

Moroccan Sunset Prom entertains LGHS students

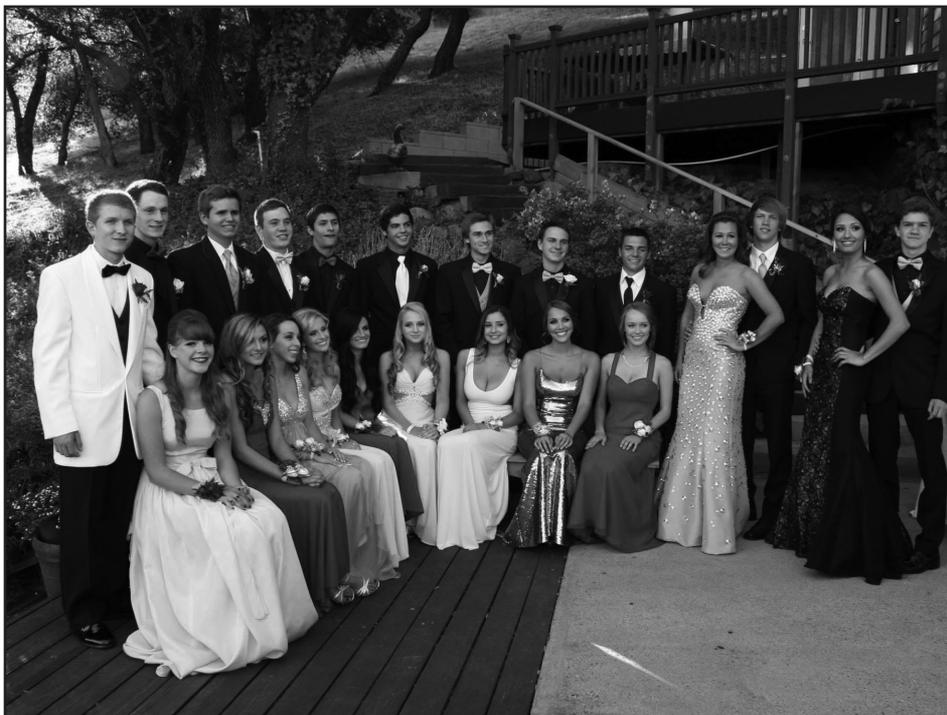
by Quincey Klein

News Editor

At Campbell's Villa Ragusa around 8 PM on Sat., May 20, crowds of Los Gatos seniors and their guests clamored to enter one of the most anticipated, iconic high school events: Senior Prom. The night was characterized by sparkling gems, fragrant corsages and boutonnieres, snapping photos, and tired feet. Exclusive to the class of 2013 and their dates, the dinner and dance celebrated the class's high school career coming to a bittersweet end.

This year's theme was Moroccan Sunset, featuring color tones of gold and purple. Tables were decorated with these colors, as well as centerpieces alternating between exotic, lit-up plants and lanterns made of stunning multi-colored glass. Teacher and chaperone **Amelia DeLaPaz** said, "The visual effect when you walked in was pretty spectacular."

The candy table, full of various glass containers of M&Ms, licorice, Skittles, and Peach-O's, was popular among the many sweet-toothed attendees. Couples and friends posed in the photo booth for pictures as souvenirs of the memorable night. Others, with friends or alone, visited the fortune teller to get some insight into their future following their graduation.



courtesy M. Franklin

PROM NIGHT: Dressed up and excited for the night, couples met up with friends before attending the Moroccan Sunset-themed Prom.

Attendees rushed to find a table where they could fit all of their closest friends. When Principal **Markus Autrey** excused the first row to get their food, other tables decided to go as well, creating a mad rush not to be the last in line to receive dinner. The buffet featured assorted dinner rolls; mixed baby greens with a raspberry vinaigrette, dried cranberries, and nuts; Caesar salad; champagne chicken in a cream sauce with sorrel and mushrooms; beef in a wild mushroom forest demi glace; tri-color tortellini in a basil cream sauce; rice pilaf; and vegetables.

As the dinner service began to wind down, attendees slowly accumulated on the dance floor. When "Get Stupid" by Mac Dre, a late Bay Area rapper, filled the ballroom many flocked to the dance floor, as the song is a regional favorite. The music was provided by a Wild 94.9 DJ who spun popular tracks such as "Can't Hold Us" by Macklemore and "Harlem Shake."

Even though not all the classes went to prom, many other students were equally as excited about prom as those who attended. Junior **Sloan Cunniff** exclaimed, "Everyone looked so good. I spent my whole Sunday in front of my computer and on Instagram just admiring people's prom dresses."

Spinner wins regional Silicon Valley Synopsys award

by Liat Rubin

People Editor

Hannah Spinner lives a double life—a student at first glance, but a scientist at heart. This hard-working junior has most recently competed in two science fairs: the regional Silicon Valley Synopsys and Technology Championship on March 15, 2013, as well as the California State Science Fair on April 15. She won the regional fair under her category of Plant Biology or Botany, and moved on to the state fair, where she impressed judges and won her



VICTORIOUS: Spinner won at the regional Silicon Valley fair.

category yet again.

Spinner's scientific successes all started with LGHS's new Advanced Science Research (ASR) class, in which students develop an experiment that they conduct and investigate throughout the year and eventually present at the regional science fair. Spinner chose to conduct an experiment investigating how plants talk to each other, and she focused her research on the specific case of the fungus mycorrhiza.

Spinner explained the process as the plants talking to each other through underground fungal networks, or mycorrhiza networks. The fungus grows on the roots of plants and allows members of a population to communicate through chemical signals. To better explain this process, Spinner said, "It's similar to how hormones work in humans. Something releases the hormones and the cells get it by a messenger; as a result there is an effect on the human; in this case it's on the plant."

Spinner began research for her experiment in August of 2012, but found that she was running into issues. "I didn't know how to measure the chemical signals, nor did I have the tools necessary," Spinner explained. She then contacted a USDA scientist named Alisa Huffaker. Huffaker specializes in botany



photos courtesy H. Spinner

PLANT BIOLOGY: Spinner conducted an experiment on mycorrhiza networks and their effect on plant communication and interaction.

as well, and was willing to help and provide the tools necessary for Spinner and her project. Spinner flew to Florida over February Break, when she met with Huffaker and gained access to the technology she needed. Huffaker provided her professional lab, including a mass spectrometer, a tool used to measure the relative abundance of the molecules, and aided Spinner in her various procedures.

As Spring Break arrived, Spinner was off to the California State Science Fair, where she won first prize in her category.

But Spinner did not stop to rest on her laurels; she went on to enter two other competitions. After becoming a finalist in the National Science Fair, she presented her project at the Google Science Fair and is still awaiting the results on June 11.

LGHS Physics students venture to Great America

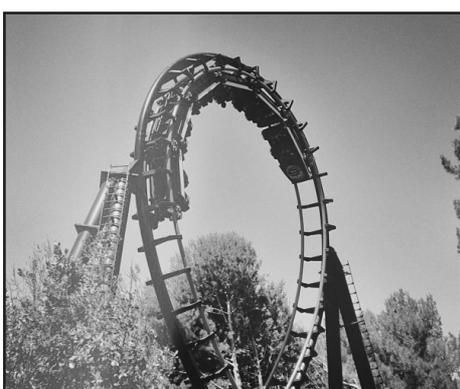
by Haley Wade

Culture Editor

When you look down, all you can see is your dangling feet and the faces of nervous children in a line snaking underneath you. You can see one edge of the park on your left and the other edge on your right. You are on top of the world until the brakes release and suddenly you're plummeting back to earth. The Drop Zone's rubber seat presses into your shoulders as your stomach rockets upward. You whip out your accelerometer and measure four g's of force acting on you.

Physics never seemed this thrilling in the classroom, but the Los Gatos High School Physics trip to Great America let students experience a combination of fun and physics. Early morning on May 17, LGHS physics students lined up outside of the buses parked in front of the school to take the short trip to California's Great America. Once the students streamed out of their respective buses, they went through the front gates, armed with accelerometers and astrolabes to take their measurements.

Student favorites were Flight Deck, Demon, and the Drop Tower. Senior **Mary Jarnigan** overcame a



courtesy S. Kuta

ROLLER COASTERS: Physics students flocked to multitudes of rides.

personal battle on the trip. "The experience was amazing. I got over my fear of riding on upside-down roller-coasters, and it was a really fun way to apply what we've been learning in physics throughout the year. But when we got off, the picture of my horrified face made it worth it." Lines were relatively short and filled with physics students from other schools. Between wild rides, students stopped for

food at the booths and stands. Some waited in the long Dip n' Dots line, some ordered pizza or burgers, and others satiated their hunger with the famous funnel cakes. It was easy to find a sugar-crazed teenager with a face caked with powdered sugar in line for the Vortex.

Although the water park was closed down, some water rides were offered to provide relief from the hot weather. "My friends and I went on the White Water Rafting," said junior **Kathryn Samp**. "We were soaking wet at the end. Not worth it."

Ironically, being at Great America was not all fun and games. LGHS students were often rooted to benches trying to finish the lab they were assigned by their physics teachers. They measured their distance from the rides in footsteps and used astrolabes to find the angle of elevation from eye-level to the top of the tower. In line, kids pulled out stopwatches to time the roller coasters and calculate their velocities. Although the lab posed some vexing questions, the nearby rides and amusements were enough to motivate students to finish their work. Of course, there were the occasional last-minute stragglers finishing up on the way out,

but every lab was turned in successfully by 2:00 PM for the bus ride home.

As buses pulled out of the parking lot, LGHS students settled into a nap as the sugar-highs wore off. The noises of rollercoasters clicking noisily upward, the sounds of carnival music, and the smells of ice cream and face-paint drifted away behind them. It was a great way to incorporate class material and excitement into an end-of-the-year trip.



courtesy C. Molho

HIGH IN THE SKY: Students had fun on exhilarating roller coasters.

KCAT TV-15 and LGHS students will make a movie

by David Frankle

World Editor

Los Gatos's local TV station, KCAT TV-15, will make a movie this summer. Airship Down will be a "steampunk" blend of a western, sci-fi, and classical mystery. It will be written and produced by Los Gatos High School students and alumni, and funded by Kickstarter, an online crowdsourcing investment site.

The length and scope of this film will depend on

the money raised. KCAT director/station manager **Tom Bryan** and the production crew have three potential funding goals: If they raise \$10,000, they will complete a 30-minute film; should they raise \$20,000, they will shoot an hour long production and \$30,000 will enable them to shoot a 90-minute picture.

Bryan will direct the movie. He is the owner of Fremont-based Red Wolf Productions, and he recruited a number of industry colleagues to join the project pro-bono. He is

very excited about the potential of this film, saying, "This concept has really caught on with everyone who hears about it. Everyone's very excited to work with the students and produce a high-quality film that the Los Gatos community can be proud of."

Sam Bowers, a 2010 LGHS alumnus, will be joined by co-star **Marion Wellington**, a 2012 graduate. Bowers is now a regular performer of San Jose's Comedy Sportz team, and Wellington just completed her freshman year at Brown University. Current LGHS

students will be a part of the production, and several important members of the Los Gatos community will also be seen in cameo roles.

Pending the amount of funds raised through the project's Kickstarter page, production will begin on the movie at the beginning of summer vacation. Contributions to this Los Gatos movie can be made at the Kickstarter page, airship-down.com/kickstarter. Visit airshipdown.com for more information. (Source: Mercury News)