

Eagle X-Press

MAY 6, 2009 • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 4 • KINGSVILLE, TX 78363

PPAS SENIOR CLASS OF 2009



Presbyterian Pan American School
Congratulations Seniors 2009





Senior Class of 2009

Javier Aguado
Josue Amador
Alejandro Amaro
Jehu Avila
Claudia Banielos
Sergio Barrera
Tania Barreiro
Karina Bello
Juan Chavez
Hong Hui Choi
Carlos Cortes
Christian Cortes
Griselda Duran
Laura Escamilla
Adalberto Fernandez
Azri Flores
Sheree Flores
Walter Flores
Ruben Garcia
Elisa Godinez
Cesar Gomez
Christa Gomez
Sara Gonzalez
Jose Rodolfo Guerrero
Raul Gutierrez
Gustavo Guzman
Jonathan Hau
Paola Hernandez
Santiago Jimenez
Han Sol Lee
Kyoung Jea Lee
Laura Lopez
Alejandra Meave
Erick Moreno
Jose Rodrigo Palmas
Olivia Pun
Alma Quiroga
Cecilia Ruiz
Josue Rivera
Zian Rivera
Kate Thompson
Arturo Vasquez
Daniel Villarreal

Eagle X-Press Staff
 Kate Thompson, Editor-in-Chief
 Sara Gonzalez, Paola Hernandez
 Sheree Flores, Olivia Pun
 Zian Rivera, Hugo Aguilar
 Ismael Sandoval, Kenia Mascorro
 Tania Rodriguez, Ilse Ibarra, Jimena Hernandez
 President: Dr. James Matthews
 Dean: Dr. Bobbi Stottlemyer
 Adviser: Desiree Gutierrez dgutierrez@ppas.org
 P.O. Box 1578 Kingsville, Texas 78363
 361-592-4307, 361-592-6126 (fax);
 www.ppas.org

2

Class of 2009

Soccer player will study at A&M-Kingsville

by Jimena Hernandez

Staff Writer

Javier Aguado, 18, from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon enjoys playing soccer, listening to music, and hanging out with his friends in his free time.



Aguado came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) three years

ago. "What I learned the most from this school is to learn how to choose your friends," Aguado said.

He was part of the cross country team during his first year, and soccer and track for two years. In his senior year, the PPAS soccer team won the Division I State Championship for TAPPS. He was named top scorer with approximately 36 goals.

Aguado describes himself as funny, friendly, athletic and happy.

His best definition of a friend is a person that trusts and supports you in every moment of your life.

Aguado plans to study mechanical engineering at Texas A&M University-Kingsville because he loves mathematics and electronics. His future goals are to have good grades and graduate with honors and get a good job.

Aguado's inspiration and role model is his father because he always makes an effort to provide his family

everything they need even in hard times.

His favorite quote is "Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away."

His best advice is that everything you do in your life, give it to God.

Favorite Teacher: Turner
Favorite Class: Algebra II
Best Friends: Chelita, Hugo, Jimena

Mexico City native plans to attend TAMUK

by Hugo Aguilar

Staff Writer

Josue Amador, 20, from Mexico City, Mexico enjoys dancing and playing soccer.



Amador came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) three years ago.

"What I learned the most

in these three years was speaking and writing in English," Amador said.

He was part of the soccer team his junior year and the cross country team his sophomore year.

Amador describes himself as a loyal person, he said.

He is somebody you can trust anytime, he said about himself.

His definition of friends are that they are very loyal, you can trust them anytime you need them, Amador

Amador plans to study International Business at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK).

He wants to manage his father's business in the future.

His goal is to keep studying and further his education after college.

Amador's inspiration is his father. His father always makes an effort to provide his family everything they need even during hard times, Amador said.

Favorite Teacher: Carranza
Favorite Class: Pre-Algebra
Best Friends: Hau, Santi, Jehu.

Future chef plans to open own restaurant

by Hugo Aguilar

Staff Writer

Jesus Alejandro Amaro, 18, from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico enjoys playing the guitar, soccer and hanging out with his friends in his free time.



Amaro came to Presbyterian Pan American

School (PPAS) three years ago.

"Here I learned how to be more independent and how to make new friends," Amaro said.

He has been part of the soccer team, choir, worship committee, and served as junior and senior class vice president.

Amaro describes himself as an easy-going type of guy, very relaxed and happy.

His definition of a friend is someone who is there when you need them.

Amaro plans to study Culinary Arts (Chef) at Universidad de Monterrey (UEM) in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico because he had always loved to cook.

His future goals are to receive a college degree, open up a restaurant, get married, have kids and study for his master's degree in Madrid.

Amaro's inspiration and role model are his parents, because they taught him everything he knows and

made him the way he is.

Favorite Teacher: Carranza
Favorite Class: Environmental Science
Best Friends: La Suit, GRIZACH, Kate



Future aircraft pilot has a need for speed

by Ismael Sandoval

Staff Writer

“I’m going to study to be an Aircraft Training Pilot in TSTC Waco because I’m addicted to speed and adrenaline,” said Jehú Avila, who in May 2 is going to be 20 years old.



Avila is funny, loving, friendly, smart and protective according to his friends.

And he is well-known because his friends list is long.

He is excited and nervous about entering college and the real world.

But he feels a little sad because he is going to miss all his friends.

He loves to hang out with his girlfriend and his friends, to read, to study, and to listen to music.

Avila’s favorite teacher is Mrs. Gonzales and his favorite class is Biology with Mr. Ortega.

After college he plans to buy his dreamed car and marry the owner of his heart and be part of an air show.

As a student of PPAS, Avila competed in 4H since he was a sophomore.

In the 2008-2009 Kleberg Kenedy Junior Livestock Show, he placed second in European Class for middle weight with his steer.

He also was on the newspaper staff in 2007-2008.

Best Friends: *Josue Amador, Jonathan Hau, Santiago Jimenez,*

Senior to pursue a degree in architecture

by Paola Hernandez

Staff Writer

From Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, Claudia Bañuelos, 17-year-old, describes herself as responsible, happy and sometimes lazy.



year and has been part of the volleyball team since then.

Bañuelos plans to study architecture at Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL).

Bañuelos inspiration to study architecture came from her parents since they would like her to study that. She also enjoys creating, drawing and loves math.

“I think architecture is a beautiful career in which I will demonstrate my aptitudes for art and math, I want to be the best architect

and in the future have my own company,” Bañuelos said.

“I have learned that God will always give me something to smile about everyday,” Bañuelos said.

Bañuelos said what she will miss the most are her friends and the experiences of having different birthdays.

“I will always remember my first day because I was very scared and the first two persons that I met were Christian and Gaby Quiroga.”

Bañuelos enjoys being with her friends, smiling and being happy.

“My goals are to be a successful woman, to have my own business and to be married with a wonderful man spoiling my children”, Bañuelos said.

Favorite Teacher: *Turner*
Favorite Class: *Algebra 2*
Best Friends: *Alejandra, Melissa and Zian*

Friendly senior will pursue a career in law

by Sheree Flores

Staff Writer

Meet Sergio Javier Barrera. Everyone else calls him Cheko. He is 18 years old and was born in Sabinas, Coahuila, Mexico. He describes himself as funny, friendly and outgoing. Barrera enjoys being active



in sports such as football and soccer, and also enjoys his ‘down time’ listening to music and sleeping. He has two brothers and one sister, all younger than him.

Barrera came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) his junior year to learn English, to get a better education and to be in a Christian atmosphere. He has learned to value his friendships and how to worship God.

“I am extremely happy that I’m graduating...it’s

wonderful...but I will miss my friends when I leave,” he said.

Barrera’s hero is John F. Kennedy.

“He worked hard for a better nation, he is an example of how a man *should* be,” he said.

Barrera has participated in soccer, basketball and newspaper. His favorite book is *The Crucible* and his favorite song is from Three Days Grace called ‘Animal I Have Become.’

Barrera plans on going to

college but still is undecided about which one to attend. He is pursuing a career as a lawyer.

Barrera admits he is nervous about going off to college. After college, however, he wants to be the Mayor of his hometown.

Favorite Teacher: *Gonzalez and The Perkins*
Favorite Class: *U.S. History*
Best Friends: *Fo, Porfi, Karla G.*

FONDEST MEMORY OF PPAS

“Carwashes.”
-*Melissa Lopez*

“My junior and senior birthday because I spent it with my friends and I had a lot of fun.”
-*Paola Escamilla*

“When I won the soccer championship.”
-*Jonathan Hau*

“The dances.”
-*Javier Aguado*

“The fair in town.”
-*Marisol Barreiro*

“My friends and I made a drama in which we ourselves acted.”
-*Cecilia Ruiz*

“My friends.”
-*Claudia Banuelos*



FONDEST MEMORY OF PPAS

“My junior year.”
-Zian Rivera

“All the homework
and projects my
senior year.”
-Daniel Villarreal

“U.S. History
Class.”
-Han Sol Lee

“Volleyball practice
and dinner with the
basketball team.”
-Alejandra Meave

“My friends”
-Azri Flores

“The concert we
performed on
Halloween.”
-Carlos Cortes

“My graduation.”
-Ruben Garcia

4

Class of 2009

Prom Queen's role model is her mother

by Jimena Hernandez

Staff Writer

Marisol Barreiro, 19-year-old, from Mazatlan, Sinaloa enjoys laughing, singing, listening to music, and hanging out with her friends.



Barreiro came to Presbyterian Pan American School in August 2008. She

has been here for one year only.

“I came here because I wanted to graduate from a U.S. high school and learn English,” Barreiro said.

Barreiro describes herself as open minded, outgoing, happy, and crazy. She was involved in cheerleading and worship committee during her senior year. In her only year at PPAS, she had the privilege of being named student of the month, homecoming queen, and prom queen. She said that

what she has learned is to be more patient and tolerant with others, especially to respect their opinions.

She wants to attend flight school because she likes to travel. She plans to take classes in Mexico City. Her future goals are to be independent, to have a good job, and to live by herself.

“My advice to my classmates is never stop dreaming but make it realistic,” Barreiro said.

What she liked the most about being at Pan Am--

making friends.

“Life is a journey, enjoy it,” said Barreiro, which is her favorite quote.

Her role model is her mother because she is proud of her and she admires her in everything she does.

Favorite Teacher: Turner

Favorite Class: Communication

Applications

Best Friends: the Suit, Ceci, Ana Paola

Senior hopes to study fashion in California

by Jimena Hernandez

Staff Writer

“My role model is my dad. He is an inspiration and a good example in my life. I admire him because he learned how to overcome himself,” said Karina Bello, 18-year-old senior from Mexico City, Mexico.



Bello, arrived at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) in August of 2006.

“What I liked the most about my three years was making a lot of friends,” Bello said.

She learned responsibility, and how to help others especially to cooperate. Her best advice is to enjoy your life in Pan Am and to make a lot of friends. She also said always to give your best effort because everything matters.

During her three years, Bello participated in the choir and was vice-president of Student Council her senior year. She also was chosen for student of the month last year.

Bello describes herself as silly, creative, and as an outgoing person. She loves to hang out with her friends, draw and mostly dance.

She wants to study fashion industry in California or Mexico City.

“I always wanted to study that since I was little, that's

my dream. My future goals are to graduate from college and start a business. Sustain and depend on myself rather on my parents,” Bello said.

Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Laura

Favorite Class: Mrs. Phaup's English III

Best Friends: Omar, Paolas', Christa

Nuevo Leon native to study engineering

by Paola Hernandez

Staff Writer

From Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Juan Chavez, 18-year-old, describes himself as respectful, serious and athletic.



Chavez participated in different activities during this year such as soccer and

track.

“What I will miss the most is the close friendships that I developed with my fellow classmates and the time that I enjoyed with my friends,” Chavez said.

Chavez said that the best experience that he had at Pan Am was definitely his birthday, because he thought that it was going to be the worst, but his friends organized him a party and at night, his roommate made him a barbecue. “I never expect it since I was absent

for several days and when I came back, I had a surprise party.”

Chavez enjoys playing piano, guitar and working out during his free time.

“Although I was here only for my senior year, I have learned to be more responsible and to rely on God during this year,” Chavez said.

Chavez plans to study Industrial Engineering in Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL).

Chavez said that he chose

this career because his brother was an inspiration since he studied Industrial Engineer as well as some of his uncles.

“My goals are to be the best Industrial Engineer, to have my own company and to have a Christian band.”

Favorite Teacher: Robertson

Favorite Class: Pre Calculus

Best Friends: Cesar, Flor and Josue Amador.



Native of Korea will head to San Antonio

by Sheree Flores

Staff Writer

Introducing Hong Hui Choi, a delicate, sentimental and conservative but progressive 19-year-old. Hong was born March 23, 1990 at Tongyeong, Gyeongsangnamdo, South Korea.



He enjoys watching movies, listening to quiet music and looking at old pictures in his spare time.

Hong came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) his senior year to graduate from a high school in the United States. So far he has learned how to live independently without my parents, he said.

One of his favorite songs is *Moon River*. Hong enjoys reading.

Hong's hero is his father. "Since I was young, I have

always set him as a role model to follow in every affair," he said.

He plans on attending the University of Texas in San Antonio to study. But after college he aspires to become an engineer working for a big company.

"I feel like I am about to start a new act of my life." Hong's goal is to be a good son for his parents.

"I believe that is a lifetime goal for my parents who devoted their lives to me," Hong said. He sees

himself in ten years living happily with his family.

Favorite Teacher:
Robertson

Favorite Class: *Math*
Best Friends: *Jahyun Jo, Anthony Pahillano*

Senior hopes to pursue a career in music

by Kate Thompson

Staff Writer

Three years ago Carlos Cortes traveled from Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas, Mexico to pursue an American education in Kingsville at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS).



"My parents presented the opportunity to me to come here and I didn't think twice, I jumped right in," Cortes said.

In May, 17-year-old Cortes will graduate from PPAS. He is undecided about what college he will attend but he would like to either attend the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg or the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon.

"I would like to major in computer engineering or music," Cortes said.

Cortes said he loves all types of music and he has conducted a couple of songs for the Morris Chapel Choir in on-campus concerts.

"I would like to be a choir director or have a job that is related to music," Cortes said.

Cortes will miss Pan American and all the different people he has met. In addition to missing his friends Cortes is nervous about graduating.

"Graduation is so close and it is scary, I think I will be a

little lonely for a while but I think it is [college] a good thing," Cortes said.

Favorite Teacher: *Phaup*
Favorite Class: *English III*
Best Friends: *Karina B., Suite 41-42, Fonseca*

NHS member plans to attend medical school

by Kate Thompson

Staff Writer

Christian Scarlett Cortes, the Diaz Ordaz, Mexico native is finally graduating from Presbyterian Pan American School in May after three years.



goal," Cortes said.

Cortes has been active at PPAS her three years. She has been involved in the worship committee, youth group, is the senior class representative for student council, and was inducted into National Honor Society her senior year.

"I think my greatest accomplishment is realizing that I can do anything I want as long as I work hard at whatever I want to achieve," Cortes said.

Next fall, Cortes plans

to attend the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey. She will major in medicine.

"I want to become a pediatrician and help people in Mexico," Cortes said.

Cortes, 17, sees herself in 10 years as a professional independent worker with a family.

"I want to be successful and I want the people who surround me to be proud of me," Cortes said.

Cortes said that she will miss her friends and will

miss her second home at PPAS.

"I will miss it here, but I am also excited for what the future has in store for me."

Favorite Teacher: *Ortega*
Favorite Class: *Pre-Calculus*
Best Friends: *Chelaz, Suit, Los ninos*

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR SENIOR YEAR?

"Soccer State Champs."

-Alex Amaro

"When I got a scholarship from TAMUK."

-Arturo Vasquez

"When I received my acceptance letter from TAMUK."

-Walter Flores

"When I left for the Christmas holidays with Kate and Olivia. I remember I was lucky to get onto the airplane."

-Christa Gomez

"The time I spent with my friends, my classes, homework and senior class activities."

-Paola Escamilla



FONDEST MEMORY OF PPAS

“Being with my
friends.”

-Melissa Lopez

“12/12.”

-Griselda Duran

“When I hid in the
closet trying not to
go to the football
game.”

-Hong Choi

“Finding a positive
side for
everything.”

-Karina Bello

“4/19/2008.”

-Kate Thompson

“When they took
away my birthday
cake and I started
crying.”

-Paola Hernandez

6

Class of 2009

Creative senior plans to major in art

by Jimena Hernandez

Staff Writer

She is creative, patient, noble, a good friend, funny, and sassy. She loves to hang out with her friends, art craft making, and listen to music. She is Griselda Duran, 17-year-old senior, from Matamoros,



Tamaulipas.

Duran is familiar with Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) because her brother and parents attended the school. She has been in choir for two years now she is in the Worship Committee. In her senior year, she was selected for February's student of the month.

“Thanks to Pan Am I don't have friends, I have brothers and sisters. What I like the most about being here were my friends,” Duran said.

She grew up and became

more mature at PPAS, she said. She became more tolerant and independent.

Her best advice is “never keep the desire to do something, just do it”.

Duran wants to study art at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She loves art; she just thinks she was born with the ability to do it. Her future goals are to graduate from college and to have a good job.

Her favorite quote is “Nothing can be too good or too bad.”

Duran's role model is her mom because she is an inspiration for her. She has a lot of things in common with her. They are alike and enjoy being together.

Favorite Teacher: Turner

Favorite Class: Art

Best Friends: The Suit, Ceci, Ja-Alex.

Athletic senior plans to study medicine

by Ilse Ibarra

Staff Writer

Optimistic, hard working, responsible, friendly, patient and honest is how Paola Escamilla, 17-year-old senior from San Fernando, Tamaulipas, Mexico describes herself.

She came to Presbyterian Pan American School



because she wanted to improve her English skills.

“My parents thought this school was a great opportunity to mature and become independent,” Escamilla said.

Escamilla played basketball for the school's team these past three years. She also was a part of National Honor Society (NHS), choir, track and worship committee.

Escamilla enjoys playing guitar, painting, sports, singing, hang out with her

friends and watching movies in her free time.

Escamilla plans to study medicine at the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, [Mexico] (UANL).

“Since I was a little girl my parents were a great inspiration by teaching me the importance of helping others, also I find medicine interesting,” she said.

Escamilla liked the friendly and safe environment at PPAS and making friends from other countries.

Escamilla learned at

PPAS to be independent, responsible for herself and for her actions.

“I feel proud of myself because I succeeded in this important stage of my life-- the preparation to become an adult,” she said.

Favorite Teacher: Garcia

Favorite Class:

Environmental Science

**Best Friends: Paola ,
Karina, Christa**

Brownsville native plans to be an engineer

by Olivia Pun

Staff Writer

“What?!” was Adalberto Fernandez's reaction of being surprised by his parents when they told him that he was coming to study at Presbyterian Pan American School. Fernandez, 18-year-old, is from Brownsville



and he came to Pan Am two years ago when he was a junior.

“I had never expected to come to study at Pan Am,” Fernandez said. “I was surprised when my parents told me their decision.”

Fernandez sees himself as a fun and an outgoing person. While studying at Pan Am, he liked to spend time with his friends.

Fernandez was a technical assistant at Pan Am while studying here. He provided

help with the sound system in the chapel and the setup of many electronic devices on campus. The reason he knows so much about electronics is because of his father who is involved in a related career. His father had taught him a lot about electronics when he was young and he started to investigate more deeply into this subject by himself.

“I started to learn more about electronics myself and found it very interesting,”

Fernandez said.

Hoping to become more specialized and trained in this area, Fernandez is planning to attend the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey majoring in mechatronic engineering.

Favorite Teacher: Turner

Favorite Class: Health

(Ortega)

**Best Friends: Walter Flores,
Rafael Murguia, Azri Flores**



MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT

“When I got here and started talking English and everyone knew Spanish and I didn’t.”

-Alex Amaro

“When I fell in the grass.”

-Josue Amador

“When I sang by myself in front of everybody during the talent show.”

-Christa Gomez

“When I was in the library and accidentally made all the pumpkins fall.”

-Josue Rivera

“The day a wasp stung me in the ear.”

-Jehu Avila

“When I had blonde hair.”

-Griselda Duran

Senior wants to pursue career in psychology

by Tania Rodriguez

Staff Writer

Outgoing, crazy, fun, friendly and artistic is how Azri Flores, 18-year-old senior describes herself.



Three years ago she left Mexico City, Mexico, to gain an experience, meet new people and do something none of

her friends were doing.

During her three years at Presbyterian Pan American School, she was part of the Choir, Worship Committee, Interact Club, Student Council, and was an active student being class secretary, an NHS member, Distinguished Scholar (communications), and Student of the month for March 2009.

Flores’ dream after graduation is to become a psychologist and to minor in art. She wants to

help children and make a difference with the new generations.

“I believe we are in time to make an impact but in order to achieve it, small children should be trained and taught different ways,” she said.

She will use her abilities not only to help children but to help the world transform.

Sleeping and waking up with her friends is one of the things she likes the most about PPAS.

During her three years at PPAS, Flores learned

to value her family and everything they did for her. She also got the chance to discover herself growing up and maturing.

“I feel like this is a BIG step into reality and I feel excited to be free but afraid of growing up,” Flores said a few weeks before graduating.

Favorite Teacher: Turner

Favorite Class: Art

Best Friends: Mariceci, Chrischel, Walex.

Future therapist will remember friends

by Ismael Sandoval

Staff Writer

Sheree Flores was born on August 15, 1991 in Brownwood. She grew up in Roundrock and Belton.



When Flores was 17, she decided to study at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) for her senior year. Flores came

to get a better education and to get a college preparatory education.

After graduation, she will face the real world at Lavterstein-Conway Massage School in Austin.

Flores will study to become a Holistic Medicine Practioner and a Massage Therapist.

“I know a lot of people that because of the diseases are continually drugged up,” Flores said.

Flores feels anxious, excited and scared about

graduating and going to college.

Flores enjoys skate boarding and talking on the phone.

She will never forget the friends she made at PPAS and advises them to not spend all their money in one place, she said laughing.

Flores works in the kitchen as part of the PPAS working program. And she is also part of the Eagle X-Press staff as a staff writer.

Flores is one of the few students that does not live on

campus.

She travels 30 minutes from her home in Rivera with her mom who is a teacher at PPAS

Best Friends: Daniel Victoria, Ivonne Mora and Karla Gonzales

Soccer player plans to study architecture

by Hugo Aguilar

Staff Writer

Walter Eduardo Flores, 18, from Chiapas, Mexico enjoys playing soccer, sleeping, playing on the computer, watching movies and hanging out with his friends.



Flores came to

Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) three years ago.

“What I learn the most from this school was to be a good friend,” Flores said.

He was part of the soccer team and was one of the senior captains, choir and track team. He also took college classes at Coastal Bend College in Kingsville as part of the dual credit program.

Flores describes himself as a friendly person, who likes to have fun with his

friends.

His definition of a friend is that they’re not his friends, they’re his brothers.

Flores plans to study Architectural engineering at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) because architecture is something he likes. His future goal is to study for his master’s degree in Germany.

Flores inspiration and role model is his father, because he taught him a lot of things.

Favorite Teacher: Turner

Favorite Class: World History

Best Friends: La suit, chelita’s suit, Omar C.



MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT

“When I was working in the kitchen and I forgot to take off the apron and didn’t realize it until everyone was laughing at me.”

-Melissa Lopez

“On the last day of my junior year, I was sitting on a bench talking with my friends right before we were about to leave and then the bench broke and I was the only one that fell to the ground and everyone started laughing at me.”

-Paola Escamilla

“When I woke up in class and had drool on my desk.”

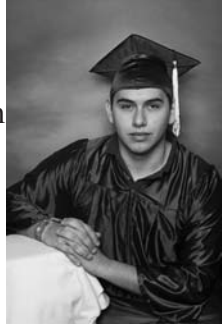
-Adalberto Fernandez

Senior looks forward to a future in business

by Kate Thompson

Staff Writer

Ruben Garcia has attended Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) for three years and is graduating May 16.



“I am glad I am finally graduating, it has been quite a long journey,” Garcia said.

Garcia has spent his days at PPAS hanging out with friends and sleeping. He has also participated on the Pan American Eagle soccer team.

“I enjoy playing soccer, I’ve played the sport since elementary,” Garcia said.

This year and the previous year, the Pan American Eagle soccer team won State in TAPPS for Division I.

“I am happy to be a part of that team knowing that we have won state two consecutive years,” Garcia said.

Garcia would love to be a Professional soccer player, but he said it is only a dream. He will attend the University of Texas at Brownsville in the fall of 2009 and will major in International Business.

Later in life, Garcia wants to become a manager of a wealthy business and have a family.

“I want to have a loving family and always keep my dreams going, no matter how far they may seem,” Garcia said.

The 17-year-old native from Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, Mexico said he has made great friends at PPAS from Mexico and America.

“I will miss my good friends and the activities at PPAS, but I look forward to the future,” Garcia said.

Favorite Teacher: Ortega

Favorite Class: Biology

Best Friends: Raul, Gustavo, Ramon

Choir member will study architecture

by Zian Rivera

Staff Writer

100 % natural, perseverant, caring, loving, praising, God fearing, Christian, are ways to describe Elisa Godinez.



Elisa Godinez was born in Brownsville and after finishing junior high in

Mexico, decided to come to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), following in her sister’s footsteps.

Godinez arrived to PPAS for the Intensive English Program in the summer of 2006 and since then, she has had changes in her life.

“I learned to live in harmony, work as a team, organize my time and to value what I have,” Godinez said.

In her free time at PPAS, she enjoys playing piano and chess.

Basketball, volleyball, track and cross country are the sports she participated in at PPAS.

She also was a member of the choir, show choir, National Honor Society, youth group, life guards, worship committee and service committee.

In her junior year she was named Student of the Year at the 2008 Commencement Ceremony.

After graduating in May she plans to study architectural engineering

at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and later she wants to get a degree in music.

After that, she sees herself in the future with a degree and married, though these are not her priorities.

“I want to be the woman God wants me to be,” she said.

Favorite Teacher: Carranza & Robertson

Favorite Class: Chemistry

Best Friends: Ariocho, Mireya, Jasiel

Monterrey native will attend medical school

by Paola Hernandez

Staff Writer

From Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Cesar Gomez, 18-year-old, describes himself as happy, positive, funny and outgoing.



Gomez’s plan for the future is to study Medicine (Surgeon) at Dordt College

in Iowa.

“My inspiration for medicine came since I was a boy because I used to spend hours watching vets curing animals, then one day I had an accident and my mother took me to the hospital and that is when I saw that it was similar how the doctors were and how they cured animals,” Gomez said.

Gomez said that his older brother was an inspiration, too, since he also studied medicine and took him sometimes to see some of his

surgeries.

Although he was only here one year at Presbyterian Pan American School, he has learned to be more responsible, to study and to deal with people.

“I will always remember how excited I was when I passed Mrs. G’s class since I used to put a lot of effort and I still didn’t pass, until one day my efforts were worth it,” Gomez said.

Gomez enjoys playing football and hanging out with his friends in his free time.

“My goals are to finish college and go back to Mexico and be a famous doctor with a lovely family.”

Favorite Teacher: Turner

Favorite Class: Pre Calculus

Best Friends: Juan, Paola’s and Arturo.



WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR SENIOR YEAR?

“My friends.”
-Karina Bello

“My last birthday at Pan Am.”
-Cecilia Ruiz

“My first day of class.”
-Cesar Gomez

“All the real friends I met.”
-Juan Chavez

“All the laughs that I shared with my friends.”
-Zian Rivera

“How fast the year went by, faster than the other two years.”
-Daniel Villarreal

“The time I spent with my friends.”
-Gaby Quiroga

Senior from Guatemala has future in nursing

by Ilse Ibarra

Staff Writer

Sleep, read, jog and chat with friends is what Christa Gomez, 18-year old senior, enjoys doing in her free time.

From Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, Gomez came to study at Presbyterian Pan



American School (PPAS) because she wanted to study outside of her home plus her family holds a tradition, which is to study at PPAS.

“I am inside of my bubble and when I am paying attention to the outside world I usually try to be nice,” said Gomez, which is how she describes herself.

Gomez joined and contributed in several activities, such as National Honor Society (NHS), life guarding, choir, interact club, service committee, worship

committee and volleyball.

“I want to help people in need and I want to serve God,” Gomez said.

Gomez would like to study nursing at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas or University of Maryland (Washington).

What Gomez likes about Pan Am is that you can be with your friends in a safe environment. She has learned to share, follow rules and approach and make new friends.

Scared, eager and sad, Gomez said is how she feels now that she is graduating.

“I am ready to start a life without a “routine” though I am scared of the University life.”

Favorite Teacher: Phaup
Favorite Class: English III
Best Friends: A to Z

Quiet senior learned independence at PPAS

by Zian Rivera

Staff Writer

Quiet, thoughtful and hard-working are some of the characteristics that distinguish Sara Gonzalez from everyone else.

Gonzalez from Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, Mexico, was born on



February 23, 1991 and after 17 years, she arrived at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) to be part of the Intensive English Program in the summer of 2008.

She knew about PPAS from one of her mother’s friend that told her about the school. She decided to come to PPAS to learn and practice her English and also because one of her friends came as well.

“I thought it was going to be different and hard and

that everyone would speak English,” Gonzalez said.

This year at PPAS, Sara learned to be more independent and patient. Gonzalez was part of the newspaper staff the whole year. In her free time she loves to dance, listen to music, read and hang out with her friends.

Her future plans are going to college at University of Texas-Pan American and later transfer to the University of Texas-San Antonio to study psychology

like her mom.

She sees herself in 10 years working, married and with a family.

When she leaves, she will definitely miss her friends, she said.

“I’ll miss seeing my friends everyday and all the stories we shared.”

Favorite Teacher: Garcia
Favorite Class: Art
Best Friends: Chikibanda, Sergio Barrera, Advento Trevino

4H member will pursue a degree in business

by Tania Rodriguez

Staff Writer

Full of energy and love, Rodolfo Guerrero, 18-year-old senior from Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) three years ago because he wanted to have the



experience of the American life and the opportunity to enroll in an American college.

At weeks from graduating, Guerrero achieved his purpose and he will attend the University of Texas-San Antonio to study General Business.

“I want to study that career because I always have thought it’s an interesting career that involves international and political business,” he said.

During his three years

at PPAS, Guerrero was involved in different clubs and groups such as 4H and Worship Committee. He was Class President in his first year, Student Council Treasurer his senior year, and Prom King.

Guerrero said that one of the things he learned from PPAS is that a good essay is 10% inspiration, 15% perception, and 75% desperation, and one of the most remarkable memories that he will always remember are the hot and wet summer

days at the ranch.

Rodolfo waits anxiously and feels great about graduating, but he will leave PPAS remembering that it was an awesome and unforgettable experience, he said.

Favorite Teacher: O’Hair
Favorite Class: English II/III



FONDEST MEMORY OF PPAS

“The stress in Mrs. G’s class and moments with Karina.”
-Carlos Cortes

“Algebra II Class.”
-Ruben Garcia

“In my first semester at Pan Am, I was playing hide and seek with my brother and his friends.”
-Christa Gomez

“The trips that we took for choir my junior year, when I was inducted into National Honor Society and prom.”
-Paola Escamilla

“Playing in the final soccer game in 2007-2008.”
-Santiago Jimenez

For senior, his role model is his father

by Zian Rivera

Staff Writer

On September 20, 1991, Raul Gutierrez was born in Realito, Tamaulipas, Mexico but now he lives in Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas.



He describes himself as an athletic, friendly and funny person. He arrived at

Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) in the summer of 2006 during the Intensive English Program to learn English.

Gutierrez was part of the soccer team his junior and senior year at PPAS. Both years the team won the state championship for Division I.

“The final game was awesome and the best part is that we won. It felt great,” Gutierrez said.

In his three years at PPAS, he improved his English and learned many other things

besides academics.

“A lot of the things that I learned here helped me to be more mature,” he said.

Playing sports such as soccer and weightlifting, and watching movies are some of the activities Gutierrez does in his free time.

After graduating in May, he plans to go to Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) to study agrobusiness.

His future plans are to work in the family business as his dad has.

“My dad has been the best example of the things that I want to do,” he said. “My goal is to be a successful person.”

Favorite Teacher: Ortega
Favorite Class: Office
Best Friends: Ruben, Bobbi Edmundo

Athlete has plans to study engineering

by Sheree Flores

Staff Writer

Gustavo Guzman, 17 year-old, also known as Venado, was born in Weslaco on June 1, 1991 but was raised in Rio Bravo, Tamulipas, Mexico.



Guzman describes himself as funny, charismatic and

suave. He has two siblings, one sister and one brother, both younger than him.

This gifted athlete has participated in track for two years. His senior year, he played soccer and the team won the 2008-2009 State Championship in Waco.

Guzman came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) his sophomore year to learn English, to become a better person and make it in life.

Guzman’s hero is his father.

“He is the biggest influence in my life,” he said.

His favorite movie is *Never Back Down* and his favorite song is “Cartel del Golfo” by Los Zetas de Laredo.

Guzman is excited to attend college and he is planning on attending Texas A&M University-Kingsville to study Agricultural Engineering.

“I think that TAMUK is a great opportunity to study my career,” Guzman said.

After college he plans on working toward his goal of being a ranch owner.

“I am going to be the boss,” Guzman said.

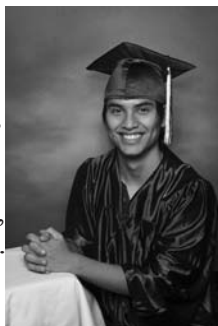
Favorite Teacher: Ortega
Favorite Class: Health
Best Friends: Raul Gutierrez, Ruben Garcia, Edmundo Castrejon

Matamoros native will study kinesiology

by Ismael Sandoval

Staff Writer

Jonathan Hau was born on October 29, 1988 in the city of Matamoros, Tamaulipas.



Four years ago, Hau came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) with the dream of, some day, becoming a soccer star.

Hau loves to play soccer and hang out with his friends.

He also likes to dance, sing, and learn new things from Mrs. G like vocabulary words.

His favorite teacher is Mrs. G. and his favorite class is Range Land with Mr. Ortega.

Hau was on the Eagles soccer team at Pan Am and was part of the state championships won in 2008 & 2009.

He plans to study

kinesiology at Texas A&M University-Kingsville or the University of Texas-Brownsville.

Hau feels pompous and excited about going to college and proud of himself because he finally made it through high school.

After college, Hau plans to travel all around the world gaining experience.

Gaining experiences is what Hau most liked at PPAS.

That and all the people

that helped him, he said.

“Don’t worry, be happy ‘cause every little thing is gonna be alright,” Hau said as advice for the ones who remain.

Best Friends: Jehu Avila, Santiago Jimenez, Josue Amador and his “compare” Han Sol Lee



Senior will miss her friends at Pan Am

by Olivia Pun

Staff Writer

18-year-old Paola Hernandez, from Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, said she is a shy and emotional girl who likes to smile a lot.



She came to Presbyterian Pan American School her sophomore year because her

older sisters had previously attended Pan Am.

Hernandez enjoyed being with her friends and spending her time with them, sleeping, watching movies, dancing in her room, and laughing and crying together. For Hernandez, her friends made up an important part of her life at Pan Am.

"I will miss my friends," said Hernandez. "I will miss the weekends I spent with them watching movies in town or just doing nothing at all with them."

During her sophomore year, Hernandez was the representative in the student council and she was a member of the Morris Chapel Choir during her junior and senior year.

"My senior year was hard and stressful but I enjoyed it since it was my last year here at Pan Am," Hernandez said.

Hernandez is the youngest daughter in her family and both her father and sister are involved in the career of business management. Influenced by them, she is

planning to major in business management in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

In ten years, Hernandez sees herself married with three children—two boys and one girl. She hopes to become a successful business woman and have her own company.

Favorite Teacher: Garcia
Favorite Class: Env Science
Best Friends: Karina Bello, Paola Escamilla, Christa

BEST ADVICE

"Study hard, don't waste time, so you can prepare for the future."

-Alex Amaro

"Study hard and speak English."

-Arturo Vasquez

"Enjoy and make every minute worthy."

-Zian Rivera

"Always expect the unexpected."

-Daniel Villarreal

"Remember, men can let you down but your God is merciful and he cares and loves you."

-Christa Gomez

"Never give up. Try to achieve your dreams."

-Melissa Lopez

Soccer captain to attend college in Mexico

by Ismael Sandoval

Staff Writer

Santiago Jimenez is a funny but quiet senior at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS).



Jimenez, who was born on February 9, 1991, is very happy because he is graduating on May 16, 2009.

Jimenez came to PPAS from Morelia to learn English. But he got more than that; he made friends that were more like brothers. He enjoyed hanging out with them and playing soccer, he said.

Jimenez favorite class is Range Land, which is taught by his favorite teacher, Mr. Ortega.

He feels a little sad about leaving PPAS because he met a lot of wonderful people here, he said.

"I'm going to miss them

all," he said.

Jimenez was on the soccer team the whole time he attended PPAS and he was a soccer state champion twice. In fact this year, Jimenez was one of the captains of the team.

Jimenez also was named to the all-state team.

"I just did what I like to do, that's all," Jimenez said.

Jimenez wants to study International Relations in Toluca, Mexico. He feels excited and eager to start his college education.

After college, Jimenez plans to enjoy everything he has done and accomplished in his life.

Best Friends: Jehu Avila, Josue Amador and Jonathan Hau

Cross country runner will study business

by Sara Gonzalez

Staff Writer

19-year-old Senior Han Sol Lee was born in Mexico City on December 9, 1989.



Lee's hobbies are watching movies and sleeping. He describes himself as quiet and unexpected. His favorite

quote is "If you can live forever, what do you live for?" from *Twilight*.

Lee came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) because he wanted to learn more English and follow God's way. He has been at PPAS for three years and participated in many sports like soccer, cross country, track and basketball and was a member of the National Honor Society.

While Lee was at PPAS, he learned how to do his

laundry because he had never done it before. Lee shared his most embarrassing moment at PPAS when he fell in front of everyone.

What Lee liked most about PPAS was that he could see his friends and a very special girl everyday.

His favorite year at PPAS was when he was a junior, because he enjoyed many moments with his friends.

Lee plans to study business in Mexico City and he sees himself

working in a company 10 years from now.

Favorite Teacher: Gonzales
Favorite Class: Library
Best Friends: Gabriela Quiroga, Daniel Villareal and the Koreans.



Student Council President to study politics

by Tania Rodriguez

Staff Writer

From Busan, South Korea, Kyoung Jea Lee, 20-year-old senior, came to Presbyterian Pan



American School two years ago with the purpose of improving his English skills and achieving his goal of

getting into a college in the United States.

“My high school term was much longer than others, because last year I chose to repeat my junior year purposely--to get into my favorite college,” he said.

Courage, enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, persistency and progressiveness are the words Lee uses to describe himself.

During his two years, he has been involved in Choir, Worship committee, and this year he is the Student

Council President and the chapel pianist.

“Being student council president was a difficult challenge because I had so many things planned but little time to accomplish them,” he said.

He feels happy about getting his high school diploma. After graduating, Lee will definitely study political science at Trinity University in San Antonio.

“I believe that U.S Colleges have an excellent political science program,”

he said.

Lee would like to be a politician.

“... To make this unfair world more fair and beautiful,” he said.

Favorite Teacher: Reyes and Gonzalez.

Favorite Class: Landscape Design

“Good luck next year. Life is just starting.”

-Josue Rivera

“Be good in the dorms.”

-Han Sol Lee

“It does not matter how many times we fall, it is how we get back up that matters.”

-Olivia Pun

“Be faithful to the present.”

-Hong Choi

“Give everything you do to God.”

-Javier Aguado

“Never let anybody make you feel less than others.”

-Alejandra Meave

Athletic senior will attend college at TAMUK

by Ilse Ibarra

Staff Writer

Melissa Lopez, 17-year-old senior from Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico decided to come to Presbyterian Pan American School three



years ago with the purpose of learning and improving her English skills.

Lopez describes herself as lovely, friendly, honest, happy and always smiling.

Lopez was an active member of the basketball team, volleyball team and track team for the past three years.

She also was part of National Honor Society (NHS), Distinguish Scholar and member of the Engineering team.

Lopez enjoys dancing, listening to music, painting and spending time with her friends.

“I liked all the people I met at PPAS. I will miss them,” she said.

Lopez learned at PPAS to know what friends really are.

Lopez’s college plans are to study Architectural Engineering at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK).

Lopez feels happy because she finished a stage of her life, but at the same time sad because she knows she won’t see her friends everyday.

Favorite Teacher: Ortega

Favorite Class: Art

Best Friends: Claudia B, Ale M, Zian R, Christian C.

Senior plans to travel around the world

by Sheree Flores

Staff Writer

Alejandra Meave Pena, also known as Alezita, is an 18-year-old from Mexico City, Mexico. In her spare time she enjoys swimming and reading. She describes herself as confident and an independent person.



Pena came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) as a sophomore to learn English and to learn to be independent.

Her biggest influence is her mother.

“She is a strong person who always knows her goals,” Pena said.

She is a member of choir, cross country, volleyball, basketball and track. Her favorite book is *New Moon*, her favorite movie is *A Walk to Remember* and her favorite song is “Forever and

Far Away”.

“I feel excited about graduating because I’m almost out of school, but at the same time I’m sad because I will miss my friends”

Pena is planning to go to college but is unsure which college. She is striving to be in the Culinary Arts field as a Chef.

“I feel nervous about college,” Pena admits.

She plans to travel after college and sees herself in ten years traveling around

the world with a good job.

“Good luck to everyone and enjoy your time because when you least expect it, you are going to be out of here!!!”

Favorite Teacher: Cress and Carranza

Favorite Class: Health

Best Friends: Rikki, Claudia Banuelos, Melissa



Senior to study aviation management in Waco

by Sara Gonzalez

Staff Writer

In Allende Nuevo Leon, Mexico, senior Erick Moreno, 17, was born on May 3, 1991.

Moreno decided to come to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) because his father used to attend this



school and he wanted to come as well.

Moreno enjoys boxing, football and working out. In his three years at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), he was involved in cross country, where he won a medal, choir, worship committee, service committee, basketball, engineering team, National Honor Society and track.

What Moreno liked most about PPAS was that he had a serious relationship with his friends because he got to

be with them every day.

His favorite year at PPAS was his senior year because he spent more time with his friends because it was the last year they were going to be together.

Moreno said he regrets not joining the soccer team because he would have liked it a lot.

Moreno said he learned how to be independent and make his own decisions.

Moreno plans to study Aviation Management in Waco and then transfer to

Florida, and look for a job as a model.

He sees himself in a company administrating the aviation business ten years from now.

Favorite Teacher: .

Gonzales

Favorite Class: *Speech*

Best Friends: *Daniel Villarreal, Gabriela Quiroga and Sara Gonzalez*

Senior plans to study culinary arts in Mexico

by Tania Rodriguez

Staff Writer

From Tamuin, a special place in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Rodrigo Palmas, 18-year-old senior described his first and only year at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) as an awesome and special year



where he learned to let people in and trust his friends.

Palmas has been in seven different schools. Last year he studied in McAllen but he decided to come here, looking forward to college life and staying in the U.S.

“It’s difficult to change schools every year, it’s like starting over ever single year but what does not kill you makes you stronger,” he said.

Simple, easy to talk, happy, athletic and friendly are some of the adjectives to

describe Palmas.

Before coming to PPAS Palmas played tennis for five years and it became his favorite sport.

During his year at PPAS, he was involved cross country, track, and basketball and was on the Honor Roll.

After graduating, he will study Culinary Arts in Mexico but he is still undecided between studying in Monterrey or Puebla.

“The trouble with the future is that it usually arrives before we are ready

for it,” is his favorite quote by Arnold H. Glasow, one is never ready for the future, but it’s better that way otherwise it would be boring, he said.

Favorite Teacher: *Garcia*

Favorite Class: *Garcia*

(1st-5th period)

Best Friends: *Moncarlan, Porfipotter, MikeJuan.*

Hong Kong native is inspired by her mother

by Zian Rivera

Staff Writer

“It does not matter how many times we fall, its how we get back up that matters,” said Hei Tung Pun.

Hei Tung Pun or Olivia, as Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) knows her, was born in Hong Kong 19



years ago.

Olivia knew about PPAS from her sister’s friend that graduated from here and told her about the school.

During her two years at PPAS, Olivia has been part of the cheerleading and youth group. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and also was a distinguished scholar for the achiever finalist category.

“PPAS helped me to be a better person. I learned to be independent, responsible and to interact with people,” Pun

said.

After graduating from PPAS, she will continue her studies at the University of Texas-Austin or Austin College. She may even go back to Hong Kong to study business accounting or marketing.

Later she plans to get a good job, have a family and be able to provide her parents with a good life.

“I hope to see myself in 10 years successful in my career and as a good wife and mother,” Pun said.

Olivia finds her inspiration in her mom.

“She works really hard and is a woman with great wisdom and character.”

Favorite Teacher: *Matthews*

Favorite Class: *Math*

Best Friends: *Seo Yeon, Roommate, Suitemates*

BEST ADVICE

“Don’t take life too seriously. You will never get out alive.”

-*Adalberto Fernandez*

“Never say that there is no way.”

-*Cecilia Ruiz*

“Live every day as if it was your last.”

-*Paola Hernandez*

“Be aware of Mrs. G.”

-*Cesar Gomez*

“Live life to the fullest.”

-*Claudia Banuelos*

“Let all your dreams and goals be guided by God”

-*Juan Chavez*

“Manage your time.”

-*Jea Lee*



Senior will attend college in Edinburg

by Sara Gonzalez

Staff Writer

17-year old, Gabriela Quiroga was born on September 23, 1991, in Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, Mexico.



likes to hang out with her friends and enjoys sleeping. Her favorite quote is “live every day, as if there was no tomorrow.”

In her three years at PPAS, she was involved in cheerleading, track and choir. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and Honor Roll and Honorable Mention.

Quiroga describes herself as quiet and funny.

What Quiroga liked the most of PPAS, was that she could see her friends

everyday.

During her years at PPAS, she learned how to live with another person and to be patient.

Her favorite year of her three years at PPAS was her senior year because she met new best friends.

Quiroga said she regrets not taking physics class because it is one of her favorite’s subjects.

She plans to study Business Administration at University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, and

find a job.

She sees herself working in a company and with family ten years from now.

Favorite Teacher:

Gonzalez

Favorite Class: U.S.

History.

Best Friends: Han Sol Lee, and the Chikibanda

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR SENIOR YEAR?

“When Eli and I had a cake and whip cream fight.”

-Sheree Flores

“When I went back to Korea during the Christmas break.”

-Hong Choi

“The friends I made and the food I ate.”

-Rodrigo Palmas

“Stress, especially from Mrs. Garcia’s class.”

-Paola Hernandez

“Everything.”

-Claudia Banuelos

“Messing around in the dorms.”

-Sergio Barrera

“All my friends and teachers.”

-Rodolfo Guerrero

Track runner plans to study economics

by Ilse Ibarra

Staff Writer

“Pan am has been more than a school to me and it has taught me that any moment of your life can be the best



without caring where or with who you are” said Josue Rivera.

Rivera, 18-year-old senior

from Mexico City, Mexico.

Rivera came at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) because his parents thought it was a good opportunity for him.

He likes to play chess, video games, but what he enjoys the most is playing cards and doing magic tricks.

He also was part of the Track team, Soccer State champions and Cross Country.

“I like business and I hope one day I can have my own company” said Rivera. He

plans to study International Business and Major in Economics at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

Rivera said that his best memories at PPAS are his friends and his girlfriend. “Good friends are for life, no matter what happens”, he said.

“I was always waiting for this moment, and now that it came I am a little bit afraid of what is coming, but I hope I could be able to face everything with strength that

years have given to me, and the support of my family” said Rivera, now that he is graduating.

Rivera shares the best advice he has ever receive. “Never back down.”

Favorite Teacher: Gutierrez

Favorite Class: Economics (Costal Bend)

Best Friends: Walter, Arturo, Rodrigo.

Future designer has learned responsibility

by Paola Hernandez

Staff Writer

From Orizaba Veracruz, Mexico, Zian Rivera, 18-year-old, came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) with the hope and enthusiasm to learn English when she was only 15 years old.



Rivera was part of the volleyball team her sophomore and junior year.

“Although I was already accepted in a high school in my hometown, there was something in my heart saying that it was a great opportunity and that not all teenagers have this chance to learn English and at the same time to meet people from all the world, also because I wanted to be a good example for my little sisters,” Rivera said.

Rivera describes herself

as creative, happy, stubborn, hard working, funny, patient and comprehensive.

She plans to study Industrial Design in Puebla, Mexico at Tecnologico de Puebla.

Rivera wants to study design because it is something that she enjoys and can spend hours designing things.

Rivera has learned to be more responsible and to think before speaking.

“My best moment at Pan Am was my first summer and

meeting my friends”.

Rivera said that what she will miss the most are her friends, since she spent three years of her life with them.

“I see myself in the future being a successful woman, a mom and married with the love of my life”.

Favorite Teacher: Gonzalez

Favorite Class: Speech|

Best Friends: My suite, Potter and Hector.



MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT

“When I got rejected from the college that I wanted to go to.”
-Hong Choi

“When I dressed as Peter Pan for Mrs. Perkins’ class.”
-Sergio Barrera

“I tried to dribble a ball and it hit my glasses and they broke.”
-Jea Lee

“When I skipped parts during the Christmas concert.”
-Zian Rivera

“My whole life is embarrassing.”
-Kate Thompson

“When I cried during my government speech.”
-Paola Hernandez

Tampico native hopes to become a teacher

by Olivia Pun

Staff Writer

Studying at Pan Am, Cecilia Ruiz has learned a lot. Other than improving her English, she learned to be a determined person and to never give up. She also learned more about herself and to understand her real self more deeply.



Ruiz, 18, is from Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico. She came to Presbyterian Pan American School her sophomore year because her parents wanted her to come and her brother had attended the school before. She describes herself as a funny, emotional, and sensible person.

Ruiz gives thanks to God for giving her the opportunity to come to Pan Am. She had met many special people here and she wants to thank everyone here

for each one has taught her something important for life, she said.

“Even though some of these people are not my friends, I still want to thank them because I have learned something from everyone here,” Ruiz said.

Ruiz enjoys learning other languages and wants to become a teacher in languages. Ruiz wants to study international relationship in Universidad Antonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey. She imagines

herself working very hard in ten years to pursue her goals and would like be the mother of three boys and one girl.

Favorite Teacher: Turner
Favorite Class: Aquatic Science
Best Friends: Rodolfo Guerrero, Gaby Quiroga, MAC²

Newspaper Editor will attend TAMUCC

by Olivia Pun

Staff Writer

Born in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-year-old Kathryn (Kate) Thompson came to the U.S. with her parents when she was one year old. She came to study at Pan Am because her mother was afraid



that she would be racially discriminated because she was the only Asian in her previous small-town high school.

Being at Pan Am for three and a half years, Thompson learned to tolerate people and accept them as they are. Independent, likes to laugh, controlling, and outspoken is how Thompson describes herself and the most valuable thing she found at Pan Am is her friendships.

“I will miss my friends that I probably will never

see again,” Thompson said. “My senior year was very peaceful because I was surrounded by my friends and those who love me.”

While studying at Pan Am, Thompson was on the volleyball team all three years and was the captain of the team her senior year. She was also the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper this year which was her third year working with the school newspaper. As the class president both her junior and senior year, Thompson had

put effort into preparing the prom and senior trip.

Married and successful at her job is how Thompson sees herself in ten years. She is planning to attend Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and wants to either be a wedding planner or hotel manager.

Favorite Teacher: Gutierrez
Favorite Class: Newspaper
Best Friends: Javier Villegas/ Roommate/ Suitemates

Friendly senior will pursue business degree

by Hugo Aguilar

Staff Writer

Arturo Vasquez, 18, is from Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and enjoys sleeping, spending time with his friends and studying.



School (PPAS) three years ago.

“What I liked the most in these three years was meeting my friends,” Vasquez said.

Vasquez was active while attending school at PPAS.

He was part of the Eagles track team and cheerleading squad.

He was also part of the cross country team at PPAS.

Vasquez describes himself as a happy and friendly person.

His definition of a friend is that real friends are those who are with you in the good and bad moments.

Vazquez plans to study International business at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg because he enjoys business.

His future goals are to have a good job, get rich, travel around the world, and learn how to surf.

Vazquez’s inspiration and role model is his mother because she’s the perfect person to him, he said.

Favorite Teacher: Ortega
Favorite Class: Rangeland Managements
Best Friends: Cesar G, Josue R, Marisol

Vasquez came to Presbyterian Pan American



Youth member will study at College Station

by Sara Gonzalez

Reporter

On November 21, 1991, Senior Daniel Villarreal was born in McAllen. Daniel Villarreal enjoys



taking pictures and listening to music. His favorite quote is "A decision is not a decision if you don't see it's

consequences".

Villarreal came to Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) because his brothers studied here and because his parents and he thought it was a great school. In his three years at PPAS,

Villarreal participated in Student Council, Run-Walk for the Diabetes, choir and youth group and was named to the President list and honorable mention and honor roll. He also placed third in 4H, and was nominated for the Corpus Christi Caller

Times Distinguished scholar for career and technology. Villarreal's favorite year at PPAS was his junior year, because he learned to keep up when times were not favorable.

He describes himself as respectful, serious, hard working and perseverant.

Villarreal had good and bad experiences but has learned something that encourages him from every single one, he said.

"I learned so much from books, but more from living

three years here" he said.

Villarreal regrets not taking art at PPAS.

Villarreal plans to study construction science at Texas A&M University-College Station, and plans to get a good job and get married.

He sees himself married and with family 10 years from now.

Favorite Teacher: Carranza

Favorite Class: Speech.

Best Friends: Chikibanda.

Farewell to PPAS

"My heart will always have a special place for Pan Am."

-Christa Gomez

"You helped me to change my life."

-Jehu Avila

"The best years of my life, I will never forget."

-Griselda Duran

"Thanks for being on my side these three years."

-Cecilia Ruiz

"You will always be a part of my life."

-Zian Rivera

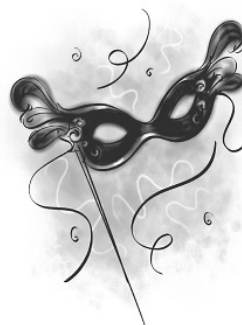
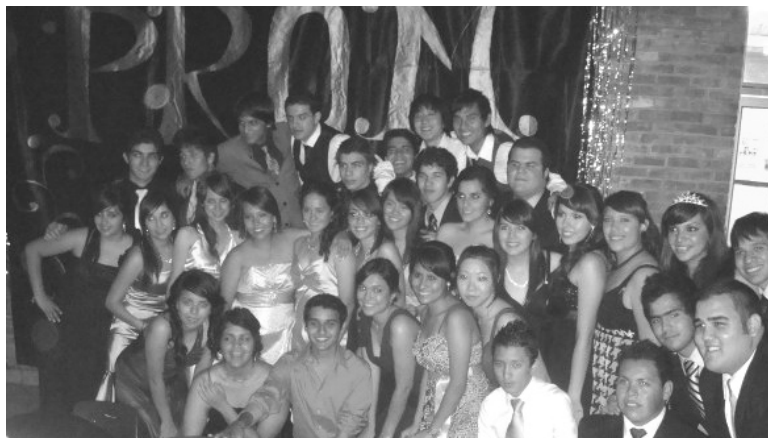
"My only year at PPAS was an awesome one."

-Rodrigo Palmas

"Let God lead your life."

-Claudia Banuelos

2009 Masquerade Ball



*Fit a marvelous mask and wear it well,
to your true identity no one can tell,
to your true identity no one can tell.*

Your presence is requested at the

*Presbyterian Pan American School
2009 Masquerade Ball
On April 18, 2009
From 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*for a festive evening of intrigue,
mystery, and fantasy...*

