



OCCA NEWSLETTER November 30, 2019

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Being a Leader: On Saturday, November 23, NYU undergrad Lily Ge visited OCCS and presented a seminar on leadership, communication, and engagement (cont. on page 2).



On Sunday, November 24, OCCCC held its annual Thanksgiving dinner. More photos on page 6.



Thanksgiving Greetings from the OCCA Sports Team!



1. OCCA 2020 LUNAR NEW YEAR GALA ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
2. FINANCIAL SEMINAR ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ OCCS

Strategies for Impactful Leadership, Communication, and Engagement with Lily Ge

Edited by Nancy Song

So, a couple of introductions: I'm currently a second-year student at NYU and I am in the College of Arts and Science (CAS), which is the largest school at NYU, and I'm studying neural science with a double minor in chemistry and creative writing, potentially triple-minoring in bioethics or public health.

I am on Student Council, which means I help govern and embody the voices of over 8,000 student body members (this is us during retreat, right there, and these are other members in my year on Student Council). In addition, I'm also on Student Alumni Council, which means that I help connect different alumni – the over 1,000,000 students who have already graduated NYU – and the current students of NYU, and this plays really into the role that I have taken in trying to give a voice to students who don't really have a voice. For instance with Curriculum Chair, I helped revamp the core curriculum which if you guys are going into college, you know that a lot of colleges value the liberal arts part of their curriculum, which means that you may be required to take classes that maybe you're not as interested in or you weren't thinking about majoring in which, you know, a lot of people complain about. But last year was one of the first times in 10 years that they decided to relook at the core curriculum and how they could develop courses for students to actually enjoy taking and also better engage with, so I helped design that. In addition, I also have my own cohort of 30 or so first-years, which means I mentor alongside a faculty advisor (my babies – so this is us at a service event in Brooklyn). So, in addition I'm also part of the CAS Presidential Honors Scholars Group, which is a very prestigious honors college within NYU and basically, they teach you different parts of research skills, community engagement, leadership, and we also get a free trip every January to different places (so, this is me and my friends in Florence and this year we're going to Abu-Dhabi). So, that's introductions out of the way. You'll get a better chance to get to know me a little bit more later on and also at the end for any questions, so let's move on to the key question here today.

What is leadership, and what does it mean to be a good leader? Why don't we split up into groups of 2 and discuss what you think about that question? Okay, now I want each group of 2 to find another group of 2 and come up with 3 reasons or 3 examples of what being a good leader is, okay? So, join up, groups of 2, find a different group, and then nominate one person to be the reporter back (the following responses were provided by members of the audience):

"Being responsible, result-driven, and open-minded."

"Being able to set a good example for others, being a role model, ability to take charge and basically be organized."



Working from the inside out: "Tackle the *why* before you go into the *how* and the *what*."

"Being very progressive, being very communicative, being passionate about what you're doing."

"Some who motivates, someone who listens to others and gives advice."

Those are all excellent answers and to be honest, yes – all of those and more. But I think one key thing there is communication, just because – let's say you are result-driven, let's say you are responsible or organized. But how can you communicate your thoughts to the people who are part of your team? Because that's what being a leader is: it's having a team and fostering those relationships and working towards a common goal. So, let's get into that.

Communication is king. Like I said, if you have something in your head, there's no way that you can actually fully express it without communication and without communicating it well. Communication and communicating well is all about intentionality and what this means is being a leader within your field, and I talked to Kent [Leung] about this already, but I'm going to bring up Apple as an example because I think we can all agree that Apple is an example of a leader within their industry, within their field. Does anyone disagree on that? No. Everyone's heard of Apple, right? Who here has an Apple product, either on them or at their house? Yeah, okay, that's what I thought, me too. And it's all about **intentionality**.

Basically, Apple presented a new ad campaign back about two decades ago now but it's still talked about now, and it's called the "Think Different" campaign and it was a direct response to, I believe, IBM or another company's campaign of "Think" and Apple's like, "No, we don't want people just to think; we want people to think *differently*". So, this brings me to my main topic, which is these three rings. Everything we do, as a leader or otherwise, is in relation to these three rings. It's a very simple topic and theory, but I've presented it to you as a picture and hopefully you can take something away from that. So, what do

these three rings represent? It represents the *what*, represents the *how*, and represents the *why*. So, most companies – and I would say most individuals, actually – tend to go from the outside in, and they go *what*, *how*, and *why*, and that's how they think and that's how they communicate.

So, for instance, if I were a computer or phone company, I would say, "Don't you want to buy from me? I make wonderful products, my products are faster than everyone else's, and we can sell them to you at a cheaper price. Come buy from me", which is the *what*. "We sell computers and phones. *How*? We sell them at a lower price, faster speeds, new technology". Great. There's no *why* though. But, it's like moderately compelling, right, I would say? If I were a cars salesman, I would say, "Our new cars! They're faster, they get more miles to the gallon, and we're close to you. We can sell them to you in different colors, different upholstery settings, leather seats, all that jazz. Come buy from me!" Alright, I might buy a car from you.

But Apple does something a little differently. An ad from Apple would look something like going from the inside out. They would say, "Everything we do is about challenging the status quo – everything we do. We're trying to push human innovation faster and farther and better than ever. How we challenge the status quo is by making our products beautifully designed, faster than our competitors', and sleeker than ever. Come buy from me". From the *why* all the way to the *how* to the *what*. I feel like with that, it brings a new meaning to endorsement because you're thinking about the intentionality. Why do you create these products? *Why*? And this is probably what made you buy more than just a computer or phone from Apple. There are watches now and different accessories.

Same with Amazon. Amazon has literally invaded our homes with Alexa. Why do we let them do that? It's because they have intentionality. They want to simplify our lives and make our lives easier

and better than previous generations ever had it, and they try to sell that to you by saying, "Hey, wouldn't you like a human assistant right next to you in your kitchen, helping you cook? Watching your kids, babysitting them?" I mean, Amazon did an experiment about a couple of years ago where they did this new delivery service. Instead of delivering to the front of your house, they convinced a couple people to actually let them have access to their house and into their living rooms and into their kitchens. They said, "You know what? We'll simplify everything, we'll make it easier and better than ever. No more package thieves. We'll just deliver it to your kitchen counter, deliver it to your bedroom, whatever it is", and people bought into it until, you know, there were other controversies. But it worked surprisingly. There was another experiment where they convinced a couple people to let them deliver to the trunk of their car, so some people actually gave Amazon – this giant company – access to their car and all their belongings just for easier access. So that's all about how you can tackle the *why* before you go into the *how* and the *what*.

Now I want you guys to think about something you do and why you actually do it, right? We all have a million choices as soon as we wake up in the morning. You could either eat breakfast first or go brush your teeth. What makes you do one or the other? So now I want you to think about an activity you do or perhaps something you're really passionate about and tell me why you do it, how you do it better than other people, and obviously what you do, okay? So why don't you do that again in groups of 2 but different pairings, not the same person.

Okay, just in case people are a little intimidated or confused by the question, I'll give a personal example: so, my really good friend really likes to bake and I remember asking her why she spends hours kneading the dough or proofing the pastries – why she does that when, you know, food is ephemeral, you eat it and it's gone! Why did she spend a day or even a couple days baking or cooking something for someone? She told me that it's not about the baking itself – yes, it's a challenge, yes, it's like fun and relaxing to take your mind off something and just like take all of the anxiety and frustration out on the dough – but mainly she does it because of the joy she gets when other people eat her food. She gets to see how happy it makes them when they realize someone else thought of them and brought them a nice treat, and so that's the real driving factor behind what she does. So, go back and discuss about what you do and why you do it (the following responses were provided by members of the audience):

"I swim because I want to be physically active and then like it makes me"

(cont. on next page)

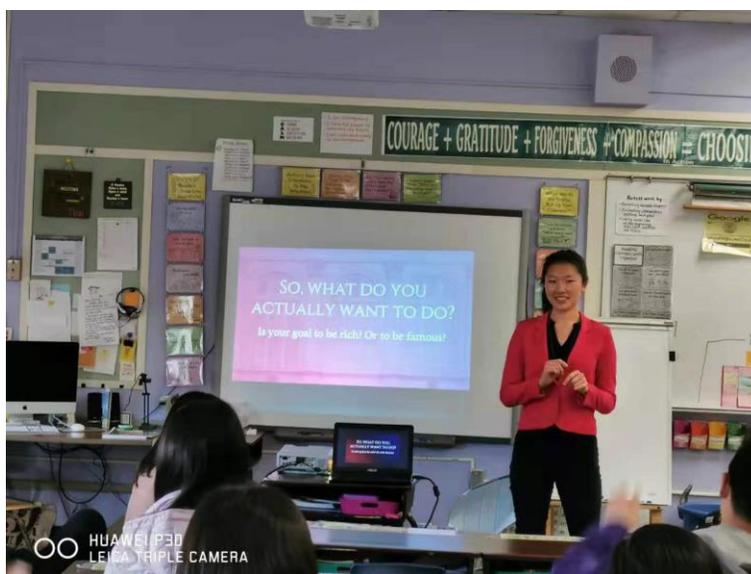
feel like proud of my accomplishments as I get better as a swimmer, so I can go faster than I was before. I do this by working really hard at practice and like doing extra stuff at home.”

“I play piano and the reason that I do it is because it’s rewarding. I like being able to share my music with other people, and I feel like being able to play a piece has more meaning to it, and how I do it is I practice, I go to piano lessons, and I take any opportunity to be able to perform for other people at school concerts and recitals and stuff.”

Awesome! Yeah, a couple of my friends are good swimmers. It’s crazy the lengths they go to push their bodies to shave like that half-second off or that one second off. Like to us, it’s one second, give or take a few seconds! But to a swimmer, it’s the length of a couple meters. Exactly. Very cool. I enjoyed hearing about what you like to do, why you do it because I think as kids, we get told by a lot of people to do different things, but what I realized is if you don’t love what you’re doing, it kind of peters out over time – you don’t stick with it. So, if you discover what you love early in life, you’re one of the lucky ones.

So, it’s not what you do; it’s why you do it, and that’s what people buy. Like I said, we buy so many accessories from Apple, but could you ever think about buying a phone from, I don’t know, Dell? I mean, would you ever buy a computer from Nokia? (An audience member claims it would be indestructible) Haha, they’re indestructible... I think there’s like a resurgence there, I saw an ad or something. But anyway, yeah, you would never because your mind never makes the connection that, you know, Dell is anything but a computer company or that Nike is anything but a sportswear kind of company. You would never buy, I don’t know, a book from Nike – you might, actually – but that’s just showing how exactly these companies can transcend the boundaries that we have set them because as humans, we like to classify things. So, if someone can classify you by not what you do but why you do it, then you’ve really made your mark.

So, for instance, as Curriculum Chair, I haven’t really talked a lot about what I do and so, one of my main goals this year was to bring professors and students closer together. And once you get into college – or perhaps when you’re in high school, you might even feel this, too, but especially in college – there are classes that are 500 people large, 600 people large. I’ve had classes where there’s 1,000 people with me in my class. So, for instance, my general chemistry class – I’m premed, so a lot of the intro classes are going to be pretty massive – so the general chemistry class that I took last year was about 800 people and took it in the auditorium and there were people taking chemistry on like the 3rd balcony, which is a little like mindboggling to think about, especially coming from 20-30 people large classes in high school, middle school, and elementary school. So, I stepped foot into that large auditorium, sat down 4th row, and remember just looking



back and seeing this whole wave of faces that a) I didn’t know, b) were in the class with me, and c) were all trying to get, you know, obviously get that A, right? All the premeds, or any student, really wants to do well, so yeah. I remember being a little intimidated. One professor standing on the stage behind the podium just lecturing – it’s hard to form those connections.

And so, when I took up the position of Curriculum Chair this year, that was my main goal, to bridge that gap because professors oftentimes do want to get to know students; they see the same faces every day, they’re trying to talk about what they love to people who may not enjoy it as much but are at least taking the class and maybe they do want to learn, and so they want to get to know students, and students obviously want to learn more about the professor’s career, learn more about their research, maybe develop a mentor or intellectual friendship between the two. So that was my goal in planning the Student-Faculty Banquet that happened about 2 weeks ago, and it took about 8 months of planning, that banquet. It was so much work. I remember being very stressed, you know, as the day was coming up. And the banquet is an annual tradition where we invite students to nominate professors who have made a very good impact on them, either inside the classroom or outside the classroom, by nominating them and then reaching out to professors who were nominated to see if they wanted to come to this banquet and get a chance to get a more intimate relationship with students. And so, we tried to keep the ratio between professors and students 1:2 or 1:3 and that’s what we did, and I’m very proud to say that a lot of the students have reached out to the professors – they sat with them at the banquet, developed those research opportunities. Perhaps, maybe they’re working in their lab now, or maybe they just want to, you know, look into what the professor is researching and maybe change their career path? So, that was what drove me, and I tried to make that clear throughout the pain and the obstacles and everything that came up along with way.

So, for instance, the day before the banquet, we were supposed to package macarons and get all the decorations and get everything ready, but it was Veterans Day: a) we didn’t realize that, b) President Trump was in town, so traffic was just horrible everywhere and c) because it was Veterans Day, there was the giant 100th year Veterans Day parade throughout the entire city. So, we were a little heartbroken thinking that we weren’t going to get macarons, thinking we weren’t going to get the centerpieces we needed or the catering we needed. And this is after 8 months of work, \$20,000 put in there, but then we thought about why we’re doing this and if even once you left that place feeling like you had a closer bond with the professor, then honestly my work there was done. Luckily, we did get the centerpieces, we did get the macarons, we did get the catering, so all was fine. But remembering why we do these things drove us to push us harder and made us really think about why we do things and try to make the event a better time. So again: intentionality, intentionality, intentionality!

So, my 4th point is growth and comfort. I want to ask all of you: what grades are you in now? Raise your hand if you’re in elementary school. Middle school? High school? Okay. Okay. 7th grade? Okay. 8th grade? 9th? 10th? Okay, 10th graders, okay. 11th? Nice. 12th? Yay, senior year!! Okay, I just want to ask: is your goal to be rich? Is it to be famous? Those things seem nice, right? So, let’s say you tell me, “Yes, I want to be a CEO!” I’d be like, “Great, that’s wonderful! Which company? Who do you need to shadow or network to get there? Where are you starting from? What do you have to do now within 30 days to get there? What do you have to do within 30 days to get there within 90 days? What do you need to do? Break it down. Most importantly, why? Why do you want to be the CEO of whatever nameless company?” Seriously, why? Tell me. And my last question would be, “If I gave you a million dollars today, how would you spend the money?” because I want to know whether you want that

position for the money, or if you want that position for the other benefits it has – pushing yourself harder, networking with people, putting yourself in situations where you have to think of a solution on the spot. So, here are my last tips of the day:

1. **Set realistic goals** – yes, being CEO seems a little unattainable, but you can get there by setting smaller goals along the way. And the reason that you set goals is not just because you want to give yourself a target, but when you do reach that target, you can see some progress, right? You need to set some kind of measurable expectation for yourself, otherwise you’re never going to feel like you are getting anywhere, and you’re going to get discouraged and not want to work any harder.

2. **Look ahead to the “finish line”** – it might seem horrible today, it might seem horrible the next day or the next couple days, but if you keep yourself moving and keep yourself looking up, you’ll get there. And I think this is the most important...

3. **You are meant to be uncomfortable** – there’s no growth in the comfort zone and there’s no comfort in the growth zone, and you need to keep that in mind because you need to keep pushing yourself, always be learning, always be improving. There’s always room for improvement in whatever you do. Even if you think you’re the best in something, you can always be better.

So, I’m going to be talking a little bit about my personal journey. When I was a kid, I was super shy, didn’t like to talk to people, didn’t like to meet new people, and I don’t know exactly why that is but all I know is when I got to high school, I decided to try something new. And so, the thing I decided to try was Model UN and I will say it changed my life. Not only for the friends I made along the way, not only for the people I met at competitions, but it helped me realize like why I want to do things. I wanted to get better at public speaking because I had so many things to say and if I weren’t able to say them, I felt a little trapped, a little stifled, and it took a lot of work. These are just a couple pictures from all the conferences that I traveled to with my team in high school. I’ve gone to places like Yale, Princeton. I’ve also gone to Columbia, NYU for Model UN and other high school conferences and, it’s just nice to see my baby face again. But like I said, it took countless conferences – I did not get good at this on my very first one. I remember going to Yale, which was my first collegiate conference ever, and it was a committee on the World Health Organization (WHO) on malaria. I remember going up to give my very first speech, all excited, and then forgetting the word “mosquito” – like, it just completely blanked from my mind. And that was mortifying, but I like got around it by just describing what a mosquito was because my brain just forgot the word “mosquito” at a malaria conference. But yeah, it took countless, countless conferences. So, it’s all about growth and comfort, or rather the lack thereof of the comfort, and all about the growth.

(Q&A on page 7)



纽约州长 (Andrew M. Cuomo) 今天宣布, 橙郡“Woodbury 道路, 交通和经济发展”建设项目正式完工。这个耗资 1.5 亿美元的建设项目顺利赶在圣诞假期的购物旺季之前完工, 比预计工期提前了五年。该项目为作为知名全球购物目的地的 Woodbury 高级购物中心提供了更新更好的通道模式, 也增强了停车容量, 行人安全设施和公共交通便利设施。

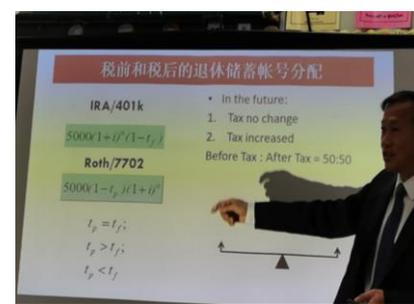


Cuomo 州长说: “这个世界级的交通枢纽, 同时也解决了困扰哈德逊河谷居民近三十年的交通拥堵问题。该项目提前五年完成, 是纽约州在创建 21 世纪交通基础设施方面如何引领全国方向的又一例证。该基础设施可以推动我们的经济向前发展, 提高居民的生活质量和游客的旅行质量, 继续拉动未来将蓬勃发展的旅游业。”

OCCA representatives Dr. Lan Jiang and Ms. Juan Li were invited to a local Hudson Valley event when Governor Andrew Cuomo visited Central Valley on Thursday, November 14.

- 江岚

Photos from Dr. Tso-Hui Ting's Financial Seminar (November 16, 2019)



《培育善良的心灵》by 曹方

从小到大，我没有特意给儿子和女儿讲应该怎样做人。在养育孩子的日子里，通过日常小事，潜移默化，现在我得到了一双好儿女。他们心地善良，举止得体，品德高尚，彬彬有礼。看着他们快乐地生活，我感到很高兴。

在儿子和女儿小时候，他们常常要我讲故事。我会把那些难忘的故事陆陆续续地讲给他们听。

- Daddy 刚来纽约的时候，英语口语和听力很不好。我们小镇图书馆有一个免费教英语的计划。Daddy 去那里登记，找到了一个英语 Tutor（一对一的老师），她叫 Ruth……

- Mommy 刚来纽约的时候，我们钱不多，只能买旧车。有一天，那辆车坏在半路。妈妈不知道该怎么办。这时一辆路过的轿车停下来，一位身穿职业装的女士向妈妈走来。她询问了情况后，载着妈妈去了附近的修车店……

4 岁的时候，女儿就会系鞋带了。邻居有一个小胖妞常常来我家院子里找女儿玩儿。她还不会系鞋带。看到小胖妞的鞋带开了，我叫女儿帮她系鞋带。每次，小胖妞都会说：Thank You。可以帮助小朋友，女儿很开心。

女儿参加了 10 年游泳训练。每次训练结束，家长都来接孩子。偶尔也有家长不能来接孩子，这个孩子就需要搭便车。每次女儿问我能不能给她的朋友搭便车？我都会愉快地答应。有一个说西班牙语的新移民，她的父母都很忙。有一年，整整一个学期，我天天给她搭便车。年底游泳队开 Party，她的父母专门找到我，向我表示感谢。



高中的几年，女儿都被选为学生会干部。她常常要去做义工，我们车接车送，也有赞助一些饼干可乐之类的物品，有求必应。

我和太太都热心地参与华人协会和中文学校的事情。在庆祝新年等各项活动中，出点子，做义工，年复一年，其乐融融。

汶川地震后，有一天，我在客厅里看 CCTV4 的灾情报道和抢险救灾报道。看到惨烈的灾难，我禁不住泪水涌出眼眶。正好女儿路过客厅，那年她 11 岁，这是她第一次看到 Daddy 流泪，她吃惊地愣住了。然后她走到我身边坐下，陪我看电视，她能听会说中文，她开始关注汶川救灾。后来她看到我们在中文学校捐善款，又在华人教会再捐善款。

青出于蓝而胜于蓝。现在儿子和女儿的行为举止，待人接物，有我们的影子。他们做的比我们更好，为此

我们很高兴。

在西雅图华盛顿大学读博期间，儿子到校园外的一个公共图书馆里做义工，开班授课，免费教新移民学英语。在他申请这份工作的时候，有一个面试。机构负责人问他，为什么要做这个义工？我儿子讲了那个故事：我的 Daddy 刚来美国的时候，他的英语听力和口语很差，他也去参加了一个免费教英语的计划。他的老师叫，Ruth……

去年我们全家回北京。在浦东机场转机的时候，有 2 个小时等待时间。太太和儿子去星巴克，我和女儿去隔壁的面馆。我们点了两份雪菜肉丝面。55 元/份，我给收银员 200 元。拿着找回的零钱，我和女儿来到餐桌等待。在把零钱放进钱包时，我发现收银员多找给我 50 元。我马上起身走回去，说明情况，还给收银员 50 元。回到餐桌，女儿小声地对我说：Daddy，你做的很好！

OCCCC Thanksgiving Dinner Photos



Margaret 姊妹的母亲
- 慈祥、善良、
极富爱心的刘纯爱姊妹
Rest In Peace



经过几次会议商讨之后，基督教角声佈道团 (CCHC) 和 OCCCC 于 11 月 24 日决定在教会剩余土地上合作建造一个青年营。
After a few meetings and discussions, Chinese Christian Herald Crusades (CCHC) and OCCCC decided to develop a youth camp on our remaining land on Sunday, November 24.

Q&A with Lily Ge

Edited by Nancy Song

Q: Okay, I got a question.

L: Yes, Kent!

K: What made you think about going to premed?

L: Well, I've always really liked science and it's not so much the premed part that initially interested me – it was the integration of science because when I was a little kid, I used to go to the library all the time – and my mom can attest to this – I'd bring home like a stack of books, and it'd be books from like everywhere. I remember bringing home a stack that held a book about ancient Egypt, that held a book on like mad cow disease, a book on like French, like just – I was endlessly curious and I think when I get curious about something – my professors can say this – I ask tons of questions about it, like I will not shut up about asking questions to them because if they know something about what I want to know, and they're at where I want to be, I'm going to pursue them. So, I remember reading a book on prions, which is – do you guys know what prions are? No? Okay, well, I'm going to blow your minds! Basically, it's a misfolded protein and it convinces other proteins that are perfectly folded to misfold with them, and what that does is it causes a lot of like holes in the brain. The crazy thing is it can't be destroyed by normal heat measures, it can't be destroyed with like rubbing alcohol, you can't like put it in the autoclave and like kill it. Prions! And so, this like swept the world because of mad cow disease and farmers used to butcher cows and then feed the parts of cows to other cows, and that would spread the entire disease into the entire herd, and then humans would eat the cows and then potentially get this disease as well. But anyway! It's a crazy thing. I was reading about it, got hooked, and decided to pursue science in high school, which is – my high school is very special because it was a specialized high school, so you could go in, kind of know what you wanted to do, and then be broken up into more specialized curriculum pathways, let me guess. So, there was a business pathway, a medical pathway, you could do performing arts, like theater. So, it was like different things, so I chose to do the medical pathway there just because it was science. But when I got there, I interacted with physicians during an internship my senior year, which was at the pediatric ICU, so that was a very tough experience because a) they were all kids my age or younger and because it was an ICU, all the kids there were extremely sick. Like, extremely, extremely sick. There was this baby who had so deficient neurological function that she couldn't even blink on her own – like, nurses had to blink for her. She couldn't swallow food because her nervous system literally could not support that. Just like seeing all these patients and seeing exactly how much of a story every family had was what I wanted to do because I really like talking to people, I really like getting their

life story. But seeing exactly – you know, a physician isn't just a physician to them, it's a gateway into their entire life and when you enter a patient's room, it's not just a patient's room – it's not just a room, really; that's like their house because that's their home for however long they're in the hospital, and you need to respect that, you need to be respectful, and it's just amazing the kind of trust that people will place in their – you know, you literally hold their lives in your hand. And so, to be responsible over that really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so yeah. Yeah, Matthew, I think you had a question.

M: Okay, this is about the mad cow disease –

L: Go!

M: Wait, so you – are cows cannibalistic if they're feeding on cows?

L: Yeah, but like, unknowingly. They didn't like willingly choose to do that. There was a tribe in some island nation that after a tribal member had died, the women and children would eat the brains of the person who died as a sign of respect – that was their ceremonial whatever. And so, that spread the disease within those human populations, and the scientists and anthropologists who went to that nation were like, "Why are only women and children dying of this disease?" That's because they were the ones who prepared the brains and they were the ones to actually eat the brains. Yeah, you should look into that, it's cool. Cool topic, yeah.

Q: Alright, so I know that you got accepted into Vanderbilt. What do you think made them accept you, like what made you stand out to them?

L: To Vanderbilt!

Q: Yeah, cause like that's where I want to go, that's my reach school, like yeah.

L: Yeah, I love Vanderbilt. Honestly, I would say probably my interview, yeah. My interview went really – at least from perspective, it went really well because with all of my other universities, I talked maybe for 30, 40, 45 minutes with the interviewer, which is kind of long, you know, usually they're 25 minutes. But for this one, I talked for almost 3 hours. We didn't end until we had to use the bathroom, and then my parents were like, "Where are you? Have you died?" I was like, "No, I'm in the café, I'm still here". Yeah, I know, it went really, really well. It wasn't even that we connected because of what we liked to study – she was a lawyer, she majored in like journalism or politics in college. It was mainly like this like very humanlike kinship. We just talked about life, talked about her interests, talked about my journey so far, like what made me want to apply in the first place, and sometimes when I interview, I find myself doing like, "okay, it's like another school". But with Vanderbilt, I remember just being so

excited to like even potentially attend. So yeah, probably my interview.

Q: Did you have to like go down there?

L: No, no, no. It was a – so, they do alumni interviews and so they just find someone who's nearby and then, you know, you set up a place, so I actually had to go to the city for the interview.

Q: So, I thought you meant that you went down to Nashville...

L: I went there when I was like making my decision about which school to go to. That's very important, you should check out the school. Yes.

Q: With your Asian background, how did you get into public speaking?

L: That's interesting, because on the way over in the car, I was thinking a little bit about, you know, public speaking before it was ever termed "public speaking" and so I think my initial experience was with my parents because with English as their second language, even from a young age I was kind of like their translator, especially with people who maybe didn't have the patience to like watch them or wait for them to stumble over their words, so I was their translator. And from a young age, I was put into situations where I had to adapt and like help my parents. That was a very big responsibility for like a 7 or 8-year-old. But I'm very grateful to be able to help them in any way I can. But yeah, that was probably an instance where I wasn't very comfortable, but I grew up. And so, every other opportunity since then I've taken, was I ever 100% comfortable taking that? I don't know. Like with curriculum chair, this is the 15th annual Student-Faculty Banquet, and I remember thinking the night before, "What if I'm the one to mess it up? Like, this is the 15th year. What if, like, Year 16 never happens because I just do a bad job?" But no, putting myself into these situations where I have to either, you know, put up or leave will really like show the improvement of your growth cycle.

Q: Actually, I have 2 questions. One is about why you picked Model UN because you picked it in high school. Will it help you for public speaking? And also, another question is for the Asian or Chinese people in the room here. So, they are reluctant to ask questions after a seminar about how to talk, so do you have any suggestions for them?

L: Oh, to encourage them to ask questions?

Q: Yes.

L: Okay, okay. First question first. I didn't really put this in the slides, but I want to like really emphasize this because I do a lot of things, I think, that were said before I even started talking that I seem to be very involved on the campus. I'm involved because I love everything that I do. I've tried a lot of things and if I don't like it, why would I waste time doing it, you

know? College is only 4 years; I'd rather put my time and effort into things I really love doing, being with the people I really like being with, and working on projects that I'm happy to make a difference on. But as for Model UN, honestly it was kind of like a lucky coincidence that that happened because at my high school, you have the choice of choosing one extracurricular to focus on in the afternoon, and it just happened to be the one – it was one of a couple that fit into my schedule and I knew that I wanted to get better at public speaking, get better at verbal communication, and that seemed fun but very intimidating. Like I said, it seemed to be a very upright environment at first glance. Also, another thing with Model UN that isn't really talked about is the gender imbalance. It's very, very heavily weighted towards males, especially in the college circuit. I have been on committees before where I'm the only female and that's been very off-putting, especially where they try to like gang up on you and do kind of like "bro squad" and not work with you, but hey, that's life! You've got to overcome that and put yourself in situations where you have to deal with it, and yeah. I think Model UN does help a lot – not only with talking, but also formulating your thoughts. My dad has always said that whenever he like reads my writing, he's like, "What?" but whenever I talk or explain it to him, he's like, "You should record yourself saying this and then write down whatever you said. That's what you should do". So, I think it helps you organize your thoughts, I think it helps you be a better writer, and just like going back to the point about what makes a good leader, being inclusive and open to different ideas – I think it really makes you do that because you have to interact with so many different types of people with different backgrounds, so firm advocate for Model UN.

As for getting people to open up and ask questions – yes, that is a very good question. Well, I'm always very curious, so for a couple of my extracurriculars I had to take – I've probably taken 5 different personality tests in the past 5 weeks just because of like all the clubs I do that make me do them, and the reason that I place such a big emphasis on personality tests is not because I think they have much validity; the more about thinking about how you are and where you fit in in a chain setting and for me, the results have always shown that 1) endlessly curious – I'm always curious, always asking questions; 2) love of learning – I think that's like the same thing; and I think kind of keeping that curiosity going no matter where, it's really important finding encouragement in everything. Yes, I know it's Saturday morning; I'm sure you guys would rather be home, like watching TV or sleeping maybe, sleeping in, but you're here! So, why not make the most of what you can and so, pick my brain if you want! I'm open to it for however long we have. 😊

Community News



Thank you to our 5 community volunteers (L-R: Kangjian Wu, Wei Chen, Zhenghui Li, Susan Jiang, Linda Xu) who helped obtained 5 grants totaling \$2,500. They are currently working towards another \$2,500 grant.



On Sunday, November 3, **Emily Wang** won 1st place in the 16 Year age group during the **2019 New Jersey State Young Musicians Competition – Piano** with her performance of *Mephisto Waltz No. 1, S514* by *F. Liszt*. Here she is pictured performing on Sunday, November 17 at the **Winners’ Recital** at Hillman Performance Hall, Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ.



Andrew Yi places 20th, becoming the first MW boy in over 20 years to earn a medal at XC States.

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Thank you to Xiaoming Shen, Sen Yang, Jay Song, and Helen Liao for purchasing 100 sets of jerseys from China for the OCCA Sports Team!

Congratulations to the 12 MWHS students (chosen out of 40 high schools) who were selected to perform in the Symphony Orchestra for the NYSSMA Zone 9 Area All-State Music Festival on Saturday, November 23 at Suffern High School:

- Stephanie Peng, Violin I
- Jennifer Song, Violin I
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- Emily Wang, Cello

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