mrs. Gerace is an inspiring teacher, she has no plans to continue teaching. Instead, she will peruse in traveling. An avid scuba diver, Mrs. Gerace has traveled to Fiji and the Philippines for scuba sessions. She is planning on taking more cruises with her husband and family to Honduras and Mexico. On her new time off, Mrs. Gerace also plans on going to the gym on a regular basis, taking up playing the guitar, vacationing and traveling extensively. Mrs. Gerace has 5 children and 21 grandchildren and is excited to finally have enough time to watch her grandchildren grow up. We wish Mrs. Gerace great success in her new endeavors unfortunately the faculty and Students will greatly miss her. The incoming students will never have an opportunity to see how truly awesome she is.

MRS. GLOVER

By: Nathaly Romanes
Reporter

Mrs. Laurel Jean Glover has been at Valencia High School since 1999. She has dedicated her teaching credentials at Valencia to the Special Education program. Although she has been educating at Valencia her career did not begin at this school. She began working as an elementary school teacher, from 1967 to 1971, in Fallbrook, California. After teaching at Fallbrook Elementary School she taught at a community college (Palomar College) in San Marcos. There she taught for the Department of Child Development, from 1973-1992. Following the birth of her daughter, who has Down syndrome, she "became involved in 'coping' and then 'advocating for' individuals with special needs, and their families." In 1996 she moved to Orange County and began working for PYLUSD at Esperanza High School. There she taught the Adult Transition Program. From Esperanza she moved to Valencia High School to help develop and improve the program for students with severe handicaps. Mrs. Glover has helped improve the program with her credentials; she gained a masters degree in psychology/sociology at Scripps College. She also completed her masters in education at Claremont Graduate School. She described that the "special education program at Valencia emphasizes functional and life skills for students." Mrs. Glover also expressed that it's pleasant to work with these students all four years of their high school career and that it's special to watch them grow as individuals. As her journey continues after leaving Valencia, she plans to spend time with her mother (who is now in her nineties) and grandchildren (she currently has two). As well as spending time with her family, she is looking forward to traveling when she pleases to (not during the summer, like she has been forced to do because of her teaching schedule).

Mrs. Glover will be missed dearly on Valencia High School's campus. Her legacy will live forever here, for she has helped the Special Education program tremendously. On top of improving it she has made a difference and has contributed to Valencia's progressive growth.

