

- BASSI REVIVES SEEDS
- KEADY RUNS SLOWLY

Raygani speaks volumes

by Sean Clark
Editor-in-Chief

"Language has been a big part of my life," says quadrilingual freshman **Sawye Raygani**. For the first five years of her life, Raygani lived in Iran. There, she learned Farsi and continued speaking the language at Dekhoda Farsi School in Campbell when she moved to America. Soon after, Raygani began taking Spanish classes in third grade. Since then, Raygani has taken on German at the South Bay German School. In eighth grade, she even won a gold medal for her performance on a national Spanish exam.

This cosmopolitan girl applies her language skills on the LGHS Speech and Debate team. Raygani practices parliamentary, impromptu, and extemporaneous debate. In parliamentary debate, Raygani's favorite type, she teams up with a partner to take on 2 other debaters after researching a topic for 20 minutes. Impromptu debate allows the debater two minutes to prepare for a five minute speech on an "impromptu" topic. In extemporaneous debate, Raygani has 30 minutes to research one of three topics, on which they will speak for 7 minutes. If that doesn't sound scary enough, internet access is prohibited. She only has access to information already downloaded on her computer prior to the competition.

"One time I had no idea what the topic was on and we had zero information saved on the topic," said Raygani, speaking about the first varsity debate tournament. Although her varsity debate career had a rocky start, she eventually won a debate 3-1, an outstanding accomplishment for a debate newcomer.

Besides arguing for fun, Raygani serves on the social media subcommittee of the Los Gatos Youth Commission, "We created a Humans of Los Gatos page. We only have a couple of posts so far, but... it's going." The page can be found at under the Los Gatos Youth Commission Facebook page, in an album titled "Humans of Los Gatos"; support the Youth Commission and hit that like button!



courtesy S. Raygani

Her academic pursuits range from biology to debate to foreign languages. When she's not keeping track of her biosphere, participating in a debate, or learning a new language, she's gaining experience in journalism by working with Adobe InDesign and the KCAT studio.

It might not sound like she has any free time, but she does. A genuine movie fiend, Raygani cites the Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and She's Got Mail as her favorite movies. In the future, the freshman hopes to learn Turkish and Arabic, as well as move to Germany for college.

Wickham explores astrological signs

by Sophie Domengeaux
News Editor

When she's not shopping online or taking an Uber to San Francisco, you can probably find senior **Elissa Wickham** designing her next storefront or delving deeper into the world of astrology. Kind, enthusiastic, and fashionable, Wickham stands out at LGHS as a unique student.

Anyone at LGHS knows of Wickham's modern and sophisticated fashion sense. Describing her style as similar to a "rich widow," she prides herself on her dedication to fashion and calls shopping one of her favorite pastimes. She first became interested in fashion in seventh grade, after changing from Redwood Middle School to Fisher inspired a change in her clothes as well.

A strong hater of fitting rooms, Wickham buys most of her closet online. Australian boutiques like White Fox Boutique, Dolly Girl Fashion, and Cosmo By Lisa receive business from Wickham due to cute clothes and accessories and reduced prices. Her inspiration comes from Instagram, scrolling through the app while also having a few favorite online fashionistas keeps her style up to date and trendy. Wickham's advice for those interested in fashion is to "wear what you like. If you don't like the clothes you're wearing, people can tell. If you have confidence and think you look great, other people will think so too."

Wickham wants to continue improving her eye for style and aesthetics in the future. She dreams of being accepted to art school with the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, commonly known as FIDM, at the top of her list. She intends to major in visual communications. She explains

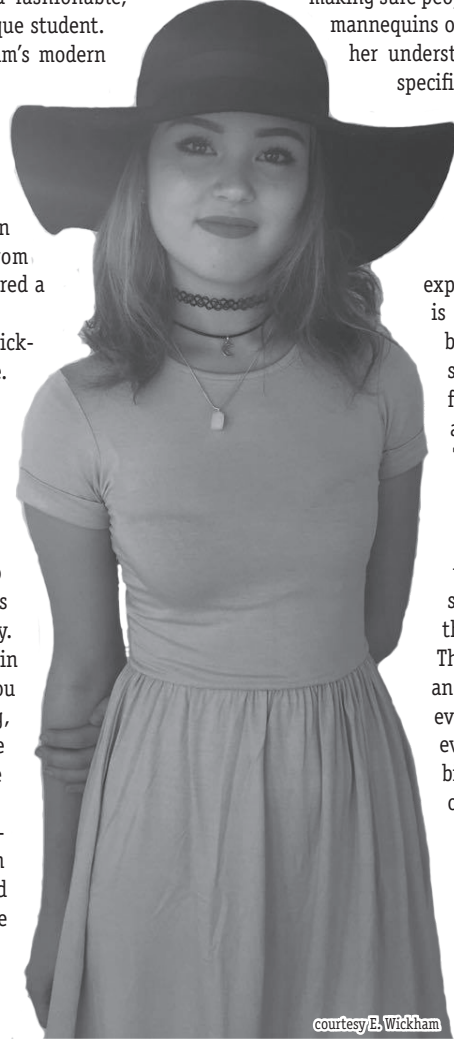
that it's the study of presenting things in a way that is pleasing to the eye and engages the audience without being too visually distracting. Wickham often explains the concept with the example of a storefront. "You have to be able to show the clothes in a way that's cool and interesting while

making sure people aren't only focused on the weird mannequins or something." She hopes to further her understanding of visual communications specifically at the San Francisco location

of FIDM. Her love for the city stems from not only its key role in the fashion world but also its diversity and welcoming of many cultures.

In her free time, Wickham explores the world of astrology. She is deeply fascinated by the concepts behind astrology and the accuracy she has experienced with it. She first discovered it at a young age after learning her sign was a Libra. They, Wickham explains, are "very friendly, like peace, and enjoy making others happy. They love art because they are ruled by Venus, the goddess of beauty." She was shocked at the similarities between the stereotypical Libra and herself. The fascination took off from there, and today she is fully immersed in every aspect of astrology. Wickham even admits to searching for people's birthdays on social media websites in order to calculate their signs.

With the universe on her side, Wickham is possibly one of the most interesting people at LGHS. If you see her in the halls be sure to admire her outfit and take notes as she probably just bought it and is setting the next new fashion trend.



courtesy E. Wickham

Kvamme studies music theory and searches for the facts

by Lauren Sanders
Opinion Editor

Sophomore **Paul Kvamme** is one of the most knowledgeable students at LGHS – whether the topic is music, computer science, aviation, or nearly anything else, Kvamme knows all about it. An active participant in various school activities, Kvamme is known for his well-roundedness and willingness to share his expertise with those around him, which helps others succeed in the same ways he does.

Skilled on the piano, handbells, saxophone, symphonic percussion, and vocals, Kvamme embraces music as a prominent part of his life. He is an active participant in several musical groups, including but not limited to the Los Gatos Marching Band, LGHS Jazz Band, and the youth choir at his church.

As marching band season comes to a close, Kvamme reflects on this season and his years as a member of the band, saying that "the experience of learning music at such an intense level" is something that can be "intimidating" at first, but that it really helps with technique and musicianship. Having recently placed tenth with the marching band at the Western Band Association Championships in Fresno, Kvamme is moving on to different musical pursuits with his various groups.

It's no wonder Kvamme is such a successful musician; he has been

exposed to music since birth. Starting piano lessons at seven years old, Kvamme is thankful that he got into music at a young age, commenting that it has been "a tremendous asset" in his development and achievements as a musician. When asked if he has a favorite instrument, Kvamme explained that "they're all very different and that [he has] had totally different experiences with each of them," and thus cannot pick a favorite.

Although this music aficionado has dabbled in composition, he prefers to dissect other people's music. Kvamme is passionate about music theory, which he describes as "fun and incredibly useful." He says that "there are rules, but nearly all of them can be broken," which is part of what makes it so intriguing to him. While music theory can be a difficult concept, Kvamme comments that "at the most basic level, everyone is a music theorist."

Although music is a huge

part of his life, Kvamme does not want to pursue a career as a professional musician. At the moment, he is considering minoring in music while getting his degree in air traffic control, another passion of his. However, he plans to continue playing music recreationally, in church or community bands.

Kvamme's interests mostly involve music, but it's important to get to know the man beneath the erudite exterior. When asked which fruit best reflect his personality, after much deliberation, Kvamme answered, "a pomegranate, because there are a bunch of tasty pieces that make up a whole."

Kvamme has a philosophy that many high schoolers and even adults should consider adopting: "Get all the facts." Best put in his own words, he explains that "people, especially young people, have a habit of being influenced by sources of authority, like friends or teachers," and he thinks that it would be ideal "if people would really try to understand something before forming an opinion on it." This mature attitude is one that everyone should attempt to emulate.

Talent, intellect, insight – Kvamme has it all. If you see him in the halls, strike up a conversation about anything from music to computers or to history, and you're sure to come away from it with new knowledge, new perspective, and new friendship.



courtesy P. Kvamme

BASSI STAYS SASSY THROUGH DIFFICULTIES WITH PETS AND DENTAL CHALLENGES

by Antonia Salisbury
Editor-in-Chief

If you've ever met senior **Josh Bassi**, you know that he's "flossin'." And when Josh says flossin' I can assure you that he doesn't mean flossing his teeth (because Josh has had 17 cavities in the past month). Rather, Josh uses "flossin'" to encompass the general positivity, enthusiasm, and hard work he brings to every activity he is a part of. His eccentric slang, love for seeds, and rotten teeth are just a few of the things that make him unique.

Bassi grew up in the Bay Area with his two older brothers, parents, and dog named "Puppy" – all of whom are "certified flossers." Bassi notes that he had another dog before Puppy who died from blindly walking into the pool too many times. He "saved it one time by punching it in the chest," but there was only so much he could do. Bassi also had a domesticated cat that became feral under his watch; he hasn't seen it in a while, but it leaves dead animals on his doorstep so he is sure it's alive. In memory of his cat, Bassi shared, "I tried to name it Goatee, but ended up just naming it Cat."

Apart from pet-keeping, the Bassi family also participates in Gilroy farming culture. Bassi's father is a seed farmer in the area, meaning that Josh was introduced to seed farming at a fairly young age. His first experience was with "seed roguing," a technique used

to find the lettuce mosaic virus in contaminated seeds. Bassi recounts that he "faked being color blind for years to get out of [seed roguing]," but, by the fifth grade, he had "gotten real sciency." From there, Bassi's interest in science blossomed. He had an entomology phase around that time and, to this day, asserts that "you can't deny that the best bug is the assassin bug." It is also his favorite animal.

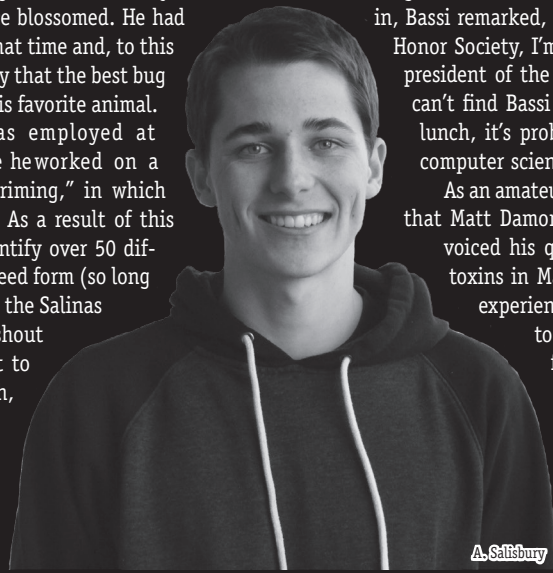
More recently, Bassi was employed at a company called SeedX where he worked on a confidential process called "priming," in which dormant seeds are revitalized. As a result of this experience, Josh Bassi can identify over 50 different types of plants in their seed form (so long as they are commonly grown in the Salinas Valley). Bassi also added two shout outs in his interview, the first to his favorite seed to work with, the onion seed, and the second to spinach mildew expert Jim Krill saying, "he's a great guy, he's a chiller."

Outside of seeds, Bassi is quite the Renaissance man.

He's dabbled in a few sports including basketball, pole vaulting, waterpolo, and swimming. During the summer he works as a lifeguard in Los Gatos. When asked what clubs he participates in, Bassi remarked, "I'm in almost every club, except for Spanish Honor Society, I'm not in that club." More specifically, Bassi is president of the Stock and Finance Club. Additionally, if you can't find Bassi fulfilling his officer position at FBLA during lunch, it's probably because he's "gtg" (got to grind) on a computer science lab.

As an amateur movie critic, Josh reviews The Martian saying that Matt Damon was "for sure an expert botanist" but also voiced his qualms saying, "I don't know about all those toxins in Martian soil." When asked about his travelling experiences Josh explained, "Yeah I travel, to Salinas, to grow seeds," followed by a succinct list of Bassi family vacation hotspots such as Hawaii, San Diego, and Europe. Someday, Josh hopes that his interests will translate into a finance, economics, or plant science degree.

So, if you see Josh Bassi out and about, roaming the halls of LGHS, let him know that you think he's "flossin'," because he'll probably think you are too.



A. Salisbury