



# NEWS FROM THE NEST



THE NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGIATE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCE

THIRD QUARTER

FEBRUARY 2018

## FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER RECOGNIZED

Dr. Will Ross, MD, MPH, and a founding board member of Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, was recently profiled in Washington University's Outlook magazine. The article focuses on Dr. Ross' commitment to bring medicine to underserved communities. The coverage features his Medical Plunge, where first-year students at Washington University School of Medicine learn about poorer communities in St. Louis, as well as the creation of myriad programs with local health agencies to bring healthcare to those who cannot afford it. Also, Dr. Ross is the director of Collegiate's Saturday Scholars program beginning this month.

Check out the article at: <https://outlook.wustl.edu/leading-with-empathy/>

## WELCOME, NEW STUDENTS!

Collegiate welcomes its incoming class of 2022. This freshman class fills every available seat and has a waiting list for the first time in the school's history. It draws students from every corner of St. Louis City, as well as some from the County. There will be a New Family Welcome Night at Goldfarb School of Nursing on April 18 to celebrate these young scholars.



From left: Christopher Patrick (c/o 20); Grant Konkel (21); Marlon Wright (19); VP of Corporate Business Development, World Wide Technology, Bob Olwig; Coding teacher Alex Schenk; President, WWT, Joe Koenig; Rianna Dehart (20); James Waskow (21); Tullaia Powell (20); Everett Nea (21); Clay Preusch (21); College Admissions Specialist Monica Nickolai; Akila Johnson (21); WWT CEO Jim Kavanaugh; VP of Global Human Resources Ann Marr; and Chief Technology Officer Mike Taylor.

## COLLEGIATE TEAM WINS TECH CHALLENGE

Collegiate was one of twenty area high schools invited to compete in the the STEM Student Forum Hack-a-thon hosted by World Wide Technology, and took home the grand prize of \$10,000. The task was to create a solution to address a need in our school community using technology. Competing schools presented their solutions to an auditorium of 200+ people, including executives from World Wide Technology. The issue the Collegiate team of ten coding students chose to tackle was educational equity. Knowing many 8th graders are unaware of high school options available, the team set a mission to

help students "to find their best fit within St. Louis Public Schools by providing an unbiased, student-centered resource that removes barriers in the school-choice process." The coding students built a web application, "High School in Hand," to deliver a personalized survey and share student results and data with matched high schools based on their interests. The presentation of this solution included students speaking about their experiences navigating the school-choice process, which can favor students who have proactive parents or come from higher-performing middle schools.



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## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH COLLEGIATE TEAM WINS SLUDL CHAMPIONSHIP, MOVES ON TO STATE, NATIONAL COMPETITION**

Collegiate celebrates Black History month with history, knowledge, and action. This month will focus on the theme “The Talk--More Than a Conversation, a Call to Action.” Organizer Benicia Nanez Hunt, Assistant Principal, says “I thought this would be a great idea to discuss and digest this year for Black History, and also have an end product; hence the video/commercial. Mr. Schenk presented the idea and the videos to Student Council and they got excited!” The planners were inspired by last year’s active discussions around the documentary *13th*.

The month began with students responding to video clips about ways Black families teach their children about racial inequity in the US--“the Talk.”

Activities are continuing in students’ mentor groups weekly and with guest speakers, and will culminate in the school creating a video responding to “what ‘The Talk’ means to Collegiate.” Karon Bolden, motivational speaker and author, spoke to students about navigating adversity and social bias. In their mentor groups, students identified interesting and moving photos from the Civil Rights Movement to discuss at a school-wide assembly.

At the St. Louis Urban Debate League (SLUDL) City Championship February 9th and 10th, hosted by Webster University, Collegiate took first place with 65.56 points. Nya Fifer and Camille Shoals placed second in the Varsity debate are going to compete at the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues (NAUDL) Nationals. Laura Marks and Susan Parker, who took first place in the Junior Varsity division, and Asra Albaaj and Audrey Snodgrass, who were semifinalists in the Varsity division, are moving on to the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MHSAA) district competition.

Other noteworthy performances include Collegiate taking both first and second place in the Novice division: Emaline Edson & Collyn Robinson placed first, with Suzan Al-Hamid and D’Andre Lockett placing second. On the speaking side, Varsity speakers Susan Parker and Camille Shoals were in first and third place, respectively; Novice speakers Abigail Botts, Emaline Edson, Collyn Robinson, D’Andre Lockett, and Ellaha Matin filled all the slots except fifth place.

Previously, Debate took first place at a SLUDL competition hosted at

Washington University January 20, with 76.17 points. In this competition, Collegiate debaters went up against students from Ladue High School, as well as from two Kansas City-area schools.

Standout performances included Nya Fifer and Camille Shoals taking fifth in the Varsity division, Audrey Snodgrass and Asra Albaaj taking first in the Junior Varsity division, and Collyn Robinson and Emaline Edson taking first in the Novice division. Collegiate students also took second and third in the JV division (teams of Susan Parker and Laura Marks, and Sachi Korgaonkar and Madina Bekirov, respectively), as well as placing well though all levels of the speaking competition.

### **ACT, SAT FOR JUNIORS**

This spring brings the SAT and ACT to Collegiate juniors. While every public school gives the ACT, Collegiate is unusual for Missouri in giving the SAT as well. The SAT places more emphasis on math, so many of our students find it better serves their strengths and skills. Test dates are March 7 for the SAT and April 3 for the ACT.



“Hoods Up, Threats Down” Day highlights “The Talk” theme with an effort to smash stereotypes and honor Trayvon Martin, who would have turned 23 this week.



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## SENIORS BEGIN INTERNSHIPS

Senior Internships began in the first weeks of the semester. This year, thirty-nine students--more than seventy percent of the senior class--are participating in the internship program at seventeen locations throughout the area. Of these students, four are in biomedicine/biotechnology, twenty-five are in medicine (across a variety of settings including nursing, pharmacy, & pediatrics), two in veterinary, seven in non-medical sciences, and one in law. These internships provide students with valuable exposure to many facets of medicine and bioscience.

## FITNESS ROOM OPENS

The Hilker Fitness Room is now open in room 10. Kudos to the Hilker family worked very hard to get people in their community to donate equipment. Other teachers and staff members also gave equipment. The fitness room is open to all students and staff members Monday and Thursday after school as well as every day during lunch. Jason Griffin is the sponsor of the fitness club, which is still accepting equipment donations.



Hilker Fitness Room, available to students and staff.

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES ROLL IN FOR SENIORS

To date, the senior class has had over 200 college acceptances. A majority of those have been to colleges with rolling admissions, with a few early action acceptances mixed in. Three students applied Early Decision, which is a binding application where a student commits to attending that first-choice institution if accepted. Early Decision admissions results were released in December. Yusuf Bekirov was accepted Early Decision to Washington University in St. Louis. This is the second year in a row that Collegiate has had students accepted to Washington University through the Early Decision process. Elizabeth Maya was admitted to Maryville University, which has rolling admissions, and has won the competitive Presidential Scholarship, which covers full tuition, room & board.



Yusuf Bekirov with Washington University pennant.

## ROBOTICS SUCCESS

The FIRST Robotics team, sponsored by Ninfa Matiase, placed higher than ever before, making it to semi-finals, where they led their coalition. This year's competition game, Power Up, challenged teams to build video game characters (robots) and work to defeat the boss in order to escape.

## BOOK DONATIONS WELCOMED

The Research Library is expanding to create a lending library of fiction and nonfiction books encompassing a diverse range of subjects and genres. If you have books to donate, please contact the Library Aide, Jessie Sarber, at [jessica.sarber@slps.org](mailto:jessica.sarber@slps.org).

Thanks to those who have already donated, especially to Dr. Joan Downey for her gracious donation of medical textbooks.

## AP PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

Advanced Placement exams are coming soon. AP students have the opportunity to attend Saturday study sessions funded by a National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) grant. Offered throughout the year, subjects rotate through math, English, and science topics. At this point, students have been to two of their three study sessions. Teachers are getting support from master AP teacher mentors. Students in NMSI subjects will take mock AP tests in mid-March & early April.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 7: SAT given for juniors
- March 9: Deadline to purchase yearbook before price increases from \$25 to \$30
- March 11: Daylight Savings Begins
- March 21: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 22: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 23: No School
- March 26-30: Spring Break
- April 3: ACT given for juniors
- April 18: New Family Welcome Night at Goldfarb School of Nursing