

Krockenberger succeeds in ASR and athletics

by Lexi Kupor
People Editor

If you think you've reached the maximum capacity for extracurriculars, meet junior **Niki Krockenberger**. Somehow, Krockenberger manages to balance her competitive soccer team and award-winning piano skills, while still carving out time to explore the human microbiome through her Advanced Science Research experiment, fusing her diverse passions to impact communities across the Bay Area.



Krockenberger's interest in science literally runs through her blood, as both of her parents are very "science-oriented" and have Ph.D's in physics. Growing up in a house of STEM majors, her parents instilled a passion for science in her from a young age, which Krockenberger continues to pursue through her ASR projects.

After last year's success in constructing biodegradable plastic from the cellulose of bamboo, Krockenberger earned a place in the regional Synopsys Science Fair and went on to attend the state fair in Los Angeles. There, Krockenberger exchanged ideas with other young scientists from across California, as well as with world-renowned judges.

This year, after being intrigued by several studies concerning the association between the gut microbiome and diabetes, Krockenberger plans to analyze the effects of diet on these bacteria. Not only is this a topic of interest for her, but Krockenberger also expresses her hopes that her project could have an impact on the diabetes epidemic, which is currently "a huge problem in America especially."

Aside from her scientific endeavors, Krockenberger is equally impressive at sports. She decided to try track and field upon entering high school and stuck with it throughout each season. Krockenberger also enters her eleventh season of soccer this year, as she enjoys having an athletic outlet since she is "a really competitive person." She plans on joining the LGHS soccer team for the first time this semester after recovering from various injury setbacks.

In her scarce free time, Krockenberger practices her piano skills. Every year, she undergoes the Certificate of Merit trial, which includes a music theory test in front of an examiner. Her musical adroitness earned her a spot in the Santa Clara County regional honors recital and statewide convention for several years. Krockenberger cites music as one of her main passions and hopes to continue playing the piano past her high school career.

However, she still isn't certain about her post-high school plans; Krockenberger hopes to pursue a science field by possibly following a pre-medical track. No matter what path she chooses, her diverse talents, impressive work ethic, and optimistic spirit are sure to carry her far throughout college and beyond.



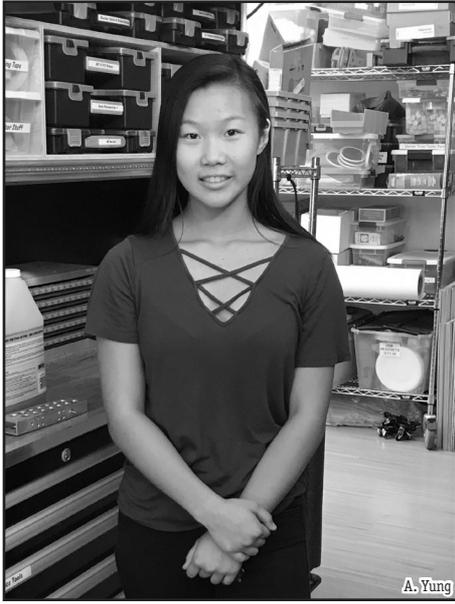
photos courtesy N. Krockenberger

Wang dominates robotics

by Sofia Rossi
National/World Editor

Robotics team captain and orchestra concertmaster **Cathy Wang**, an LGHS senior, excels in both academics and the arts. Over the course of a typical week at school, Wang can be found working at the CNC mill in LGHS's metal shop, programming Tetris, or otherwise debunking patriarchal expectations of the typical high school female.

As the captain of the LGHS robotics team for the second year in a row, Wang's responsibilities include designing the class curriculum and teaching newcomers skills in computer programming, mechanical and electrical engineering, and team management. Last year, under Wang's leadership, LGHS's team Iron Claw 972 attended their second FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, TX, which followed their win at the Silicon Valley Regional competition.



A. Yung

Wang also mentioned the challenges she faces as a woman in a male-dominated field; "A lot of times it feels like I have no voice. The guys can always talk louder." As the first female captain and the second girl to hold a leadership role on the robotics team, she explained the hardships she endured in order to gain the respect of other team members. She is one of 14 females on the team, with 46 members total.

Beyond her skills in engineering and academics, Wang is a musical virtuoso; her training in classical violin earned her a place in the Golden State Youth Orchestra as the first violin and seventh chair. This past summer, she toured with GSYO in Europe, performing in Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Wang has also been the concertmaster for the school's orchestra since her sophomore year. When asked why she enjoys playing the violin, she stated: "it's a very detailed and precise skill, so I guess I enjoy the challenge." She loves other artistic activities such as graphic sketching, and frequently draws anything from her pet cat to ancient Roman artifacts.

To serve the community, Wang volunteers at her childhood Chinese school as a teacher's assistant during the summer. The school focuses on introducing elementary students to cultural studies, so Wang teaches the basics of stage design and photography. She also presents competition robots from the LGHS robotics team to young students at local middle and elementary schools, and annually at the San Jose Maker Faire.

With a packed schedule and time-consuming responsibilities, Wang seeks out communities of people to whom she relates, and cute animal videos in order to stay motivated. She credits the friends she has made in high school for helping her leave the comfort of her "emotionally constipated" shell and overcome personal obstacles. As a self-assessed, "detailed, and opinionated" individual, Wang is truly a force to be reckoned with.

ZOLLA MASTERS COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

by Senji Torrey
Sports Editor

At first sight, sophomore **Aaron Zolla** may seem like an introverted individual who always has his head buried in a book or a pencil in his hand, ready to write his next note. Once you get to know him, however, Zolla is an outgoing person who applies himself to the meticulous art of hacking, while also working to master the melodies, octaves, and harmonies of choir.

Zolla began his hacking hobby after playing a game called Bloons Tower Defense Battles. He would use a simple memory editing tool to predict and execute moves to benefit himself in the game. The unconventional and peculiar fashion by which he started his programming career allowed him to "meet other people who also have technical ability...to exploit [games, websites, and apps]." In addition to this, Zolla has learned seven programming languages and is "always trying to learn new stuff."

"[Hacking is about] finding vulnerabilities in apps or websites... that you can exploit in any way. It's not just saying, 'Oh, I wanna hack into this person's account' and pressing a button and saying, 'Yeah, this is my account now.' That doesn't really happen."



S. Torrey

Aside from hacking, Zolla also excels in the LGHS choir, singing at a bass. In fifth grade, he decided to take choir as his musical class and has been "doing it ever since." He joined the Honors choir class at school to "meet really talented musicians." As a freshman, he participated in the California State Choir, a prodigious achievement for any singer. Like hacking, Zolla takes choir "very seriously." He went on to say that

he "think[s] of things extremely [well] before [he] do[es] anything." When asked what he would describe himself as, he simply replied, "musician," attesting to his resolute mindset.

In the future, Zolla expects to stick with the hacking path, hoping to major in computer science in college, planning to work with computers as a profession. With an attitude such as Zolla's, one can conclude that his ambitions to be a computer science major are not just a silly pipe dream, but a concrete proposition for his future.

While Zolla's two interests may seem to directly govern his time, he is quite similar to any ordinary high-schooler. He hangs out with friends, plays the disgraced, yet secretly treasured game Pokémon Go, and is even a board member on the Saferides committee. With such a multi-talented resume, this sophomore is sure to be the next big thing in technology.

STANLEY PURSUES MODEL UNITED NATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

by Alaina Fox
News Editor

Model UN participant, Make A Wish Club secretary, and Michigan-der, LGHS junior **Robert Stanley** has limitless ambitions and a fierce dedication to everything he sets his mind to. His unwavering work ethic makes him a pleasure to collaborate with, and his classmates feel lucky to hear his thoughtful insights and witty quips.



Although the activity is demanding, requiring hours of research and preparation prior to a weekend-long conference, Stanley considers it worth the time and effort, explaining that "[he has], to a degree, become a better public speaker because it forces [him] to go outside [his] comfort zone."

Beyond that, Stanley appreciates that Model UN prompts him to learn more about the world, noting that, "it has given [him] a reason to look into international affairs and different issues around the world which can be really enlightening and shocking. [he has] learned that there are so many sides to every issue and it is impossible to easily or ever come to a consensus when everyone has a different side. Every side makes sense to them and you can't just force people to budge, you have to work with (and around) them." Stanley's passion for the rigorous work of Model UN reflects his complete devotion to any opportunity he sees to improve his knowledge and abilities.

Stanley also looks for ways to better the world around him as the treasurer of LGHS's Make A Wish Club, and by consistently volunteering for its fundraising events. Additionally, he serves on the Los Gatos Youth Commission, in which he helps plan and prepare for various community events.

As the photography editor for LGHS's literary magazine, The Wildcat Review, Stanley has extraordinary talent at finding the perfect composition, lighting, and angle for each of his countless pictures. He first delved into the wonders of photography in order to preserve memories of people and things from his past, but after years of experience and a growing interest, he now appreciates the emotions his photography has the potential to elicit. He explained how he now likes photographing "in the moment, to remember the moment, but also because they are



photos courtesy R. Stanley

usually kind of happy or nice to see and [he likes] that." Stanley also elaborated that while he takes many pictures, "they are the best when they show people I know or... something in nature that is more out of the way, but still beautiful."

Stanley currently takes seven classes this year, five of which are AP courses. Though coupling a rigorous academic schedule with many time-consuming extracurriculars seems intense, he does not view any of his activities as burdensome. "It is more fun than a challenge," Stanley stated, emphasizing how his enjoyment outweighs any difficulties or stresses that result from his workload.

Whether you know him from after-school activities, shared classes, or simply from around campus, sparing a moment to chat with Stanley is always a great experience.