



# THE JAGUAR Journal



## "The Stage's the Thing"

By Ashley Flora  
*Staff Correspondent*

Photos by Dylan  
Miller

Not only does a musical need skilled dancers, singers, and performers, but it requires beautiful costumes, unique choreography, and a set so outstanding that it makes audience members feel as if they are in the production. The set is the key to a good production; without one, there is no production. This year, students who were members of the stage and design crew for *Les Misérables* found out how much work goes into creating a remarkable set. They also experienced the audience's adulation when they took their bow at the end of each night's performance.

Each year, our school's AP Art teacher, Mrs. Bobbi Allaire, plans and creates Jackson Memorial's yearly spring musical with the help of multiple students, staff, and her daughter, Jaime Allaire. From 1993 to 2011, she was the set designer for all of our musicals, but in 2012, her

daughter took over the position and was the set designer for this year's musical. But no one can build a stage alone, which is why our school has put together a stage and design crew consisting of numerous students – with and without artistic talent. And even though they were the students in the background, dressed in black, they were as crucial to the success of the show as the actors on stage.

Set design is not just painting and drawing; these students have to build the sets and learn how to use the construction tools properly. Although most people are welcomed into stage and design crew, there are some requirements. Some are required to be artistic while others must have good math skills. But all must have a lot of free time, as building sets takes a long time.

"Students work on the set whenever the auditorium is available after Janu-

ary and through February until about 6 p.m., with work during the last two weeks of February and March going until about 10 p.m. each night," Mrs. Allaire said. "It also requires every Sunday to help build and paint the set in order to complete it by the deadlines."

Thankfully, the stage and design crew only have to focus on the spring musical. However, they do occasionally help with the Drama Club production and the middle school productions. The middle school uses the high's school's sets.

Aside from the stage and design crew, a separate and smaller stage crew is in charge of moving the set elements during the performance. According to Mrs. Allaire, there are also stage managers, one curtain manager, and one or two prop managers to handle the props, costumes, and other items. The planning of each set usually

starts in the Fall, and the actual building begins after Winter break. About 40 students build the set under the supervision of a builder and a designer. The construction takes them about 6 weeks to complete.

Sets not only take a lot of time and effort to build, but they also cost a lot of money.

"The school district only pays for the salaries of some of our advisors, but everything else is raised through ticket sales and fundraising efforts," said Mrs. Allaire. Not only do they have to plan, design, and create the whole musical, but they also have to sell it! In addition to all of this, they all must be prepared for accidents as well. Standing on top of giant ladders and a dozen kids using staple guns is not as simple as it can sound. Mrs. Allaire explained how every set they have ever built was wood and that there is a very limited amount of space in the back to store

all that wood.

Thankfully, there have never been any major accidents, she added.

During Mrs. Allaire's career, she and her production team have put together marvelous shows that seem to get better every year. As many at Jackson Memorial know, our school has won multiple awards for our musicals' sets, such as "Rising Star Awards" for the set of the 2011 production *Wizard of Oz* and even set design, costume, and makeup for last year's *Seussical*. Of course, it was not easy earning such awards. Each play comes with its own unique challenges.

"Our most intricate were *The King and I* and *Aida*, the most fun were *Seussical* and *Wizard of Oz*," she adds, "but the biggest were probably *Annie* and this year's, *Les Misérables*, just for its sheer size, levels, and for the complexity of design movement in the limited space behind the stage."

## Earth Day - Campus Cleanup



Photos by Dylan  
Miller

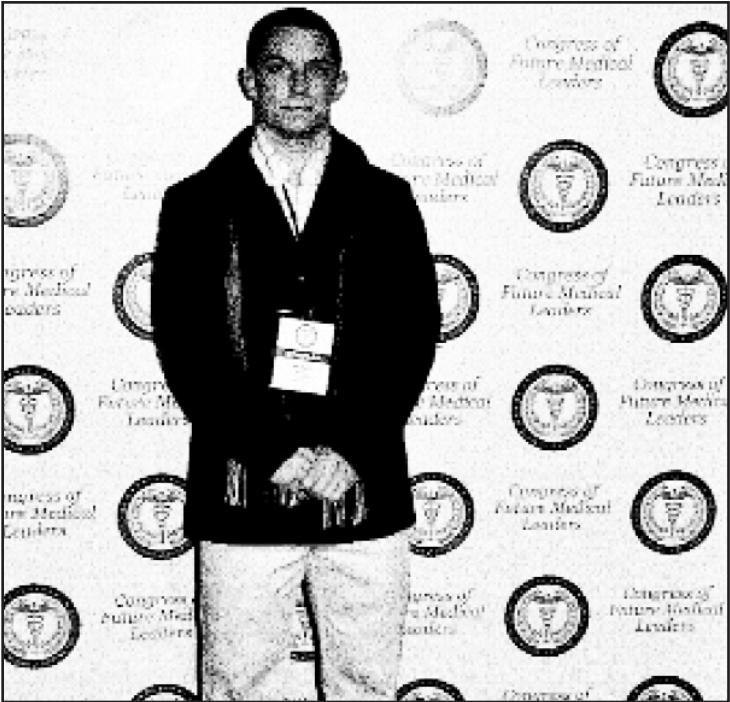


# JMHS's Future Doctor

By Alex Gamboa  
Staff Writer

Mike Petrizzo, varsity football player and AP student, was chosen to be a part of the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Washington D.C., which took place from February 14th though the 16th. This event isn't one that just any aspiring student entering the field of medicine can

were various speakers, including leading scientists in medical advancement and innovation, and a myriad of professors from various colleges. When asked what new techniques or advancements he heard that interested him the most, he responded "Robotics, as



show up to; participants must be first nominated. Mike Petrizzo, a senior at JMHS, was nominated by Dr. Connie Marino, the Medical Director of The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Petrizzo was notified of this honor late November 2013. Also attending this conference

they are able to do microscopic ligament repairs-millimeters in length." This medical advancement applies to Mike Petrizzo's interest because he is on the path to enter the field of physical therapy. He is attending Eberly College of Science at Penn State in fall of 2014. Congratulations Michael!

## THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

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# How the Internet is Changing the World

By Jordan Alderman  
Staff Writer

What comes to mind when someone mentions the Internet? Perhaps speed, cats, viral videos, social media-but what about changing the world? We all know the Internet



is the fastest way to do anything, such as receiving news, paying bills, doing taxes, and researching every topic under the sun. However, this is only the dust from the surface of society-altering websites that exist within the worldwide web. Average people sitting behind a computer screen in their pajamas have raised billions of dollars for charities and businesses worldwide. It is said, "He who has the gold makes the rules." We may not have the gold, but our fuzzy pajamas and soft hearts might be enough.

A Google search of "crowd funding" yields 137 million results. This phenomenon is as old as the average social media site. They all vary in terms of presentation, but the general goal is to support a business, person, product, or charity. The "big three" are Kiva, Indiegogo, and Kickstarter. The two latter involve a funding goal and a date. Potential funders are able to search through tags and categories for projects that they'd enjoy support-

ing. Certain dollar amounts could mean awards when the project ends, if and only if the project is successful. Exposure and presentation are key for these sites; game developers, artists, poets, and inventors often create trailers for their content. Categories can range from tasty beverages to high-tech projectors and phone docking stations. The main advantage of Indiegogo and Kickstarter is that they are accessible to everyone.

Kiva is different from most crowd funding websites. With Kiva, nothing is purchased; the transactions are purely loans for hope-



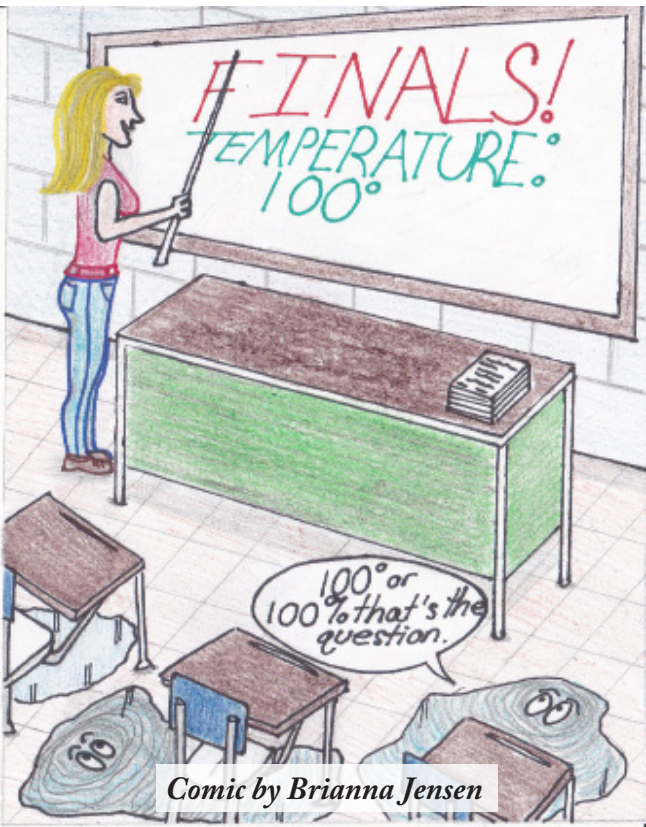
ful business owners across the globe. If someone is interested in starting her own business, backers can lend her money to open her store. The loans are paid back in a specified time. This site is more similar to not-for-profit charity websites. The opportunity goes to optimistic business owners worldwide rather than to the average consumer. Kiva has raised half a billion dollars for entrepreneurs and currently has one million lenders. Upstart is similar to Kiva, as the process involves funding a single person without expecting anything in return. However, Upstart is more geared toward enabling people to achieve a higher education rather

than opening a store or trade business. Then, there are more immediate sites like Etsy; products are paid for by the consumer and shipped out as soon as the creator can do so. Sites like these support primarily the physical trade of anything that can be bought online; however, products are from an identified and individual creator. Merchandise ranges from food and clothes to artwork and fan-based products.

The real benefits of these websites are the wealth of opportunities and prosperity they bring to people who otherwise wouldn't have them. Poet Shane Koycan had a book "kickstarted" in the first twenty-four hours that it was posted. One month later, he had reached several long-term goals, including graphic art and audio albums, because he had received five times as much funding as he asked for. There are many stories like these. No matter the country's societal or economic state, anyone with Wi-Fi connection can be a "citizen" of the Internet. Truly, anyone can have her voice heard in this great big place we call the Internet.

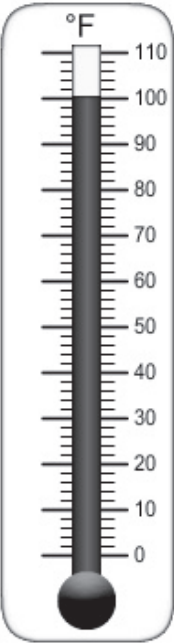


In our own community, we can support each other through internet funding. Jackson's own Myhren family was lucky to survive their house fire but now must start the rebuilding and repairing phase. This family still needs our assistance: <http://www.gofundme.com/87nfg8>



Comic by Brianna Jensen

## Argument for A/C





# Challenger League Helps Autistic Students

By Marc Stevenson and James Grimaldi

*Staff Correspondents*

## Future Educators of America Organize at Jackson Memorial

**T**wenty-four Jackson Memorial High School students were inducted into the Future Educators of America National Honor Society (FEANH) on March 7. These students were honored for establishing the first FEANH within Jackson District School history, according to Arlene J. Wacha, the faculty advisor to the group.

The organization looks for students with high academic achievement who plan a career in education. Mrs. Wacha said the students look to the faculty in our school as their role models as they plan for their future profession.

The inductees were:  
Maria Giorno  
Kaury Bono  
Camille Garcia  
Amanda Kirk  
Kelly Ryan  
Selin Torenli  
Lauren Platt  
Jeovonne Thompson  
Victoria McKeown  
Eric Liebenthal  
Ashley Rakow  
Nicole Catania  
Jessica Rapps  
Jennifer McNamara  
Samantha Wanzor  
Kaitlyn Oxx  
Allison Young  
Kristen Wall  
Tyler Chamra  
Giorgi Sorrentino  
Devin Sypher  
Kelly Lynk  
Carley Finnegan  
Amy Rarick

**W**hat do your Sunday mornings typically consist of? Sleeping in, eating, or watching TV? How about changing the lives of many disabled students in the Monmouth/Ocean County area right here at Jackson Memorial High School?

The Parents of Autistic Children, or POAC, is a non-profit organization devoted to the education and training for the autism community. Challenger, a program under the POAC organization, offers a unique way to help children with special needs become active in athletic participation. Under the supervision of “buddies,” or non-disabled peers, the students are given the opportunity to compete with other towns in activities such as football, soccer, basketball, and other various sports. These buddies provide a source of guidance, backing, and most

importantly: reassurance and inspiration.

Not only do these children have a memorable time, but the buddies also receive a worthwhile experience. One Junior of JMHS, Eric Quaranta, says “The Challenger League is honestly life-changing.

The ability to bring such enthusiasm to these restricted members of my community is one of the greatest joys I’ve experienced in my high school career.”

Kevin McQuade, the leader of the Jackson chapter, encourages dedicated students to come out and support the cause. The club competes on most Sundays during the fall, winter, and spring

seasons and accepts participants in the seventh grade through the age of 21.

Becoming active in the Challenger League can be a rewarding contribution to not only your community, but to the students who participate



in the Challenger League as well. If you have any questions about the Challenger program, you can email Kevin McQuade at [kmcquade@jacksonsd.org](mailto:kmcquade@jacksonsd.org) or visit <http://www.poac.net/default.asp?pid=124> for more information.

## Jaguars Take Over All Shore Swim Team

By Jill Parinello

*Sports Editor*

**I**n the midst of countless team accomplishments, a handful of students at Jackson Memorial have been recognized for their exceptional athletic performance. In addition to four female swimmers, senior basketball player, Eric Carter, who is University of Delaware bound has been named as a member of the First Team All Shore boy’s basketball team.

To represent the cream of the crop in the Shore Conference is a prestigious achievement that many athletes aim for, but very few attain. Though this is seldom reached by most athletes, the girl’s swim team has made short work of this feat. Anna Francisco, along with her sister Mia Francisco and sophomores Kaitlin Idank and Gabby Wilson have all been named to the 2014 First Team All Shore Swim Team. After a very successful season by the Lady Jags, it is only

fitting that four of the swimmers’ success would extend beyond their team competition.

Freshman Anna Francisco has already made her mark on Jaguar swimming in more ways than one. Not only was Anna named Co-MVP of the Jaguars during her first season swimming for them, she was also a large part of the relay team that broke the school record and the Ocean County record for the 200 medley. It is safe to say that Coach Wilson and the rest of the swim team are thrilled to have Anna return for three more years after accomplishing so much as just a freshman.

Mia Francisco is a senior who finished her high school swimming career very strong. Mia recalled what making the All Shore team meant to her.

“Making the all shore team was never something I expected to do. I really owe it to my teammates for mak-

ing this happen. Being put on a relay team with Katie, Anna, and Gabby mean that I always had to bring my A-game because I didn’t want to be the reason we lost a race. It’s a really amazing feeling to



have made the All Shore team during my final season with my relay team: The Mighty Mites (as our coach would call us),” she said.

Mia’s selflessness makes it evident that she

will be sorely missed by the Lady Jags next year.

Katie Idank is a diligent and determined sophomore who expressed her joy for this achievement by stating, “I am extremely proud of all of us and how much time, effort and vigorous training we have all put in to get this far! It is such an amazing honor to be on the All Shore team and I was so excited to be able to share such an amazing season and experience with such incredible teammates like Gabby, Mia, and Anna. We would not have gotten this far without each other this year...it’s all about the teamwork.”

Though First Team All Shore seems to be the highest status that a student athlete can attain, with Katie’s work ethic, we can expect endless success from her.

Lastly, Gabby Wilson is not only one of the best swimmers in the Shore Conference, but she is also an exceptional student who remains at

the top of her class. Taking into consideration the amount of time Gabby takes bettering herself in the pool as well as in the classroom, she is without question the epitome of a student athlete. Wilson notes this tireless effort.

“It was an exhilarating experience, when all the hours of practice everyday paid off, and it was made that much sweeter to be able to share it with my teammates.”

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, selflessness and camaraderie were huge themes in the success of these Lady Jags swimmers. Though being named All Shore is an individual triumph, these four girls make it clear that is can only be accomplished in a team effort. Fortunately for the Lady Jags, three out of four of these remarkable swimmers will be returning to compete in 2015. Their young success foreshadows an even more victorious season approaching.



# Mr. JMHS Returns to Jackson Memorial

How do you pick a winner from contestants whose nicknames are Mr. Love, Mr. Hot Chocolate, Mr. Astronaut and Mr. Starbucks? You watch them perform.

That's what seven young gentlemen from our senior class did on March 27 when they vied for the title of Mr. JMHS, a designation our school has not seen since 2007.

The winner this year, AJ Storow (that would be Mr. Astronaut) was crowned by Matthew Miranda, the last Jag to win the

title seven years ago. His younger brother, Murphy Miranda (that would be Mr. Love) was a contestant.

Other contestants were Khani Glover (Mr. Hot Chocolate), Gilbert Jean Louise (Mr. President), Danny Dickinson (Mr. Starbucks), Frank Galano (Mr. Physics), and Alex Tate (Mr. Right).

All seven had to compete in categories including beachwear, talent, pick-up line, and formal wear. There also was a question and answer segment.

Winner AJ received a \$100 gift certificate and a free tuxedo rental from TUXE-DODEN in Wall Township. Murphy Miranda was the first runner up and Frank Galano was the second runner up.

The competition was sponsored by the Student Council. Mrs. Maria Holm, advisor to the group, credited senior English teacher Michele McCann for her efforts to revive the annual competition and show.



AJ Storow, Sam Rogalski, Allison Glick, Allison Boeing, Taylor Daton, Murphy Miranda, Frank Galano, Gilbert Jean-Louis, Khani Glover, Jamie Gawlik, Danielle Coco, Alex Tate, Danny Dickenson, and Megan Stolzenberg



Khani Glover, Gilbert Jean-Louis, Mr. JMHS AJ Storow, Frank Galano, and Alex Tate



Mike Macagnone, Raymond Cafara, Derek Jones, and Marc Tuminaro

## Future Jag Business Leaders Step Up at FBLA Regional Conference

By Dylan Miller  
Staff Writer

Every year around March, the New Jersey Future Business Leaders of America host their annual State Leadership Conference. The event this year was at the East Brunswick Hilton, a huge hotel with board rooms and open ballroom spaces, perfect for a crowd of

business students and advisors to have a giant meeting. A few hundred students and advisors, representing the over 140 chapters of FBLA in our state, were in attendance, which made for a wonderful cast of bright and creative characters. Over the course of the two-day trip, students participated

in competitive events, including accounting, public speaking, management decision-making, and introduction to information technology.

At the Conference, Jackson Memorial was represented by ten members and one advisor of our school's chapter: William Bates, Jamie Ca-

sella, Dominick D'Aversa, Milap Desai, Dylan Gardener, Gilbert Jean-Louis, Kellie Lynn, Alexa Nolan, Samantha Shea, Dylan Miller, and Mr. Christopher Nye. Although not the largest chapter at the conference, we did win multiple honors, including Jamie being named Central Region Vice President

and Milap, Gilbert, and Sam winning first place in Management Decision Making. They now have the opportunity to move on to the National Leadership Conference and represent New Jersey and Jackson Memorial High School in Nashville, Tennessee.



Sohum Pawar and Jamie Casella



Dylan Miller, Alexa Nolan, Kellie Lynn, Dylan Gardener, Samantha Shea, William Bates, Dominick D'Aversa, Jamie Casella, Gilbert Jean-Louis, and Milap Desai



Christopher Nye, Dylan Gardener, Jamie Casella, Samantha Shea, Dylan Miller, Dominick D'Aversa, William Bates, and Alexa Nolan



Jamie Casella