

## Editors Column



Claudia Shin

Grade 12  
Granada Hills Charter High School

## National Guard Representation at the Worldwide Leadership Forum



Claudia Shin with Colonel Marsh at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, while attending the World Wide Army Youth Leadership Forum.

[Source: Claudia Shin, Author]

Being a military child comes with its fair share of hardships and hurdles. Media often de-

picts this experience as one of constant moving, making new friends, and struggling to keep up in school. Although these depictions are not always false, they also do not tell the full story. Many military children, or dependents, move around, but many military dependents also stay in one place for most of their life. These two different experiences are a result of parents that are either active duty military members or reserve/national guard members. At the annual Worldwide Army Youth Leadership Forum (WWAYLF), held in Massachusetts, a combination of delegates representing both sides came together to discuss and vote on the top three issues that were most important to military youth around the world.

The WWAYLF was held at the Southbridge Conference Center and Hotel in Southbridge, Mas-

sachusetts, from June 25-30. Military youth from garrisons around the world flew into Logan International Airport with the hopes of creating meaningful discussions and solutions with their peers. At this conference, I was a representative for the National Guard Youth of Region 9, which includes the states and territories of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Guam, and Nevada. I was 1 of 4 representatives at the WWAYLF that was representing the National Guard. Many of the other delegates attending the conference were from overseas garrisons in regions such as Europe and East Asia. Others were from garrisons within the states.

The WWAYLF used a process that was very democratic to make sure that everyone got a say in what issues were being discussed and voted on. The whole goal of the conference was to condense all

of our ideas into three issues that could then be briefed to Colonel Marsh and Suzanne King, the Chief of the Army's Child and Youth Services. After nearly a week of discussions and voting, the issues were narrowed down to the top three: transportation, mental health, and marketing of the youth centers.

On Thursday, June 28, these issues, along with some proposed solutions, were presented to Colonel Marsh and Ms. King at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston. Overall, the conference was very successful and brought together invested military youth from around the world that would have never been able to have met otherwise. Many youth at the conference were eager to lead, change, and create more resources for military youth through the discussions and activities we all participated in.

## Student Reporter

## Writer's Block: Humanities and the Modern Age

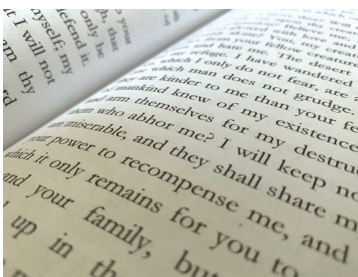


Harry Ju

Grade 10  
Sierra Canyon High School

In the modern age, it seems we cannot live without technology. We use computers and phones to write documents, send emails, and look for necessary information. Even as technology continues to progress rapidly, it has already reached a new frontier of advancements in only the last couple of years of researching AI: the ability to write essays, literature, and other works instantaneously, imitating the styles of writers and poets without the need for human input. One of the most groundbreaking advancements in modern technology comes in the form of ChatGPT, which has once again brought the humanities into question, leading many to ask why it exists in an age of constant technological and architectural innovation.

However, the decline in the humanities' popularity began long before ChatGPT's arrival. According to the Atlantic in 2018, the humanities has seen a "rapid drop



Many question the purpose of the humanities and, by extension, romanticism in the modern age, as is thematically described here by The Monster in Frankenstein. [Source: Harry Ju, Author]

in majors" since 2007, with history major selections plummeting by 45% and the number of English majors being cut down by half. The reason for this decline consists of several contributing factors but mainly concerns two key components: the economy and technology. The decline in the humanities field started right before the Great Recession in 2008 and continued after, leading to a mass exodus of students from humanities fields, with STEM majors beginning to see a rapid increase. In the early

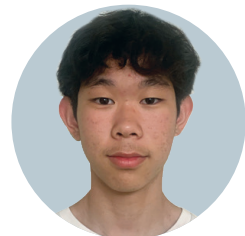
2010s, and even now, students have been flocking to mainly STEM-based majors—biology, mathematics, computer science, and engineering seeing some of the most significant increases—whereas humanities majors have taken a hit. The driving factor of the switch comes squarely down to the economy. As technology grows more prevalent in day-to-day life, and online jobs become increasingly popular, students have left the humanities in favor of fields that are more acclimated to the modern day, based around subjects with greater job opportunities.

This brings us back to ChatGPT, another point of contention for the practicality of the humanities in the modern age. If technology can write an essay or piece of literature for you, then why ever write one in the first place? And if the humanities are at a loss economically, why should anyone major in a field al-

ready overtaken by technology? Moreover, are these the questions that should be posed? What about the main root of all these questions: what can the humanities do that technology can't? The purpose of the humanities shouldn't just be honed in on writing essays and reporting on historical topics; it should be about how we can use those ideas to make genuine change, tapping into the lifeblood of what makes us connected and divided. Journalism, for example, is a field related to the humanities with astronomical political, social, and global importance, impossible to mimic through technology whilst sharing all elements of the humanities and what it has been centered around since its inception: humanity. The humanities are all about humanity, so it is up to humanity itself, both present and future, to decide the purpose of it now, to solve the question of how the humanities can help both itself and what it has been meant to represent for centuries.

## Student Reporter

## "ACCEPTED": NLVC Retreat at Pepperdine University



Ian Park

Grade 11  
Loyola High School

On June 25, members from New Life Vision Church (NLVC) helped load suitcases, equipment, and other miscellaneous objects onto a coach bus and prepare for a trip southwest, to Pepperdine University, for this year's summer retreat. Students ranging from middle school to high school entered the bus and eagerly awaited the three-day overnight trip ahead of them.

A biannual event, NLVC's middle/high school ministry holds an overnight retreat at various venues in the summer and winter, with this year's summer retreat being held at a college campus for the first time in its history. Additionally, each retreat has its own unique theme that functions as the cornerstone of the sermons and worship, with this year's summer retreat theme being "Accepted."

Heewoo Jong '25 provided his view on the theme of this year's summer retreat: "Church is all about community, and this theme really hits the mark with address-

ing that because life's good when you're accepted."

"Accepted" had two major aspects: the games and activities with the students' predetermined game groups and the spiritual time through worship, sermons, small groups, etc.

Students were required to work together with other members of their game groups to finish various tasks and win games. Some of these games and activities included group name and poster creation, Capture the Flag, and a water balloon fight. These games and activities were carefully designed by the middle/high school ministry to help bring students closer together.

Jimin Kim expressed her opinion towards the water balloon fight: "The water balloon fight definitely sparked everyone's competitiveness and united us with team bonding."

Students were also given sermons by an experienced youth



The praise team plays the response song while the students have a time of prayer following the sermon. [Source: Anna Kim]

pastor and guest speaker, Chris Li, who preached about God's unconditional love and how to live out a life for him. Sermons were preceded and succeeded by worship, where the retreat praise team filled the room with songs of worship, repentance, and honor. The final worship session of the retreat resulted in reignited, motivated, and chaotic praise toward God. Jemimah Kim described her experience with sermons and worship at the retreat: "Through this retreat, God made me go deeper into his love by revealing that he's always been with me and that he knows my heart."

After the sermon and worship, students had a chance to discuss their spiritual lives on a deeper scale through small group time. Pastor Andy Lee described these small groups as "an intentional time where students had the desire to be known by God and know God in order to deepen their relationships with him."

The retreat concluded with a point tally for the games and an open mic session, where students conveyed their thoughts on the retreat. Students, youth leaders, and pastors departed on Tuesday, June 27, at 8:00 p.m.



Editors Column

## Fifty-One Years of Korean Pride



**Jeremiah Chun**  
Grade 11  
West Ranch High School



All of the attendees for the 51st Anniversary Celebration for the Korean Culture Center. [Source: Author, Jeremiah Chun]

The year 2023 will mark the 70th anniversary of the United States joining military alliances with the nation of South Korea during the Korean War. As a Korean-American, I have participated in many activities related to Korean tradition to express my culture to the outside world best. Reflecting on the impact that Korean Americans have established here in the United States, we have truly gone a long way to culturally nurture the country with various traditions, such as Korean BBQ and

K-pop. To celebrate this blending of cultures, the Korean Cultural Center hosted its 51st Anniversary Celebration at the Korean Friendship Bell, located in San Pedro, CA.

South Los Angeles was one of the locations where Korean culture truly began to rise and flourish here in the States. As one of the most multicultural districts in the city of Los Angeles and the state of California, Korean culture has played a vital role in develop-

ing South Los Angeles ever since the early 1900s. The numerous Korean businesses, restaurants, and marketplaces so essential to Southland communities like Gardena and Palos Verdes are a testament to how much Korean culture has shaped the area.

The Korean Culture Center has embarked on numerous projects to further spread Korean influence in the state of California. For example, the Korean Folk Village and Plaza project aims to dedicate domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) to the Korean Culture Center Square located in South Los Angeles. In general, this organization wants to give more opportunities for local and international residents alike to really succeed when it comes to economy and culture, and this is clearly evident when it comes to the multiple achievements that the Korean Culture Center has accomplished.

At the Korean Friendship Bell, the 51st Anniversary Celebration of the Korean Culture Center had numerous influential figures offer remarks and express their gratitude for the Korean Culture Center, including local legislators such as LA Recreation & Park General Manager Jimmy Kim, Councilman John Lee, and Representative Jieun Lee. Councilwoman Wanda Love and City of Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Pro Temp John Cruikshank were also present to enunciate the profound effect of Korean culture in their own neighborhoods, emphasizing how many influential events have occurred because of Korean Americans. The Korean Friendship Bell was also rung 12 times, dedicated to the founder of the Korean Culture Center, Rev. Kwang Duk Lee. Our cultures play an important role in our lives, and whatever cultural group you may belong to, always remember it as part of your identity for the rest of your life.

Student Reporter

## What to Expect at Music in the Park in La Canada



**Joanne Kim**  
Grade 10  
La Canada High School

During the calm, warm evenings of summer Sundays, the city of La Canada Flintridge hosts a series of concerts at Memorial Park. Each week, a concert group is invited to perform for the crowds of people who come to enjoy the show. This series of concerts from various bands is known as Music in the Park.



The people of La Canada have lots of fun as they sing along to the songs of the band at Music in the Park. [Source: Author, Joanne Kim]

Music in the Park is the perfect, low-maintenance activity that helps people prepare to conquer each new week. It's a place where friends and families can come together and hang out in the local park. Even though most people have friends they want to catch up with, it is often hard to sync their schedules and agree on a designated time and place to meet. However, Music in the Park is the perfect, relaxed occasion to reconnect with them.

Not only is Music in the Park an amazing social environment, but it also allows visitors to support

their local high school students. The band of La Canada High School can often be seen holding a fundraiser in the form of a bake sale. They sell an assortment of treats, including cookies, cupcakes, and sometimes even macarons. Every penny spent on their delicious treats will go to funding the band of the La Canada High School.

Across the park from the band's stand, the La Canada Engineering Club (LCEC) can be found hosting

another fundraiser. They carry refreshing shaved ice, chips, drinks, and LCEC merch such as polos, jackets, hats, and even beanies. At the LCEC booth, tubs of Legos can be found and are sold by the bag. The best part is that customers can go through the tubs and pick out as many Lego pieces as they want, all for the price of 5 dollars!

But wait, that's not all. To the left of their booth, you can catch the award-winning FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) robot, which

was built by the high schoolers of La Canada. You can sometimes even see the robot in action, cruising around with its drivers.

The relaxing environment can accommodate people of all ages, as there are swings and play structures just a short distance from the concert. Also, there is an elementary school right above the park to hang out at if it gets too crowded. When asked about her thoughts on Music in the Park, rising 10th-grader Dana Rhee said, "I think it's a fun social event for the community."

Overall, Music in the Park provides a welcoming atmosphere for people of all ages and ethnicities who are interested in listening to music and being around their community members. It is the perfect place to reconnect with old friends and learn more about your neighbors. Now that you know about it, you should stop by when you're near the city of La Canada.

Student Reporter

## One Week of Racking Out Your Brain Produce: Business Edition



**Isleen Lee**  
Grade 10  
Harvard-Westlake School

With the beginning of summer break, it feels as if we have all the time in the world to relax as much as we want without the worry of a test or a quiz. Although everyone deserves a rest from the constant heaviness of school, others quickly become bored with the endless leisure they have. I would categorize myself as the latter.

This year, I took a different approach to my summer break. Normally, my summer starts with a "rest period," which is a maximum of two weeks of complete freedom. After this period, I would begin to organize my schedule for the upcoming school year, find some books to read or preview academic material. However, this year, I applied to HW (Harvard-Westlake) INC., my school's entrepreneurship and business program that is led completely by students. From the very start, I knew INC. would be a new experience for me because I had no previous knowledge of the business industry, how to launch a

startup, or how to develop a pitch. All I held was the determination to prove to myself that I was capable of leaving my comfort zone. Little did I know that INC. would not only teach me how to pitch a business idea, but I would also learn crucial social skills that one needs in life, such as viewing failure as something positive, overcoming fear, and taking risks.

INC. consisted of three seven-hour and two twelve-hour days at HW's upper campus, where student leaders, successful entrepreneur guest speakers, and alumni that had ventured into the business industry gave informative decks about starting a business. The terminology used by the leaders was new to me, yet I spent time learning and understanding how these would be key parts of a business. The ultimate goal at the end of the program was to have a well-formed product idea to pitch to six judges, who were all entrepreneurs, and more than 100 people.

Every day, I was constantly being thrown new and difficult tasks, considering we were working in a limited time range. Whether it was tirelessly working with group members to settle disagreements about our product, contacting many people for their opinions (and failing!), or having to scrap our idea midway, I knew that I was expanding my comfort zone and becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable. After working nonstop for 45 total hours, combining my grit, and what I had learned from the decks and CEOs who acted as coaches, I led my team through the challenges and created a product that we were all passionate about: The Scrap Book. We wanted to solve the issue of food waste. Therefore, we thought of a solution that would allow people of all ages, including children, to partake in eco-friendly and easy practices.

While our product was not ranked top three by the judges, I



HW INC. required me to take many notes, as each leader, guest speaker, or coach gave a plethora of advice. Next to the notepad is one of the slides in our pitch deck that depicts how our product out-demonstrates its competitors in every way. [Source: Author, Isleen Lee]

felt accomplished and proud for making it through the week without giving up. Creating a product called for the maximum amount of effort, patience, and communication. Although these skills could have been learned from an online class, INC. redefined success for me and allowed me to understand the importance of confidence, perseverance, and risk-taking.