Central boys and girls make history.

Despite having multiple record-breaking moments this season, Central’s Track and Field team did not stop at individual accomplishments. For the first time in Central history, both Girls’ and Boys’ Track and Field teams won the Public League Championships, raising spirits to exponential heights going into Districts, which took place May 17th and 18th.

It was no surprise that the girls managed to win the championship for the second year in a row. They have been dominant all year and continued this dominance by beating the second place team, Girls High. High, by a whopping 65 points. “The boys, however, came into the championships knowing they had a shot to knock off the reigning champs, Imhotep Charter, but anticipated that it would be close and it was. The boys defeated Imhotep Charter by only six points. ‘The last three years of this group of guys won is when they were freshmen, as a coach you always want to see them go out on top,’ commented Coach Kosiek (258), ‘I always want to see them finish up their career in the best way possible.’”

To the seniors soon to graduate, this was not simply a victory, but a milestone in their high school career. “The last 3 years I found myself on a track, running. I zone, like running the 800. It’s worked well so far, and I knew we had a real shot at winning the Public League Championship this year.” And so they did. Along with winning the championship at the Public League Championships. Lilliana Greene (276), who took second in the girls 800, had similar things to say. “I put in over the last few weeks. Helstrom took first place in both the 3200 and 1600 at the Public League Championships. Lilliana Greene (276), who took second in the girls 800, had similar things to say. “I put in over the last few weeks. Rhim and Weihe placed first and second in the boys 800 meters, respectively. Accomplishing a double victory was not a small feat, and it exemplifies the hard work the coaches and athletes put in every day. “I have put a lot into this season, I think more than I have other seasons,” said Emma Helstrom (277), “I started training more effectively and more frequently and can see how I have improved over the season and am really looking forward to these next few weeks as we have big meets where I hope to show case all the hard work I have put in over the last few months.”

Central’s Spring Concert is a Spectacular Success

Miriam Solowey (276)
Proofreading Editor

On Thursday, May 25 Central’s Music Department hosted its annual Spring Concert. The dynamic performance featuring the orchestra, jazz band, concert band, and choir—not to mention more than a little invaluable help from stage crew—left the audience impressed and unable to fathom the boundless amount of talent and professionalism displayed by the performers throughout the show.

Putting on a concert of this size, especially with such a high caliber repertoire that includes pieces composed by Bach, Vivaldi, and Beethoven, is no easy feat. For the orchestra, Spring Concert preparation began immediately after their amazing performance at the Winter Concert. Orchestra members practiced every day from 7:20 in the morning until the end of advisory. They also practiced at home for at least thirty minutes a day. The time and energy the orchestra put into the Spring Concert was truly astounding. Rehearsing every morning, practicing on their own every day, sacrificing the precious advisory time that many Central students rely on for homework and naps all culminated into an amazing performance that showcased not only their talent, but their love and passion for music. “My favorite part of the concert have to be hearing the product of all the hours that we dedicated into nailing each piece and being together with people who love music as much as I do,” explains Lucy Zhu (277), a vitalic violinist. At the heart of this family, lie the dedicated music department teachers that help make the musical magic happen. With Mr. Chung’s expert guidance in all things percussion, continued on pg. 6.
Central’s Senior Star Spotlight

Keishon Graham

In his first three seasons as a Lancer, Keison Graham was an average player at best, seeing time as both running back and cornerback. In his final season Graham became a superstar for the Lancers and the driving force that led them to a 10-0 regular season record. Graham led the Public League in rushing with 1,200 yards, scored 20 touchdowns, and was selected first team All-Public and third team All-City. He will play football at St Francis University next fall.

Djavon Dupree

One of the best soccer players to ever play at Central is forward/midfielder Djavon Dupree. From her freshman year she made a big impact on the Lancers as a forward and earned first team All-Public honors. During the three years that followed, she was also selected first team All-Public but as a midfielder. However, she wasn’t able to accomplish the ultimate goal of winning a championship until her Senior year–and she didn't stop there. Djavon led the Lancers to the Public League Championship and scored 3 goals in a 5-0 win over Masterman. Dupree then went on to lead the Lancers past St. Huberts in the District 12 Championship, making this girls team the first Public League team to ever win the District 12 Championship. She also earned All-District honors, All-Southeastern honors, and was selected as Southeastern PA player of year. Djavon will play soccer at Temple University next year.

Jada Arrington

As a freshman, Jada played Centerfield for the Lancers’ softball team and hit the winning run in the Public League Championship. As a sophomore and junior she excelled as a pitcher for the Lancers and led them to two appearances in the semifinals. In her last year on the team she became a captain and led the Lancers to the Public League Championship, but fell short 6-4 to Franklin Towne Charter. Jada earned first team All-Public honors all four years.

Andria Stanton

Playing starting point guard for the Lancers as a freshman was a tough task for Andria Stanton, especially with head coach Ashley Morris, (three time Public League Champion and 1,000 point scorer at Central) who demands perfection from all her players. This constant demand for perfection eventually made Andria a leader and the best player for the Lancers her Senior year. As a Senior she finished with just under 1,000 points, led an inexperienced team to the quarterfinals of the Public League Playoffs, and earned 2nd team All-Public honors in the process.

Ade Owodunni

In his freshman year Ade was captain for Junior Varsity soccer and watched from the sidelines as varsity won the Public League championship. He yearned for the same feeling as a player and led the Lancers back to two championship appearances over the next three seasons. As a sophomore he started for the Lancers as a midfielder, and his Junior and Senior seasons he led the Lancers in assists. As a Senior he earned first team All-Public honors, and helped the Lancers reach the championship by scoring two goals in the semifinals of the Public League playoffs en route to a 4-0 win over Washington.
Farewell 276

276 has been chastised at times for being too “laid back.” We have been compared to 275 and 277, our more competitive neighbors. Despite such criticism, we must remember that while this school may value competition and overachievement, this class knows how to appreciate relaxation and companionship with friends. Success varies from person to person; we look beyond traditional definitions of such. We may not be as academically minded and leadership oriented as other classes, but our school spirit and constant involvement are defining aspects of our contributions to this school.

To my fellow graduates, I wish you the best of luck. As you journey through college and the rest of your lives, stay informed, develop your worldviews, and have your ideas challenged. Congratulations, but most importantly, enjoy!

It has been my privilege to serve as President of CHS during your four years. You are a very special class for me personally because you are the first class that I accepted for admission to Central High School. The four years have gone by so fast. I remember your freshman welcome night like it was yesterday. The “276” should be very proud of all that you have accomplished in all aspects of our academic, athletic and extracurricular programs.

You have been role models for the undergraduates and leave your mark on our great tradition. I am very proud of your commitment to our school and feel like you are ready for the next challenges in your life. On June 16, 2017, you will join an alumni association made up of 18,000 members. You will be joining an elite group of scholars. The focus and determination you have learned at Central High School will serve you as you move from “Dear Old High” to the new campuses you will walk next year. I wish you nothing but the best.

Please come back and visit as often as you can. I look forward to seeing you in the years to come at CHS alumni events and reunions.

Central, it has been such an honor to serve as your SA president. Although a year ago today I was still unsure about taking the position, I am beyond grateful that I did. There was no better way to spend my final year at Central than dedicating mornings to student initiatives and activities. My only regret is that I did not do more to make Central a better place.

In no way was this year easy. I think I speak for the entirety of 276 when I say our teachers were anything but forgiving with work loads. As a community, we suffered the loss of a student and a friend. It would be a disservice both to him and to all of us to minimize the difficulty of 2016 and 2017.

Yet our success this year in academics, athletics, and extra-curriculars was unparalleled by any other year. We took home countless championships, broke records, and made International Day, Women’s Day, and Earth Day both interesting and unique.

I am so proud of what the school as a whole and what 276 has done. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely, Marley Napier Smith
SA President

It’s been a remarkable blessing to serve as your class president for the past two years, and I cannot thank you all enough for giving me such an enjoyable experience in office. However, even beyond my two years as president, my entire experience as a Central student was also a flawless one and that can also be credited to all of you. 276, you were the reason why my Monday mornings felt brighter, my classes felt shorter, and most significantly, why my farewell feels so painful. I will miss each and every one of you, and I have no doubt in my mind that you will all do amazing things in life, because after all, once a Lancer, always a Lancer.

Sincerely,
Michael Behanan
276 Class President

The Centralizer, one of the nation’s oldest high school publications, leads the vessel for students to demonstrate their vast capacities and exercise their unique brilliance and freedom of speech. This year we dedicated ourselves to promoting this mission, which presented an arduous yet fulfilling endeavor. We successfully continued to grow the readership of the online edition, we conducted our best sports coverage thus far, and we orchestrated this year’s increasingly polarized election edition. Through all of this, we’ve been able to facilitate the exchange of ideas between students, and allowed them to set sail in the sea of journalism.

Marley Napier Smith
Editors-in-Chief

All the best,
Anna Pugsley, Miguel Morel
Wrapping Off the Year with Science Fair Success

MaryElizabeth Greeley (278) Staff Writer

For those who do not know, the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science is a statewide science fair for middle and high schools designed to promote interest in STEM fields through research projects. Central has taken part in this science fair for many years now through the Advanced Research class and as one of the many extracurricular activities offered at Central. A group of Central students participated in PJAS back in February and 20 out of the 21 students qualified for the state competition which occurred this last weekend on May 14-16. The state competition was held at the main campus of Penn State University.

The students who attended described how they liked the new dorms they were housed in, especially their high tech showers and private bathrooms. They really enjoyed the college life, including the good food, freedom to roam anywhere in the campus independently, and the chance to spend time with friends outside of the high school setting.

(continued from pg. 1)

that help make the musical magic happen. With Mr. Chung’s expert guidance in all things percussion, Mr. Roberts’ lower string oversight, the orchestra, and Mrs. Parente’s superb upper string leadership, the orchestra, assembly included, was simply a joy to experience. As Jacob Hayman (277), a trombone player in the jazz band, explained, “Mr. Franchetti works with the winds and brass in the concert band and jazz band. He conducts and coordinates both of these ensembles.”

Stage crew also played a crucial role in making the Spring Concert a smashing success. From helping with shift changes to managing sound and lighting to keeping everything organized backstage, crew members function like secret agents conducting a massive, complex operation right under the noses of their unsuspecting audience. Third award. Unlike other competition Projects and Winners

Shaun Shao (279) Behavioral Science - First Award
Project: The Bodys Kill Effect

Hinso Nguyen (277) Behavioral Science - Second Award
Project: The Effect of Lack of Sleep Has on Human Cognitive Ability

Young Kugal (279) Bacteriology - First Award
Project: The Coordination of L, 3, 7-Triommethylamine and Hydroxyurea

Helen Jiang (277) Biology - First Award
Project: Chlorination in Asian Trenchworms

Tan Yen Zou (276) Biology
Project: Observation of Drosophila Embryonic Motor Neurons

Sam Harsh (279) Botany - First Award
Project: Effects of Microorganisms on Crop Growth in Stradecimal Areas

Daniel Melcham (279) Botany
Project: The Effect of Hydrogenic Solution Concentration on Plants

MaryElizabeth Greeley (278) Computer Science - First Award
Project: Web Design for the Visually Impaired

Vincent Yang (277) Environmental Science
Project: Grasses versus Soil Erosion

Franco Xu (279) Biology
Project: Porc Cognition in Pedatric Sciles

Odisaide Onchache (279) Engineering
Project: Efficiency of Water Wheel Designs

Danon Valdez (279) Engineering
Project: Landslides: What Causes Rocks to Slide Down a Slope?

Omar Swiald (277) Engineering - First Award
Project: Project F1Koen

Jeannine Quinn (279) Microbiology - First Award, Perfect Score
Project: Flesh or Meat

Shi Ming (277) Microbiology
Project: Acne Medications and the Inhibition of Bacterial Growth

Shaina Shakeel (277) Microbiology
Project: Role of Nedd9 in Lung Cancer Aggressiveness

Vincent Yang (278) Physics
Project: Novel Nanocrystalline Chlorophyll-Based Photoelectrochemical Tranrsistor

Byrnes Bowen (276) Zoology
Project: CNS and PNS Studies in Planarians

Competition Projects and Winners

Xue Yao Zou (276) Biology
Project: The Corollaries of 1, 3, 7-Trimethylxanthine and Hydroxyethane

Igor Tugluk (278) Biochemistry - First Award
Project: The Bouba Kiki Effect

Nhung Nhan (279) Behavioral Science - First Award
Project: The Gift of Love Effect

Doreen Valmyr (279) Engineering
Project: Prey Cognition to Predatory Scent

Frances Yuy (278) Ecology
Project: Web Design for the Visually Impaired

MaryElizabeth Greeley (278) Environmental Science
Project: Grasses versus Soil Erosion

Igor Tugluk (278) Physics
Project: Novel Nanocrystalline Chlorophyll-Based Photoelectrochemical Tranrsistor

Byrnes Bowen (276) Zoology
Project: CNS and PNS Studies in Planarians

THE CENTRALIZER
National Honor Society Induction

Jana Pugsley (277) News Editor

I fell in love with teaching again," beloved math teacher Ms. Parillo recounts about her ten-week substitute teaching gig at Central High School thirteen years ago. She had stopped teaching sixteen years earlier to raise her sons, one of which was a junior at Central at the time. "I finally figured out what I wanted to be when I grow up, and that was teaching here," Ever since, Ms. Parillo has been sharing her favorite subject with Central students.

As much as Ms. Parillo looks back upon her time as a teacher with fondness, Central perhaps never would have been blessed with Ms. Parillo if she were to graduate high school in 2017. As the first person in her family and go to college, academic options for female students at the time were limited to teaching and medicine..."I didn't do blood," Ms. Parillo explains, "so I became a teacher, and math was my favorite subject." Ms. Parillo taught math at various schools across the School District of Philadelphia before taking a sixteen year break to raise her children. During that time, she worked as a math tutor and remained in the educational field part-time. She was considering a career in teaching education when she became a substitute teacher at Central and decided that she wanted to return to teaching high school math full-time. Ms. Parillo says that she would have become an engineer if women had had more career options when she graduated from high school. "On the other hand," she notes, "when I think of all the students, it's been a really, really rewarding career, and it's the kids that make it special... They make it all worthwhile."

Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Parillo has aimed to inspire and encourage her students to reach their fullest potential. "I had teachers who pushed me beyond what I thought I could do. I originally thought I was going to be a secretary... That's part of the reason I became a teacher. I wanted to be like them." Ms. Parillo has certainly fulfilled her mission. She has kept in contact with many of her former students. One has received her doctorate from MIT, another is her pharmacist, and yet another earned her Ph.D. from Temple University last year, just to mention a few. "It's really rewarding to find out years down the road that you made an impact," she marvels. Always striving to leave an impression, Ms. Parillo has been much more than just a teacher. In addition to being the 267 class sponsor, she has sponsored Paws, an animal welfare club, and designed the programs for the music department's concerts and the school musical, and is open to volunteering around the school "in any capacity" in the future. As the time comes to retire, Ms. Parillo and her husband plan to "travel in months that are not July and August" once she retires. She looks forward to exploring the beauties of national parks in the western United States, cruising the California coastline, going to Phillies spring training in Florida, and traveling with friends who have already retired.

However, this isn't the last that Central will be seeing of Ms. Parillo. Although she plans to relax for a few years, Ms. Parillo is still interested in attending the music department's concerts and the school musical, and is open to volunteering around the school "in any capacity" in the future. In the meantime, she looks forward to leisurely mornings of sipping coffee and reading the newspaper. Ms. Parillo gave farewell words of wisdom to her students. "Central is a network that never leaves you...and my students won't realize until they get out into the world. Central is a very special place, and I feel so blessed that I got to spend thirteen years here."
to say, “It might sound crazy but I love track. It kills me everyday but that makes me amazingly happy. All the pain is bearable because of all the other crazy amazing people I get to run with.”

Often overlooked, are the throwers on Central’s track and field team, holding two of Central’s newest record holders; this season they made themselves vastly important to the success of the Lancers. “One of the things I really love about track and field is that your biggest competition is yourself,” said Peter Howell (276), thrower and Boys Javelin record holder. “Each meet you’re trying to beat yourself. That fosters a drive among the throwers to always do better, which often results in us meeting over the weekends to drill and workout together, rain or shine. Clearly we’re doing something right.”

Howell went on to take second in boys Javelin, third in discus and first in shot put. Most schools have throwing coaches on staff, but Central does not. “The throwers do not allow this to detract from their success, but rather allow it to push them to grow more as individuals and as a team,” says Howell. “Most of what we know is self taught, we spend a lot of time watching videos, and correcting each other and that’s what’s brought us together,” comments Adam Zucker (276), who finished fifth in boys discus. Another field record holder is Maddie Mast (278) who broke the Girls javelin record with a distance of 101 feet, and came in first in both Javelin and shot put in the Public League Championship. “I am so proud of my team and all the work they put in this season. All the seniors will be missed next year,” said Mast. With both coaches being alumni of Central’s Track and Field team, it made the victory all the more sweeter, “It’s special to come back to your alma mater where you’ve grown as a student and as an athlete,” stated Coach McCray (246). “If you had said I’d be back 20 years ago, I probably would’ve laughed at you, but it has worked out very well, I am very happy to be here and I hope to be here till I retire.”

With the girls losing only one senior that scored at Public League Championships they look poised to win their third title in a row. As for the boys, they will have a lot of work to do after losing nine seniors that scored at the Public League Championships.

**Victory in the Face of Defeat**

Christopher Carson (277) Staff Writer

With only three years as an established sport at Central High School, the Girls’ Varsity Lacrosse team is already known as one of the best teams in the Philadelphia Public League has to offer. Right defensive wing team co-captain Eda Qalliaj (276) commented, “We were by far the most improved team in the Public League and though we have a long way to go, we are definitely getting there.”

The time spent at rigorous practices has been made apparent in the way that the team performed throughout the season.

In the quarter finals of the playoffs, Central annihilated Delaware Valley Charter School 20-4; Adela Qalliaj (277) led the Lancers with four goals. Jennifer Martinez (277) scored three points, as did Louise Hanson (276) and Seydel Acuna (277). The girls went on to play Franklin Towne Charter (FTC) in the semifinals of the Public League playoffs. The girls came out aggressively and gained a commanding 5-0 lead. Franklin Towne quickly erased the girls lead and tied the game at five. The tie lasted nearly fifteen minutes before Central scored three more goals in quick succession, effectively bringing the score to 8-5. Unfortunately, the girls were unable to stop a 7-0 run from Franklin Towne and lost 8-12.

Even though it was a tough loss, the team was able to stay level-headed and walk away from the game with a sense of accomplishment. “If you saw us playing two years ago versus now, you wouldn’t be able to believe that we are the same team,” says Thayn Menezes (276). “We’ve grown so much over the course of a few years and although we weren’t able to win it, I am confident that my girls will bring home the championship next season for sure.”

The goals of this season were to compete vigorously and win, which the team did without a doubt, ending the season with a record of 6-6. Senior goalie Talynn Holman (276) commented, “The playoffs showed the best and worst of our team. But, when you’re down by a lot and make a comeback that ties the game, you know that you are on the best team in the pub.”

For now, the team is enjoying the fruits of their labor, but next season they look to improve on the fruits of their labor, but next season they look to improve on the success of this year.