



Peace Activist Peter Ajak (262) Imprisoned



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Nancy Zhu (278)
Editor-in-Chief

Taking a leap of faith in order to escape a haunting past of terror, Peter Biar Ajak was one of the 40,000 “Lost Boys” who were left homeless due to the violence of the civil war in Sudan. He was 16 when he stepped off of a plane and landed in Philadelphia, where he would start his new life and later walk the hall of Central High School. Today, he is stripped of his freedoms and detained in South Sudan’s notorious Blue House prison.

Struck by several decades of civil war, Sudan continues to be engulfed by internal conflicts. Despite serious efforts to establish peace; cultural, religious,

and ethnic clashes leave the developing country in shambles. In 2011, popular sovereignty was established amongst the civilians of Sudan, and the constitution of the newest nation-state, South Sudan, was written on the ballots of the majority of underrepresented minorities in the southern region of Sudan. As a fledgling nation, factions bubbled to the surface when in December of 2013, President Salva Kiir accused ex-Vice President Riek Machar of instigating a coup. South Sudanese civilians partitioned and turned on one another. Once again, the region was faced with war.

Carrying memories of a brutal childhood packed with graphic images of death and disease, Peter Ajak was welcomed

to the home of Dale Long, a resettlement volunteer. Establishing himself in his new home, Ajak learned everything from navigating the streets to the ABC’s; Ajak flourished in his new environment and would eventually graduate from Central High School with honor roll in 2003.

Previous Central High President, Sheldon Pavel, acknowledged on the Philadelphia Inquirer that, “Peter was a very bright young man, a very athletic young man, and we all thought he would, in fact, be heard from in a very positive way.”

Ajak continued his education up the hill at La Salle University, where he was admitted under the Academic Discovery Program and majored in

economics. As an Explorer, Peter Ajak was involved in the University’s newspaper and on-campus political associations. His success and inquisitive nature would take him to the yards of Harvard University, where he obtained his masters in public administration of international development.

Despite his life in America, Ajak never lost sight of his origins, commenting, “Being a Lost Boy taught me how cruel and tough life could be. However, at the same time, it taught me what a difference the individual could make in the larger scheme. These things should never happen again—and I can contribute to that.”

As a prominent political peace activist, Atlantic Council Millennium Fellow, and Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow, Ajak strove to paint a sustainable future colored by peace and prosperity in his homeland. Focused on alleviating South Sudan’s fragile economy, Peter Ajak diligently planned to utilize South Sudan’s natural oil reserves to create a reputable market. As the World Bank In-Country Economist and Coordinator of Policy and Strategy, Ajak built a relationship between the nation’s Central Bank and the international market. Some of his prominent contributions include: the South Sudan Development Plan, the South Sudan Growth Strategy, and the South Sudan Vision 2040. He founded the South Sudan Youth Leaders Forum (SSYLF), a program established to create a safe space where South Sudanese youth could engage in peaceful dialogue. Peter

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Germination Project, My First Taste

Viktor Kagan (279)
Staff Writer

July 30: I woke up at 6 am because it was my first day at the 2018 Germination Project Bootcamp. I quickly got dressed and rushed to catch my 7:10 train. Forty minutes later, I arrived at the Boot Camp, held at UPenn’s Medical School. I ate breakfast and chatted with other Germination Project fellows until our first speaker, the Penn Med Chief of Innovation, Roy Rosin, arrived. He spoke about dealing with economic problems and how to test possible solutions in an economic sense. His lecture was fascinating, as I learned a lot about the business side to UPenn’s medical school and the importance of thinking critically. After lunch, the Germination Project founder, Ajay Raju, spoke to us and introduced his friend, Rudy Karsan. Rudy spoke about his experience as a venture capitalist and how he sold a company for \$1.2 billion that he started from a \$5,000 surplus on his credit card. He also explained that life is a lot about experimenting and that failing is okay, as it leads to success. And so, my first day at the Bootcamp ended.

July 31: Again I wake up at 6, but I’m a bit more tired. Still, I’m excited. After arriving at UPenn, I sat down with the other fellows and we listened to today’s speakers. The focus was on cancer treatment and how the field progresses so often. I learned that recently at UPenn,



2018 Germination Project Fellows

Dr. Carl June found a revolutionary way to use immunotherapy, where the white blood cells are genetically engineered to attack cancer cells, to fight off certain types of cancer. After lunch, the fellows and I were divided into three groups to work on the second part of the Bootcamp, our business plans. We had an assignment before camp to create a business plan, assuming we had \$10,000 in seed funding, to benefit the Philadelphia area. Now, we had to combine our ideas and establish the most effective idea, to sway a panel of judges to chose our plan and grant us the seed funding. My group, after debating, decided to work on a plan to establish a website dedicated to

civic and political literacy among young Philadelphians and worked for a few hours. Soon, my second day of Bootcamp was already over.

August 1: This morning, I overslept, so I rushed to get dressed and catch my train. Today’s speakers, Dr. Higginbotham a glaucoma specialist, and Dr. DeLisser, a lung disease specialist, focused on the causes of diseases. The two shared that many health problems are caused by personal choices, like smoking, lack of physical activity, and poor nutrition.

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Philly Schools Get a False Start

Maximillian Hall (279)
Staff Writer

As the old saying goes, “the early bird catches the worm,” but when the Philadelphia School District made the decision to roll back the public school start date from September 4th to a progressively earlier August 27th, it was met with outrage from students and faculty alike. The school district cites timing as its primary reason for starting schools a week early. In a recent interview, Superintendent Hite said, “We [the School District] wanted more instructional days earlier in the year,” but with consistently high temperatures in non-air conditioned classrooms across the city, the viability of these earlier days quickly becomes questionable.

For decades, the first day back to school in Philadelphia has been scheduled after Labor Day, the first Monday in September. This long-time tradition was kicked to the curb when the Philadelphia Board of Education decided to schedule as many full-length weeks of teaching as possible. Mid-to-late September is filled with holidays that inevitably interrupt the start of the average student’s school

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The British Experience

Kejsi Ruka (278)
Managing Editor

“Traveling seems to always be something that people allude to when creating life goals. And being privileged to have traveled I think: YES! Everyone should want to travel!” exclaimed Esmeralda Zera (278). She of course, was referring to her experience on the Central trip to the United Kingdom that lasted a total of nine days, giving students like Esmeralda and I the opportunity to explore Scotland and England. To provide some context, Mr. Hover organized a trip to the UK over the summer through EF Tours, an organization that gives high school students the ability to travel abroad and experience different cultures and languages. The trip began in Glasgow, Scotland, the most populous city of the country, and from there the tour was organized to travel gradually south, with the tour finishing off in London, England. I can remember this sense of excitement that I felt in the moments leading up to the trip, especially since the idea of a summer vacation is what motivates many students to get through the school year. As I arrived at the Philadelphia International Airport on June 22 to finally embark on this journey, I realized that it would be my first time traveling outside of the country without my parents. This slight nervousness quickly escaped my mind once I realized I was surrounded by an amazing group of people, people who made the trip especially worthwhile. As mentioned earlier, our first destination was Scotland, where we spent one day in Glasgow and the other in the capital city of Edinburgh. Among our exploration of places such as Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow Cathedral, and Loch

Leven was an action-packed schedule, one that required early mornings and late arrivals in order to experience as much of Scotland as we could. After spending two days in Scotland, the rest of our tour was in England, starting off in York. The city of York is located in Northern England, a place rich with gothic architecture, cobbled streets, and quaint little bookshops. Although we spent only a couple of hours in the city, we were able to tour the iconic York Minster Cathedral, as well as free time to explore around in groups. The next day included a lot of traveling. We first toured the beautiful, medieval Warwick castle, followed by a stop in Avon-upon-Stratford, where students had the ability to tour Shakespeare’s childhood town, as well as Anne Hathaway’s cottage. After a couple of days of intense walking and exploration, we enjoyed a long bus ride to Oxford the following morning, catching up on rest and sleep. Upon arriving at Oxford, students were given a quick sightseeing tour of the city, the major focus being on the University of Oxford. Following some free time and lunch, we were on our way to



PC: Mr. Hover | View of Buckingham Palace
 London, where we would spend three days. Our first evening in London was spent on the South Bank, where we were able to cross the river Thames and enjoy a dinner of fish and chips. Within the next two days, we took a sightseeing tour of London and visited Windsor castle, the British and Tate Museums, watched Mamma Mia! at the theater, and even experienced London’s iconic subway system known as the “tube”. Throughout the span of nine days, Central students were able to get a taste of the UK

experience in terms of lifestyle, weather, fashion, and food. We were privileged to be able to visit these places as high school students, with the freedom to explore the world as young individuals. And while it was enlightening to visit these different places, I think that I can speak for all the students who were on trip in saying that the people who were around us truly made the trip an amazing experience and enjoyable. Having the freedom to travel with your friends and staying up late at night, lost in deep conversation or even making countless vlogs throughout the days are parts of my experience that I think made the trip as amazing as it was. “We faced culture shock together, we got lost together, we spent every minute together. We, in some ways, were thrust to create much more intimate bonds with each other,” reminisced Esmeralda, thinking back on the trip nostalgically as we are now starting up the school year. I implore to all students, referring to the words of fellow UK traveler Jenny Dong (278), “If you get the opportunity to travel, take it! There is so much more out there than you could ever imagine!”



PC: Mr. Hover

Say cheese for a group picture!

Science in the Summer

Jessica Lvov (279)
Science Editor

While many choose to spend their break simply enjoying the aimless days and scorching heat, some dedicate their summer to furthering their knowledge on the broad field of science. What many students do not know is that a grand variety of science opportunities designed for high school students in the summer is right in our backyard!

One of the most significant providers of high school programs among Central students is the University of Pennsylvania. Each program available offers its own curriculum, introducing high school students to life in college or university. Upenn grants its participants with the experience of sitting in real lecture halls with highly-qualified educators, exactly as undergraduate students do



PC: Jessica Lvov (279)

Lab Group: Joyce Davis (279) and Jessica Lvov (279) pictured (upper left)

over the course of the academic year.

“College students have the additional pressure of ‘must learn’ within the context of a graded course,” says Maurice Baynard, a lab instructor of the Biomedical Research Academy at UPenn, “while summer students hope to leverage their experience and new knowledge for self-enrichment. In this way, they are free to engage the concepts and the experience for the ‘love of learning’ that is often lost in college.”

The Biomedical Research Academy is composed of three primary sections each day. Students attend morning lectures, exploring the field of science in general, what we as a society are doing, and how far, or not, we have come. This aspect of the day resembles a ‘crash course’ of the undergraduate introductory class, covering everything from genetic manipulation to antibiotic resistance. Guest speakers discuss important aspects of their field and introduce their own research, engaging in Alzheimer studies, fruit fly genetics, tumors in trees, and much more. The day continues with journal clubs, one hour lessons which closely resemble the tightly-knit conversation-based classes universities have to offer. Students select among a wide array of topics, such as cancer metabolism and the microbiome, to study over the course of the program, learning how to decipher scientific text and make sense of charts and graphs along the way. The participants then organize a presentation and share their findings with the rest of the academy during the last week.

Thirdly, labs constitute a large portion of the day during these three weeks. Maurice Baynard states, “labs offer time for a lot of questions

and answers and in-depth feedback that the other activities might not be structured for...offering students an opportunity to work in a team, which is a particularly important skill in research.”

Students take part in lab procedures with instructors who design specified experiments, very similar to those undergraduates complete. Students are introduced to common lab equipment, such as pipetmen, spectrophotometers, centrifuges, and much more to grasp what the life of a researcher in the lab looks and feels like.

A participant of the Biomedical Academy and Central High School student, Joyce Davis (279) says, “lab was my favorite part of the day because feeling DNA, pipetting it with my own hands, and seeing it in condensed form off the page of a textbook really tied everything together, made it real. I was definitely inspired to look deeper into a scientific career.” Mr. Baynard narrowed down the benefits of hands-on experience lab activities offer to two factors: “First, manipulating samples, making procedural errors, and viewing the outcomes of complicated protocols all contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the principals being investigated. Second, is the importance of scale. When we describe DNA or cells or whole tissues in two-dimensional textbooks or whiteboards, everything tends towards the same size. When we have students isolate their cheek cells...this demonstrates to students the actual physicality and nature of these unseen substances.”

Each of the 100 or so students of the program participate in experiments to determine their own blood type using cheek cells, decipher unknown



PC: Jessica Lvov (279)

Joyce Davis (279) using a pipette

nucleotides within the DNA sequence, switch promoters on the cellular level, and more. “Exposure plays a significant role in expanding a student’s understanding of and vision for their own professional goals,” claims Mr. Baynard. “Mastering advanced techniques allows students a significant advantage over peers that have only read or seen videos of the concepts and tools we cover in the program. This finding of one’s tribe, whether on a football field or in biology lab can lead to lifelong friendships, a useful peer mentoring community, and serve as a jumping off point for careers many don’t consider until well into their college tenure.”

The University of Pennsylvania offers an abundance of programs as different options are available for viewing and applications on the Penn Summer website. Students from the School District of Philadelphia are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities such as these and consider going above and beyond the required high school curriculum and explore other fields of science, research, and of life in general.

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also founded the South Sudan Wrestling Entertainment which utilizes the indigenous sport of wrestling as an outlet to promote peace and reconciliation. Ajak believed that, "Life is a gift...To have access to so much opportunity means you have to be responsible for other things."

However, on July 28, 2018 South Sudan's National Security Service (NSS) swarmed Juba airport and arrested Peter Ajak as he was boarding a plane to Aweil, where he would be attending a youth conference organized by the Red Army Foundation. Ajak's family received a call from the NSS notifying them of Ajak's imprisonment. With no declared formal charges, Ajak is denied access to a lawyer and stripped of his human rights. His family believes that the arrest was correlated to his tweet stating, "We must stop thinking that the so-called leaders will bring peace [to] South Sudan. We, the great people of South Sudan, must organize ourselves to bring about the peace we deserve." On August 2nd, a committee was organized to investigate Ajak's political activity. The investigation continues.

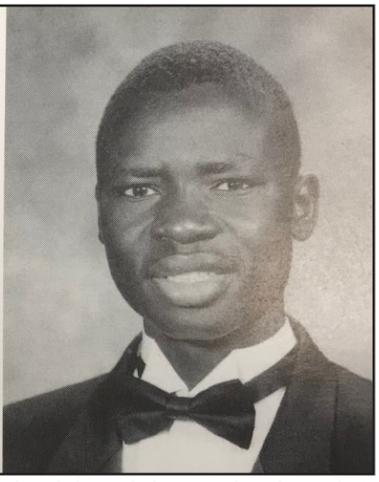
Ajak's arbitrary detention is part of a repression pattern that started since the civil war in 2013. Journalists, politicians, and activists have been detained, creating uneasy, tense atmosphere for those opposing the government. Those released disclose accounts of abuse, torture, and lack of food, water, and medical care. According to the Human Rights Watch, one journalist reported, "There

PETER B. AJAK
1016 S. 6th St., 19147
January 1, 1984

Activities: Boys' Soccer

"Language is a carrier of a people's culture; culture is a carrier of a people's values; values are the basis of a people's determination—the basis of their consciousness that embodies their collective memory as a people."
—Ngugi wa Thiong'O

Like we made it in Central, we can make it anywhere!



PC: 262 Yearbook

was no air in my cell, it was difficult to breathe, they refused me to take a bath and put me in a room officers used to urinate in. They told me I was still under surveillance... I live in fear, I restrict my movement. My children who are far from me, I cannot see, I fear being kidnapped and killed. I don't know what to do."

Freedom of speech and expression are waning rights for the Sudanese people as President Kiir and his squat team of NSS continue to harass and constrain the citizens of Sudan. Because South Sudan has yet to pass media laws, media freedom is vulnerable to harassment, arbitrary arrest, and censorship. Citizens are unwilling to take the risk of being detained, however, many continue to pray for the release of those imprisoned.

Xiuting Wang (278) expressed, "I see Peter Ajax as a courageous person who did whatever he could to stand up for

the rights of the people of South Sudan. Even though he was aware of the danger he was putting himself into, he nonetheless traveled to South Sudan with the intention of attending a youth conference in Juba. He is currently being held without charges at the Blue House and not only did the South Sudanese government not release any more news about him after his detainment, they also ignored global requests to state the charges that were held against Ajak. The fact that previous political prisoners are known to have been killed and tortured means that there is a good possibility that Ajax will undergo similar experiences or have already gone through them."

Currently the NSS has rejected to comply to international laws and continues to detain Ajak along with others who speak up against President Kiir's beliefs. New Jersey senator Bob Menendez and Pennsylvania senator Bob Casey, as well

as many other prominent politicians, have stood at the forefront as advocates for the release of the Peter Ajak. Bob Casey tweeted, "I am very troubled to hear Peter Biar Ajak - a committed human rights defender educated in Philadelphia - has been detained in South Sudan without access to counsel. Standing with constituents' calls for justice."

Fionna Farrell (278) commented, "I originally heard about Ajak in a current events seminar at school, and I immediately felt a deep sense of admiration for Ajak's courage while also generally being appalled by the situation and the complete disregard of his humanity. After hearing several different perspectives on the circumstances, I now think it is best that we reciprocate Ajak's courage by letting him know that we are truly on his side. Sure, it was his independent decision to return to a place where he knew he'd be imperiled, but how relevant is this fact to the gravity of the matter? I think the only way we can show true support for Ajak is by fighting for him and his security, just as he so nobly has been fighting for peace."

Online petitions and the #FreePeterBiar movement seek to spread awareness and support from the online audience. You can help secure the release of Ajak by calling, writing, or emailing your U.S. representative, by signing petitions, and by voicing your concerns. Help Peter Ajak continue his work towards a peaceful future for the Sudanese people!

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They also shared that problems stem from issues in the environment, like living near a factory or in a food desert, as many impoverished people in Philadelphia do. After the speakers and lunch, my group continued working on our project, creating a presentation and developing our idea. We decided to name the project "Philitical", a combination of Philadelphia and political. We also created a survey to present statistics in our presentation to show that young Philadelphians feel uneducated about civics and local government. After what seemed like a blur, Bootcamp ended for the day. **August 2:** Today I woke up nervous, as I was presenting to a panel of judges: some lawyers, others real estate magnates, others businesspeople. First came the speakers, starting with Dr. Sean Grady, a neurosurgeon. While I don't want to go into neurosurgery, his presentation and the video of him removing a brain tumor was intriguing. I was astonished by how advanced brain surgery is, being able to stop tremors from Parkinson's just by using brain stimulators to counter the disease. I also learned that EMI, the Beatles' record label is the reason the CT Scan exists today. Due to a surplus of money from sales, the label helped fund and develop the CT Scan. After lunch, the three groups presented. The other two groups focused on developing programs to assist people from underperforming neighborhoods in Philadelphia through

education and meal plans. When my group went, we were bombarded with questions, but we managed to convince the judges to fund our plan. We were astonished, as the other two groups had fantastic plans. Afterwards we had another speaker, Dr. Levine. He is the first doctor to do three double hand transplants. The most hectic day of the Bootcamp was over as quickly as it began. **August 3:** I woke up early today, sad because today was the last day of a fun and educational week. Today's speakers were very intriguing. Robin Canada, a doctor for undocumented immigrants, made me realize how amazing some people are, helping those that need it the most. Afterwards, Heather Klusaritz, a physician, spoke about health problems among those in poverty and minorities. Her emphasis was on the fact that impoverished minorities have worse health than other people. After the speakers, older Germination Project fellows shared about themselves. After talking for the last hour, the 2018 Germination Project Bootcamp ended. It was a bonding experience, as the other 2018 fellows and I became great friends, and a learning experience as we heard from many amazing people who have done so much to help the world. One message was reiterated all week and sticks with me today: "You guys (our generation) are the future, and you are the ones who will bring change to the world and make it better."

53 min Advisories: Pros & Cons

Brianna Chau (280)
Staff Writer



PC: Ernesto Estremera

Students taking advantage of extra time during advisory

Are We Spending Too Much or Too Little Time In Advisories? As students are welcomed back to Central, they are introduced to new policies and routines. President McKenna decided to try out a new bell schedule, allowing students to have about an hour in advisories to finish their homework and continue their studies. President McKenna was persuaded to consider rearrangements due to many parents complaining about their child's homework affecting sleep schedules and stress levels. The 53 minute advisory continues to share its positive and negative sides as students continue to test out the new system.

One of the positives of the 53 minute advisory is that it allows students more time to finish their work and prepare for their day. This can benefit students who tend to procrastinate as it allows them to complete their work. It could improve grades as well: with school allotting time for students to finish their homework, students have less excuses as to why they were not able to complete their homework. Once open advisories begin, students have an opportunity to use their resources such as the library or teachers' office hours. Clubs can continue to have meetings during advisory instead of having to stay after school, which can encourage more students to join clubs because it will no longer require them to give up their time after school. The morning also provides students time to socialize, and

the cafeteria will remain open for the students to relax before the day starts.

There are also some negatives for the new advisory system. Some students feel that the hour long advisory leaves them more time to do nothing. Some students do tend to complete their homework at home before arriving at school, which leaves them bored during the new, longer advisory. It also shortens classes which may cause stress for teachers as they may have to rush through their material. The hallways and lunchroom may be quite hectic as open advisories begin. Considering that there won't be too many places during open advisory for students to go, the lunchroom or library will likely fill up quickly.

Overall, there are both pros and cons to the new 53 minute advisory. It may be beneficial as it allows students more time in school to finish their work and prepare for their classes. Though it can create hectic and overcrowded lunchrooms or libraries, this issue can be resolved possibly by allowing the students to roam monitored hallways. This allows students to have a variety of location to socialize or finish their homework. Teachers should also be aware of the schedule and plan their lessons accordingly to avoid overflow in class time. With some changes and adjustments, the 53 minute bell schedule could be a beneficial adjustment for Central High students and staff.



Philitical discussing and debating our business plan on Day 2

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year. In theory, starting school with a few full weeks allows students and faculty to hit the ground running. It was the last thing students or faculty did.

Still, there are some well-intended ideas that could benefit Philly schools. For AP students and other students opting to take College Board tests during the latter half of the 2018-2019 school year, an earlier start date provides hope for potentially better test scores and deeper understanding of the content. "I think we'll be able to review some stuff at the end of the year which we didn't have time for," says Mr. Ovetsky, an AP Physics 1 and 2 teacher at Central High School. "They will not give us super results, but some people will become more comfortable with the course." AP test days fall on roughly the same days every year, so, hypothetically, scheduling back gives an added benefit to test-takers. Unfortunately, without school-wide air conditioning systems, the weather will continue to play into the decision for future years. After all, going to school in the winter without heat would be seen as nothing less than negligent. Is excessive August heat in classrooms any different?

Despite the seemingly great benefits of an early start date, the August 27th roll back has subjected staff and students to intense heat conditions which were only amplified in classrooms without



PC: School District of Philadelphia

air conditioning units. During the first two weeks of the school year, district schools were dismissed hours early on account of temperature highs from 90° F to 95° F. Though student performance doesn't generally peak at the start of the school year, the high temperatures disrupt the potential benefits of an early start and affect student performance for the worse.

As Central High School and the rest of the School District modernizes their classrooms with air conditioning units, the benefits of an earlier start date seem increasingly attainable, but such a future may not be observed in all Philadelphia schools for years to come.

West Coast vs. East Coast: College Edition

Krysta Walicki (278)
Sports Editor

Growing up in Philly has definitely led me to believe that the East Coast is superior, but after this past summer I have my doubts. In June I packed up my life in University City and drove across the country to my new home in San Diego, California, America's finest city. I love Philly, but now I'm torn: should I go west for college? For anyone who finds themselves in this same predicament, here are some pointers:

On the East Coast, in most cases, you will be closer to home. Plane tickets from the other side of the country cost upwards of \$200 roundtrip and sometimes flying home for a few days isn't worth the money or the travel time. You will see less of your family and if you are someone who cannot live without seeing your dog for more than a few days, being 3,000 miles away is not your best bet. On the other hand, if you're looking for that bit of independence and distance from home, it may be the perfect decision.

Another big factor in deciding which school to attend is tuition. While

there are tons of schools on the West coast that are not excruciatingly cost-heavy in comparison to most universities, nothing beats in-state tuition. Many West Coast schools do offer scholarships, however, so if you can get money, that's a plus. In California, the UC school system is suffering from budget cuts so their out-of-state acceptance rate has increased with implications that you are paying more.

In terms of environment, the West coast tends to be more outdoorsy than the East coast, and in Southern California the weather is beautiful year round. Farther up the coast in the Pacific Northwest you get a four-seasons experience, but get this- no humidity! While it is a bit on the rainy side, those showers feel like nothing compared to the perpetual rain clouds hanging over Philly this summer. If you're someone who loves the mountains, the beach, or nature in general, California, Oregon, and Washington have plenty to offer.

Whatever you decide, whether it be East Coast, West Coast, or anywhere in between, college is about what you make of it so be sure to make the best of it.

Fuego's Fire

Grace Jickling (279)
News Editor

On June 3, 2018 at around 12 noon local time, the Volcán de Fuego erupted in Guatemala. The volcano entered an active period in 2002 and had experienced small eruptions for the past sixteen years. However, on the third of June, Fuego had its most powerful eruption since the initiation of this active period and its most detrimental eruption since 1974. Volcán de Fuego's explosive eruption sent rocks flying and was followed by a stream of lava oozing down the side of the volcano. The towns at the base of Fuego were most severely impacted, with lava destroying almost everything. What wasn't destroyed by lava was covered in a layer of hot volcanic ash. The ash traveled throughout the southern area of Guatemala, where Fuego is located. One of the largest and oldest cities, Antigua, was encrusted with the ash that destroyed much of the ancient town. The towns that were most affected were those at the base of the volcano. These towns include El Rodeo, Las Lajas, Alotenango, and San Miguel Los Lotes. These towns were sites of the highest death and injury numbers, with a total of 159 fatalities, 57 injuries, and around 200 missing whose whereabouts are still unknown.. The eruption called for the evacuation of 3,100 people who inhabited the area surrounding Fuego, in expectation of another eruption the following day.

The eruption of Volcán de Fuego was a great tragedy in many senses. It destroyed and thoroughly damaged much of southern Guatemala and brought fear to many of those in the surrounding areas. However, what can be seen as most tragic was that the people who were most affected in the towns surrounding the volcano were often very poor farmers who lived on agriculture and cultivation of the Fuego land. The eruption destroyed their homes and their main source of food and profit. Guatemala's national relief agency, La Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres, declared that more than 1.7 million people were affected by the eruption.

In the aftermath, the president of



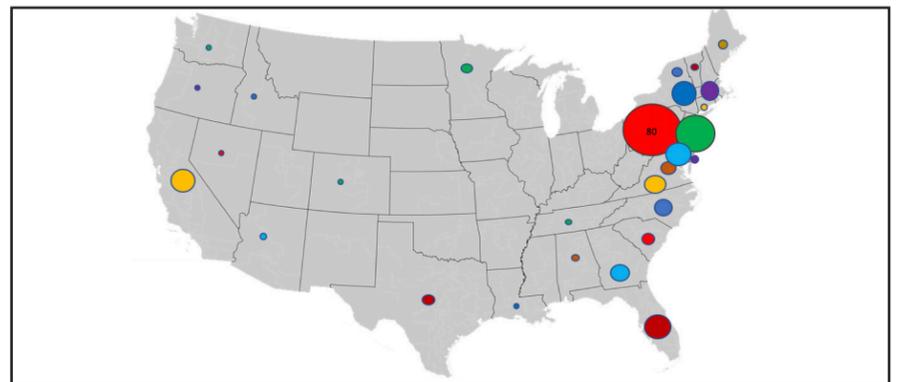
Ash running down the side of Volcán de Fuego after the eruption on June 3, 2018

PC: Grace Jickling (279)

Guatemala, Jimmy Morales, issued three days of national mourning following the eruption. Many organizations were involved in raising donations to help the Guatemalans who were affected by the eruption, providing a range of medical care to those who needed immediate aid to those who were injured. Emergency hospitals were set up in Mexico and the United States to treat the injured. Firefighters worked on Fuego to evacuate the population and try to find the bodies in the rubble. However, after 72 hours, they said the search was futile and all the bodies would be ash.

When I went to Antigua, Guatemala in August, the country had made an obvious recovery. But if you looked hard enough, you could still see ash in the cracks of the cobblestone streets.

Where Has Central Been This Summer?



Statistics taken from a poll of 383 students | PC: Yasmine Mezoury



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