September 2019

Academy Action

National Merit Semi-Finalists

Congratulations to seniors Roma Desai and Kevli Sheth on being named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million en-





trants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements. These academically talented high school seniors will have the opportunity to continue in the competition of honored students across the nation. Roma is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Kishor Desai and Kevli is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Paresh Sheth.

Jr Beta Inductions

Congratulations to the 23 students inducted into the Jr. Beta Club in August. The National Beta Club promotes character, develops leadership skills, and encourages service involvement. In order to be inducted into Jr. Beta, students must have a 3.4 GPA. Those

inducted were: (Front Row) Nicholas Fantini, Logan Miller, Eli Finch, Jonathan Williamson, Cole Glover, Luke Humphries (Second Row) Rudra Patel, Lane Bennett, Wade Foster, Harlow Hampton, Logan Wood (Third Row) Ava Roberts, Conlee Lindsey, Dru Lile, Griffin McCoy, Elijah Walton, Jaden Daniels (Fourth Row) Joe Duncan, Katie Isaacs, Riley Bailey, Sarika Chavis, Claire Chewning - not pictured, Kaya Kendall.



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New Faculty & Staff Members

University Heights Academy is excited to have added the following amazing faculty and staff to our Blazer family for the 2019-2020 school year-

Middle School:

Ashlie Ezell is excited about becoming a part of the Blazer family as the middle school math teacher. She is originally from Falkville, Alabama but now lives in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Ashlie graduated in 2010 from Athens State University with a Bachelors degree in elementary education. She has taught math for 8.5 years and looks forward to many more here at UHA. Ashlie and her husband, Tyson, have two daughters, Talyn and Emersyn, who will be entering 2nd grade and PreK-3. They are looking forward to a wonderful year. Go Blazers!!



Lower School:

Nikki Jones joined our lower school as our new third grade reading teacher. She received her Bachelors Degree in Science from Murray State University and a Masters in Literacy Specialist from Cumberland University. She is married with two children and enjoys every second with them! Nikki is looking forward to loving on her sweet students this school year and is very excited to join the University Heights family!



Vicki Luckey is the new fourth grade Language Arts teacher. Her husband, Ron Luckey, is a retired Hopkinsville firefighter. They have been married for 20 years and together have six kids and one grandson. Vicki received a Bachelor's Degree in 1992 from Austin Peay State University with a dual certification in Elementary and Special Education. She also earned a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision from APSU in 2002. She has over 20 years teaching experience in both public and private schools. Vicki is very excited to join the Blazer Family, the Alma Mater of her daughters, Jennifer and Jessica Hanks, and the school both of her sons, Nicolas and Ryan Luckey attend.



Carol McCain is joining Mrs. Lauren in the kindergarten room as the instructional assistant. Carol retired this past May from the Clarksville, Tn school system where she taught first grade. She has a Bachelor Degree in Political Science and a Teacher Certification in Interdisciplinary Studies from Austin Peay State University. Carol is delighted to be a member of the UHA Blazer family and is looking forward to a wonderful school year!



Jordan Lewis is the new first and second grade instructional assistant. She is married to John Lewis and has two daughters, Aubree who is 6 and in our Kindergarten program, and Scarlett who is 3. Jordan graduated from UHA in 2011, and received a Business Administration degree from Murray State in 2017. Her love for children and education has led Jordan back to UHA, and she is excited to be a part of the Blazer family again!



Erin Namie is a proud alumni of University Heights Academy's class of 2000, and Austin Peay State University's Health and Human Performance class of 2005. She is teaching lower school PE. Erin spends her

time co-owning and head coaching at Bluegrass Cheerleading, leading worship on the praise team at New Work Fellowship, and performing on stage and choreographing for Campanile Productions. Her very favorite and most important roles, however, are being wife to Marc Namie and mom to Talon (3rd), Sutton (1st), Coralynn (PK4) and Rowan (PK3). She is so excited to be back as an official teacher at UHA this year!



Preschool:

Jordan Bishop was new to UHA last winter when she started working as an instructional assistant in the PK4 room in January. She is excited to be coming back this fall to UHA. Jordan has been working with preschool aged children for the last 10 years and loves watching them grow! Aside from working at UHA, she co-owns Bluegrass Dancecats with her sister, and has been teaching dance for 9 years! Jordan and her husband Zach have 3 year old twins, Lincoln & Landry, who started PK3 in the fall. The are all very excited to be Blazers!



Safety:

Jeff Stevenson has joined Mr. Paul Ray as part of our Safety Team. Jeff retired with a 20 year career from the Hopkinsville Police Department. He and his wife, Liz, have been married for 19 years. Jeff has a son, Tanner, that is a freshman at UHA, and another son, Wyatt who is attending the University of Louisville. Jeff is excited to be a Blazer this year!



ISACS Presenter

Upper School teacher, Brett Pritchett has been selected to present a workshop at this year's ISACS Annual Conference, "New Ways of Doing School," being held in Louisville on November 7 and 8. The annual conference allows for ISACS schools to meet and discuss educational trends and methods as well as hear keynote addresses from educators from around the United States. Mr. Pritchett will present a workshop entitled, "Letting History Tell Its Story: Using Primary Sources" where he will demonstrate how the use of documents and first-hand accounts in the day-to-day history classroom can help students connect with history in new ways that go beyond just using a textbook.



BlazerBots Host Camp

This past summer, the University Heights Academy BlazerBots Computer Teams held a computer camp July 29- August 1. Campers from grades 3-6 learned to program EV3 robots to capture targets and complete missions on a First Lego League (FLL) competition course. Stu-





dent coaches were Sabrina Hall, Ty Hunt, Lauren Shaner, Karrigan Rogers, Noah Toms, Thomas Lamirande, Kate Bennett, Zach Wilson, Rohon Desai, and Isabelle Cook.

Middle School Student Council

UHA's M.S. Student Council is a group of students (grades 6-8) who volunteer to address issues of concern within the middle school student body, to organize student events & activities, to fund raise to provide supplies for students & teachers, and to support both UHA & the greater

community by completing service hours. This year's middle school student council members are: Back row, Sarika Chavis, Tori Flick, Ajae Oatts, Alexis Pollard, Ileana Hernandez, Co-Treasurers Michelle Salas & Bella Brunson, Emily Smith, Audrey Perry, Emma Tyler—Front row, Vice President Luke Humphries, Katie Isaacs, Secretary Peyton



Porupski, President Rachel Cavanah, Lily Colip, Emma Dill, AnnaBelle Mills, Claire Chewning.

Outdoor School



Freshman class at Boone Hall

UHA's upper school experienced their week of Outdoor School in August. The freshmen, sophomores, and juniors got to explore the city of Charleston, SC. Highlights of the trip included an Ecotour of Barrier Island, a tour of historic Ft. Sumter, a visit to Boone Hall Plantation, and the Patriot Point Naval Museum. The students received several compliments from all the places they visited and were exposed to history and culture from one of the first states of our nation.



Sophomore class at Barrier Island



Junior class at Boone Hall

Senior Trip

The senior class visited Washington, D.C. for their outdoor school trip. Learning stops during the trip included The Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, The United

States Capitol Building, The Smithsonian Museums, The National Gallery of Art, The Hirshhorn Art Gallery, The Library of Congress, and a tour of The Whitehouse. The trip was fast-paced and full of great history, culture and learning for the class of 2019.



Seniors in front of the White House.

Senior Named Distinguished Young Woman of Christian County

UHA is proud to announce that the 2020 Distinguished Young Woman of Christian County is our very own, Rachel Craig! Rachel is the daughter of Nate and upper school teacher Amy Craig. DYW is a scholar-

ship program designed for young women in their senior year of high school. Scholarships are awarded in several individual events and an overall winner is named. Last year, participants received more than \$2.1 million in cash scholarships through the program across the nation. Along with taking the title of Distinguished Young Woman of Christian County, Rachel also took first place in the following categories: Talent, Fitness, Interview, and Self-Expression! Rachel will participate in the 2020 Distinguished Young Women of Kentucky Scholarship Program in Lexington, in January.





Also competing in the scholarship program was senior Allison Sunderhaus. Allison was named runner-up and placed in the following categories: Talent, Fitness, Interview, and Scholastic. Congratulations to these Blazers!

Mayor's Youth Council

UHA is proud to announce junior Rohan Desai and senior Kinsley Livingston were selected to serve on the Mayor's Youth Council for the 2019-2020 school year. The Mayor's Youth Council learns about civic

democracy, making changes, and participates in a variety of service projects around the city of Hopkinsville.





Track & Field

The Blazer Track Team competed last May in the Class 1A State Track Meet held at the University of Kentucky. 2019 graduate Isiah Panitere walked away with 2 state titles and broke a state record in one of his events. Individual top ten medal earners for the Blazers were:

Isiah Pantiere—1st place 400m Dash; 1st place 200m Dash (new state record) Thomas Duncan—7th place 1600m Run; 9th place 3200m Run

Connor Dill—10th place 300m Hurdles Aisha Pantiere—6th place 100m Hurdles

Muki Kunnmann—6th place 3200m Run

Evelyn Morales—7th place 300m Hurdle

Lily Hendricks, Meg Adams, Aisha Pantiere, Evelyn Morales—5th place 4x200m Relay Lily Hendricks, Piper Hancock, Meg Adams, Evelyn Morales—7th place 4x400m Relay In addition, the track team had several members named All Area and All Region athletes. Note—All Area is the team that represents all classes in our region.

All Area—1st Team:

Isiah Pantiere; 100, 200, and 400 Meter Dashes Aisha Pantiere, 200 Meter Dash Evelyn Morales, High Jump

Second Team:

Isiah Pantiere; Long Jump Kate Cansler, 400 Meter Dash Muki Kunnmann, 3200 Meter Run Evelyn Morales, 300 Hurdles Piper Hancock, 800 Meter Run Girls 4*200 (Lily, Meg, Aisha, Evelyn) Relay Girls 4*400 (Lily, Piper, Meg, Evelyn) Relay



State Track Team Memers: (L to R) Chase Hendricks, Connor Dill, Isiah Pantiere, Thomas Duncan, Lily Hendricks, Aisha Pantiere, Meg Adams, Evelyn Morales, Muki Hunnmann, Piper Hancock

KY NEW ERA Athletes of the Year

UHA was well represented among those named Kentucky New Era Athletes of the Year. What an honor to have NINE Blazer student athletes awarded for the 2018-2019 school year.

Lilly Strader (Girls Soccer) KyKy Tandy (Boys Basketball) Lily Hendricks (Volleyball) Muki Kunnmann (Cross Country) Drew McGowan (Baseball) Westin Wood (Golf) Dylan Edmonson and Brady Bilyeu (Tennis) Isiah Pantiere (Track and Field)

*Not pictured Dylan Edmonson & Isiah **Pantiere**



All A State—Golf

The boys and girls golf team both brought home All A Region Championships this season. The girls team as a whole went on to place 8th overall at the All A State competition, while on the boys side, senior Westin Wood finished 9th individually and junior Jiles Wyatt finished 44th out of 109 golfers. Congratulations to these Blazers!

All A State—Soccer

The boys and girls soccer teams both won Region 2 All A Championships. Both teams then went on to win their regional sectional games to make it to the first round of the All A State Tournament that was played in Frankfort. The Lady Blazers were defeated in the Elite Eight round, while the boys made it to the Final Four before being eliminated. Seniors William Bryan and Tanner Thomas were named to the All A State Tournament Team.









Lady Blazer Volleyball



The Lady Blazers volleyball team have had a successful start to their season. The team finished 2nd at the Apollo Summer Slam and they were Region Runner-ups at the All A Region Tournament. Congratulations, Ladies!

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