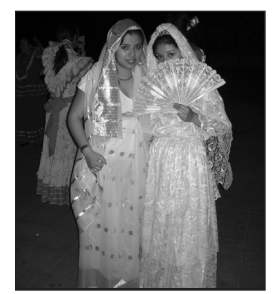


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PRESBYTERIAN PAN AMERICAN SCHOOL Eagle X-Press



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INTERNATIONAL BANQUET

MARCH 15, 2009 • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 2 • KINGSVILLE, TX 78363



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Ukraine students attend Pan Am for one month

■ by Kate Thompson
Editor-in-Chief

Five teenage students from Kiev, Ukraine joined PPAS' student body on February 9, 2009 for one month. Kseniya Zinchenko, 14; Rodion Voshchanov, 15; Zhenya Popov, 17; Borys Belyy, 15; and Mykyta Bondarenko, 16; all participated in 11th grade level classes and followed normal days at PPAS. They interacted with class meetings, chapel services and social activities.

"Pan American has very interesting people and classes, I enjoyed learning about their routines and cultures," Popov said.

The Ukraine students also

lived on campus in the dorms. Zinchenko had a roommate and the four males lived in a suite together.

"My roommate was so funny, she taught me a little bit of Spanish and I tried to teach her a little bit of Ukrainian," Zinchenko said.

For the most part, the students stayed on the PPAS campus, but some weekends they left with their Ukrainian chaperone Zoya Gulko or with local families living in Kingsville. The students visited downtown Kingsville, San Antonio and Corpus Christi while they were here.

"The American culture is very different from our own, so it is always great to learn about

something new," Belyy said.

This trip came across these students by their chaperon Gulko. Gulko's daughter lives in Corpus Christi and found out about PPAS through one of her professors at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Her professor told her that PPAS would be an excellent place for an exchange program. Gulko later visited the campus in August and brought the news about PPAS to the Ukraine.

A registration list was made for interested students. The students had to know the English language well, have interest in the American culture, and pay for their own trip. Originally the group to come to America was larger, but some dropped out for



photo by Kate Thompson

FROM LEFT, ZHENYA POPOV, MYKYTA BONDARENKO AND BORYS BELYI (FRONT ROW); RODION VOSHCHANOV AND KSENIYA ZINCHENKO.

different reasons.

"The students came here to learn about American culture, to gain knowledge of other cultures and countries," Gulko said.

Gulko is a debate teacher in Ukraine and some students took her class from this exchange group. The students either found

Junior places second in essay contest

■ by Kate Thompson
Editor-in-Chief

Tania Rodriguez, 17-year-old junior, placed second in the Senior Essay contest for Kleberg-Kenedy Soil and Water Conservation District.

"I feel honored to have won this award. I really didn't think I was going to even place," Rodriguez said.

The essay contest was about soil and water conservation. The topic was to write what water and soil conservation means to the writer. The minimum for this essay was a page. Rodriguez's

essay placed second out of seventy essays in Kleberg and Kenedy County. Her essay will go on to compete at Regionals.

Rodriguez's essay contained environmental issues, information about water conservation, and how the soil is polluted. She also wrote about how important it is for people to know about conserving water, because there is only so much left, Rodriguez said.

"There is a solution for our water and soil problems and it starts with us making a difference," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez was honored at the 10th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet at Dick Kleberg Park on February 26. Her mother and other faculty members of PPAS accompanied her to the banquet. Rodriguez was awarded a plaque along with the other five placed participants.

"I will definitely write another essay for next year, this was a great opportunity," Rodriguez said.

Edgar Ortega, PPAS teacher, was the one who informed Rodriguez and numerous students at PPAS about the contest. Ortega said he presented the

contest to students because it is important to keep them aware of soil and water conservation.

Rodriguez is not only a writer of environmental conservation, but she also lives it. Rodriguez said that she does not buy bottled water, but instead buys it by the gallons and refills her water bottles. She brushes her teeth with one cup of water only, encourages people to not waste water, and is an active recycler.

"It is so important to recycle and to save our limited resources; we need to protect our environment."



FROM LEFT, JESSICA BENAVIDES OF THE KLEBERG-KENEDY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN KINGSVILLE, TANIA RODRIGUEZ, EDGAR ORTEGA AND BARBARA STOTTEMYER, DEAN OF STUDENTS.

DEAN'S DESK

~Dr. Barbara Stottlemyer



The sport of rowing is a good example of what teamwork looks like. Cooperation, timing, and sensitivity to the teammates are all essential for smooth navigation and maximum efficiency in meeting the team's goals. The same is true for an organization.

This past week, our school had a Quality Assurance Review by a team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). SACS CASI has teamed with the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) to form AdvancED, the world's largest education community representing schools in thirty states and sixty-five countries and serving nearly fifteen million students. Schools continue to earn the SACS CASI or NCA CASI accreditation seals based on the region in which they reside. The unified standards and process of AdvancED enhance the value, consistency, and meaning of the respective seals.

To earn accreditation, schools and districts meet AdvancED quality standards, engage in continuous improvement, and demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review. The accreditation system is based on a five-year term.

The QAR team provided an exit report at the end of their visit and informed us that we can celebrate because there were several commendations that they had noted. They stated that for the first time ever, they were making a commendation on a school's vision and mission. Our school's mission is "to develop students for lives of Christian leadership through: preparing them for admission to the college or university of their choice; developing young people who can relate to and function successfully in an increasingly complex, multicultural society; teaching students the value and dignity of work; and training and encouraging them for church and/or secular service as Christian leaders for the Americas and beyond. As a team, we know our mission and we are working together towards this goal.

I will share more on the SACS accreditation visit next month.

Junior wins Rotary Club scholarship

■ by Zian Rivera
Staff Writer

Junior Ana Paola Melendez, 17-year-old, of Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) won the speech contest on March 3 at Sirloin Stockade, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kingsville.

Melendez along with four students, juniors Tania Rodriguez, Jimena Hernandez, Saddam Bello and Senior Jea Lee were selected by the speech and debate teacher at PPAS, Paloma Gonzalez for their good development in class.

"I chose these students because they are very fluent when they talk," Gonzalez said.

The participants had to write an essay on the topic of "The 4 Way Test." The 4 Way Test means that the speech had to answer the questions: Is

it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

The students were asked to prepare a speech not less than five minutes and not more than seven minutes.

The students of PPAS were judged on the basis of content, organization and delivery. The prize was a scholarship given by the Rotary Club and an opportunity to represent the club at the area contest at Texas A&M University-Kingsville on March 25.

Melendez started working on her speech as soon as she found out about the event, she said. She spoke with her father and he encouraged her to do her best.

"I felt really surprised because I knew other participants had really good speeches

too," Melendez said.

In her speech Melendez spoke of diversity of people and why is it important for all of us and why we need each other.

"The space to write the speech was really short and I tried to make it different and it worked," she said.

Now Melendez is working on her speech in order to make it better for the next level, she said. She is excited about the next competition because she thinks she has a good chance to win.

"I hope to win this level and to advance to the next one," she said.

At the next competition, Melendez's participation will be about the same, with the same speech, but with improvements, she said.

JUMP, UKRAINE

out about this trip by her or by friends and family.

"Since these students are studying in America, they are excused from school," Gulko said, "Although when they return to Ukraine they will have quite a bit of work to make up."

Voshchanov and Belyy attend the same school in the Ukraine and know each other well. Popov and Zinchenko used to attend the same school, but no longer do.

Voshchanov and Popov have experienced exchange trips before. Together they both went to Delaware and Colorado.

"It is always easier to go on these trips with someone you know, that is why I was glad I had Zhenya and Boris with me," Voshchanov said.

The five students and their chaperone left the U.S. on March 6.

This was Zinchenko's first trip to the U.S. and will not forget the people she met, she said.

"I met a lot of great people and had new experiences and I am really glad I got to go on this trip to represent my country," Zinchenko said.

I hope they will keep in touch with us, I really enjoyed having them here, said Soo Won Yoo, 18-year-old junior.

Rikki Sanchez also is grateful for their presence at PPAS.

"I enjoyed learning about their culture, and learning a little bit of their language," said Sanchez, 16-year-old junior.

COUNSELOR'S



ELLIE PEREZ

CORNER

THEA Test Dates (Texas A&M Kingsville)			
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (additional fee applies)	Emergency Registration (additional fee applies)
April 25, 2009	March 27, 2009	April 15, 2009	April 22, 2009
June 27, 2009	May 29, 2009	June 17, 2009	June 24, 2009
July 25, 2009	June 26, 2009	July 15, 2009	July 22, 2009
ACT Test Dates			
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required	
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009	May 9-22, 2009	

Scholarship Requirements-Department of Biological and Health Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Biology Departmental Scholarship (incoming freshmen). To be eligible to receive this scholarship a student must:

1. Submit an official high school transcript including class rank.
2. Submit a list of extracurricular activities and community service.
3. Submit a list of any special honors or awards.
4. Be enrolled as a Biology major in the subsequent Fall and Spring semesters for at least 15 hours.
5. Forward two letters of recommendation. (one from a science teacher)
6. Completed scholarship application.

Application deadline is April 10, 2009—All materials must be received to be considered. Return application materials to: Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Department of Biological and Health Sciences, Room 108
920 University Blvd. MSC 158, Kingsville, Texas 78363

361-593-3803 phone 361-593-3800 fax. For more information, please contact Mrs. Ellie Perez.

Bible instructor named teacher of the month

■ by Sheree Flores

Staff Writer

Maria de los Angeles Reyes, from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, was awarded Teacher of the Month for February at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS).

"I feel great about receiving this. It is such an honor," Reyes said.

Reyes attended Mary Hardin Baylor University, Ibero American University, University of Madrid and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has received a Bachelors degree in Bible and Spanish and a Master's degree in Spanish and Religious Education.

Before Reyes started teaching at PPAS, she taught Spanish and Bible at Valley Baptist Academy in Harlingen, Texas for thirty-two years. Eventually she became an International Development Coordinator.

Reyes is currently a teacher and Dorm Director for PPAS and has been for three years.

For Reyes, she simply likes the students at PPAS.

"I prayed to the Lord to come to a wonderful place like this [PPAS]," Reyes said.

She enjoys working at PPAS because the school is a unique place full of unique students and staff, Reyes said.

Reading religious and fiction books, traveling, researching history on other countries, writing poetry and writing a memoir about her experiences at Valley Baptist Academy are what Reyes enjoys if she has free time, she said.

Ever since she was a student, she has traveled to Europe.

"I fell in love with traveling," Reyes said.

Every summer for twenty-eight years, Reyes has taken students to Israel and Europe. This year her some PPAS students will go to England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Greek Islands, and Turkey for 20 days.

"I will go to great lengths to further my students' understanding of the teachings of the Bible," she said.

Reyes describes herself as content, happy, inspirational, spiritual, busy and friendly.

"Maybe someday I will visit my family in Mexico and go to Switzerland. I have done everything that I've ever wanted to do because of the Lord."



photo by Sheree Flores

BIBLE INSTRUCTOR MARY REYES

Future artist chosen as student of the month

■ by Jimena Hernandez

Staff Writer

Griselida Duran, 17 year-old Senior, was selected as student of the month for February, at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS).

"It feels really good and makes me proud of myself being student of the month," Duran said. "I have been working hard in my classes. I pay more attention to this semester because it's the last one." Duran said.

Duran is from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and the most important things in life for her are family and friends. She loves dreaming. Duran dreams of studying Art at Texas A&M University of Kingsville. One of her goals for college will be



GRISELDA DURAN

photo by Jimena Hernandez

to give the best of her and never give up.

She also enjoys drawing, painting, and hand-crafting. In her free time, she likes to read, hang out with friends or paint.

"What I like the most about being here at Pan Am is that I learn something new everyday. I'm only a few days away from graduation and I feel anxious

and sad because I'm realizing how fast I'm growing up and it's going to be very different," Duran said.

"Pan Am helped me to be more independent and interact with different people but also, I grew as a person and my way of thinking also changed. Now I know how to value things in life," Duran said.

She describes herself as a persistent, friendly and creative person. Her favorite subject is art. Duran is very good at giving advice, teaching and being patient, she said. Duran sees herself in a few years working as an artist in a company or by herself.

Q+A WITH SENIOR
ALEX AMARO

Interview with 2008-2009 Senior Class Vice President

■ by Ismael Sandoval

Staff Writer

Q: How does it feel to be Senior Class Vice President?

A: It's a good experience and a great responsibility. It feels great.

Q: What do you do as Vice president?

A: I help the president in every need and step up when the president is not available.

Q: Is it hard to be the Vice President?

A: No, not at all. It takes great responsibility and time but it's worth it.

Q: Why do you think you got elected?

A: I think that I did a good job in my previous position.

Q: What else are you involved in?

A: Well, I was the goalie for the soccer team, but right now I'm only the vice president.

Q: Do you like being the Vice president of your class?

A: Yes, it is a great experience. It's a good opportunity to help and contribute to the class.

Q: Does it take a lot of your free time?

A: Not at all. I don't have much to do after school so it fits perfectly in my schedule.



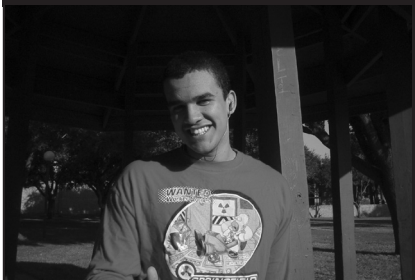
Alex Amaro

HOW DO



"I think positively and drink a lot of water."
Kyoung Jea Lee, Senior

YOU STAY



"I work out, sleep well and eat well."-Javier Villegas, Junior.

HEALTHY?



"I eat a lot of vegetables and sleep a lot."-Hector Villegas, Sophomore.

Being healthy is mental, physical and emotional Exercise, sleep and eat right for healthy living



by Paola Hernandez
Staff Writer

Being healthy for me means to be good to yourself in different ways. It means being good to yourself mentally, physically and emotionally.

It doesn't mean that we always have to be dieting or things like that but we should try to live healthy lives. We need to do our best to be good to ourselves because we only have one life and it is too short to waste.

So, I am going to give you some advice that can be easy to follow and at the same time, you can feel better with yourself.

According to workoutforyou.com, you should exercise at least three times per week, a half hour per day and drink two liters of water per day. By doing this, you will have better circulation.

Try to eat fruits and vegetables to have a better digestion and since they are rich in vitamins, you will have more powerful defenses and less probabilities of getting sick with colds and the flue, etc.

Your best bet is to sleep eight hours per day, so you can be 100 % energized

in your classes and that will help and lead you to getting better grades.

Since breakfast is essential, the most important meal of the day to be exact and the battery for the day, doctors recommend to not skip it.

Another recommendation that I can include is to try not to eat food portions that are larger than your fist.

If you start doing this, your stomach size will increase and everytime you eat, you will want more and more food.

Another important tip is to try not to go to the grocery store on an empty stomach because you will want and buy more food than you actually need.

In my opinion, being healthy is like a cycle. If you drink enough water, you will have a better digestion, if you sleep the eight hours that are recommended by the doctors, your grades will increase and your state of emotion will be good and you will have a healthy life.

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Science class visits Baffin Bay for water samples

■ by Olivia Pun
Staff Writer

This fall, 14 seniors are taking Environmental Science class with Dr. Olga Carranza. Instead of reading the book in class everyday, this class is designed to study in small group discussions, research about the environment, and conduct a lot of hands-on activities and projects.

On February 13, under the guidance of Carranza, the class went on a field trip to Baffin Bay. According to Carranza, the class has just finished studying about the atmosphere and is now starting on a new topic, hydrology. She decided to take the class to Baffin Bay to get some water samples.

"Since our course's goal is to have as many laboratory activities as possible and we want these activities to be real life, the course follows the globe protocols,"



photo by Olivia Pun

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLASS IS FILLED WITH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES WITH DR. OLGA CARRANZA

said Carranza, Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science teacher.

The globe protocols are designed by scientists at NASA. Students follow them as a guideline to conduct experiments and activities in their courses.

"These protocols are used by students all over the world and are very effective,"

Carranza said.

Following the protocols of hydrology, some students of the group made a site map of the hydrology area that they studied at Baffin Bay; some students were measuring the water depth while others were doing a water transparency activity.

"When they [the group measuring the water depth] were working, they dropped three weights into the water and Alex Amaro was trying to get them back but he couldn't," said Christa Gomez, 18-year-old senior.

Paola Escamilla, 17-year-old senior, said that she had learned a lot on this trip about water salinity and water pH and how to study a hydrology site.

"It was a great trip," said Escamilla, "We learned a lot while we had fun at Baffin Bay."

Economic Crisis is affecting many countries in the world

■ by Tania Rodriguez
Staff Writer

The global economic crisis is now the top American concern, affecting not only United States, but many other countries around the world., according to npr.org. Americans are afraid that this recession could linger for years. Many families are worried, watching their bills pile up and their savings disappear.

"The economy is cyclical. Ups and downs occur in this cycle. Unfortunately we are now in a depression," said Joshua Perkins, Economics and Geography teacher. "This phase of the business cycle is marked by high unemployment and decreased consumer spending."

Some of the countries most affected by the economic crisis which are now at risk of economical instability are Canada, Mexico, China, South Korea, Germany, France, Russia, Ukraine, India, etc. Twenty-five percent of the world's countries don't have enough financial means to soften the impact of the crisis.

Currency Rate	
Mexican Peso	-15.95
Hong-Kong dollar	-7.75
Guatemalan Quetzal	-7.89
Peruvian Soles	-3.24
Euros	-0.784313725
Costa Rican Colon	-563.46
South-Korean Won	-1,407.06

The world's economy has deteriorated significantly and the global recession will be deeper than before.

Beginning with failures of large financial institutions in the U.S, it evolved rapidly into a global credit crisis. On September 2008, the subprime credit crisis reached a critical stage. The crisis kept going and continued to change, evolving at the close of October into a currency crisis. On December 1, the National Bureau of Economic

Research officially declared that U.S economy had entered to a recession. From January 2 to January 22, the four largest U.S banks lost half of their value.

America started the New Year in the middle of a crisis greater than any other this country has passed through. The United States has lost 533,000 jobs in November 2008, the biggest monthly loss since 1974. Nearly 2 million jobs were lost. America lost more jobs last year than any other time since World War II.

"I hope this financial crisis will be short lived but with even the best estimates, it would appear we will be affected for at least two years," Perkins said.

Americans and countries around the world are anxious and uncertain of what the future will hold. Nevertheless experts say that as 2009 will be the worst year of the crisis, the next year will be better according to npr.org and the faith that most Americans have in President Barrack Obama has not been lost. Obama is planning to save or create over 2 million jobs.

PPAS track places second at first meet of the season

by Samuel Lopez

Staff Writer

Presbyterian PanAmerican School's (PPAS) boys and girls track team placed second at their first track meet of the season on February 28 at the Asics Javelina Relays at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK).

At this meet, the track team had 25 participants. They have been training since the beginning of February. The track team members participated in different events such as, 200 meter, 800 meter, 1600-meter run, 800 meter, 1600-meter relay, 300-meter hurdles, high jump, long jump, shot put and discus. Juan Chavez won first place in the 200-meter run Chris-

tian Ortiz, Hugo Aguilar, Gustavo Guzman and Erick Moreno won first place in the 1600-mile relay. Tania Rodriguez placed second in the 800-mile run and Jimena Hernandez placed third in the same event. Ilse Ibarra placed fourth in the 1600-mile run.

"The first 200-meter - it was easy but the last 100-meter, it was very difficult because I was running against the wind," said Israel Gomez, junior.

Melisa Lopez placed third in long and high jump, second place in 300-mile hurdles and in 800-mile relay. In the 1600-mile relay and 300-meter hurdles, she placed third.

"I was very happy because I participated in five events and I got good results even though this was my first time," Lopez said.

In shot put, Javier Villegas won second place and in discus, he placed first.

"I am very proud of myself because I have been training very hard and did not expect to place," said Villegas 17-year-old junior.

Coach Reili Cantu is proud of her players and praises them often, she said.

"I'm always encouraging my athletes to do their best. It doesn't matter if we lose or win. Only if we try our best and know there is always room for



photo by Israel Gomez

SENIORS GUSTAVO GUZMAN AND ERICK MORENO COMPETED IN THE 1600-MILE RELAY AT THE ASICS JAVELINA RELAYS TRACK MEET ON FEB. 28 AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE

improvement," Cantu said.

March 14 is the next scheduled meet at Rivera High School and Cantu expects

to have improved from the results from the first meet.

U.S. defeats Mexico, 2-0, in soccer game

by Hugo Aguilar

Staff Writer

On February 11, the United States soccer team defeated the Mexican soccer team with a solid victory of 2-0. The match took place at the wind-whipped Columbus Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio.

The U.S. started winning with a left corner kick goal scored by Michael Bradley right before the first half ended. The Mexicans were in disadvantage when their top defender and captain, Rafael Marquez, was taken out of the game with a red card.

"The expulsion that brought the Mexicans down wasn't fair," said Alex Amaro, 18-year old-senior. The U.S. squad took advantage of that. So once again, the midfielder Michael Bradley scored with a powerful 25-yard shot skidding under goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez and into the net for his second goal. Finishing the game with a culminating victory of 2-0 over Mexico at this location for the third time in eight years.

"Psychologically, there was a big advantage for the U.S. team playing there," said Javier Aguado, 17-year old-senior.

Bradley contributed with more than goals, making a great job as a midfielder that didn't allow Mexico to generate much attack.

"Besides the goals, he was great breaking up plays and covering a lot of ground," said Walter Flores, 18-year old-senior.

The weather was a big issue, but not in the way everyone expected for a game in this part of the country during winter.

"The weather affects the conditions of the field, they didn't play as comfortable as they can play in normal weather," Aguado said.



photo provided by arroyosecofilms.com

THE UNITED STATES DEFEATED MEXICO, 2-0, IN A SOCCER GAME ON FEBRUARY 11 AT COLUMBUS CREW STADIUM IN COLUMBUS, OHIO.

Calendar

- 3/17-St. Patrick's Day
- 3/18-3/19-Terra Nova (morning)
- 3/18-3/19-Eagle Field Day (afternoon)
- 3/27-Career Expo
- 3/30-Last Day for "Pennies for Patients"
- 4/1-ITP TOEFL
- 4/8-Progress Reports Due
- 4/9-4/13-Spring & Easter Break
- 4/14-Classes Resume
- 4/18-Prom
- 4/22-Science Fair



Happy Birthday!
Ivonne Mora, 3/17
Cesar Gomez, 3/18
Jose Ibarra, 3/20
Veronica Vasquez, 3/23
Hong Choi, 3/23
Rafael Murguia, 3/25
Javier Aguado, 3/31
Saddam Bello, 4/6
Cecilia Ruiz, 4/16



Happy Birthday

Seniors accepted to College

■ by Sara Gonzalez

Staff Writer

The school year is almost over and seniors from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) have been receiving acceptance letters from Universities and colleges.

Sergio Barrera, Ruben Garcia and Gabriela Quiroga were accepted to the University of Texas at Brownsville.

"I'm waiting for the University of Texas-Pan American to accept me, but the University of Texas at Brownsville is my second option," Quiroga said.

At Texas State Technical College in Waco, Jehu Avila and Erick Moreno have been accepted.

Walter Flores, Griselda Duran and Elisa Godinez were accepted to Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Josue Rivera was accepted to the University of Texas at San Antonio, Olivia Pun was accepted to the University of Texas at Austin and Daniel Villarreal was accepted to Texas A&M University at College Station.

"I got really excited when I found out that I was accepted. I thought that it would be really hard for me to get in and when I checked my status on the internet and read I got accepted, I just couldn't believe it, but I'm really proud," said Villarreal, 17 who will attend College Station and is planning to major in Construction Science.

Han Sol Lee was accepted to the University of Houston. "When I saw that I got accepted, I thought that finally my hard work and my effort had brought me the satisfaction that I wanted. I am very proud of myself, and I am really happy," said Han Sol Lee, 19. "I am waiting for other Universities in Mexico and for UT- Austin, then I will decide on which one will I attend."

Kyoung Jea Lee who was accepted to both Baylor University and the University of Texas at Austin is still waiting for acceptance letters.

"I don't want to go to Baylor or UT- Austin because I'm waiting on Princeton University or a University in Chicago," said Kyoung Jea Lee. "But I'm proud of myself because I got accepted into good colleges."

Ellie Perez, the school's counselor, is proud of the students and hopes they take their education seriously.

"I'm proud of them because they have been working extremely hard to get to the colleges they want to attend," Perez said. "I wish they take their education seriously and pursue their choosing career no matter what obstacles they may first encounter."

Banquet celebrates diversity at PPAS

■ by Ilse Ibarra

Staff Writer

Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) held their annual International Banquet on Friday, February 27 at the dinning hall of the campus.

"The banquet celebrated the diversity of students of different countries that are represented at the school and to promote world peace, now that the world is facing wars and chaos," said Speech Teacher Paloma Gonzalez, who organized the banquet.

The food was prepared by the kitchen staff with help from some students who supplied recipes from their home countries. For example, pepian from Guatemala, arepas and empanadas from Venezuela and gallo pinto from Costa Rica were served.

Students, Juan Manuel Chavez and Omar Rivera participated with a worship song.

"I wanted to share something that has become almost all my life, God," said Chavez.

This year a Fashion Runway Show was arranged by Bible Teacher and Dorm Director Mary Reyes. The girls modeled traditional customs from India, China, Mexico, and the United States.

"Being in the Fashion Show was a good experience because I was able to represent a little bit of my culture by wearing a Mexican dress. I felt satisfied with this event because it was the best International Banquet that I have ever seen since my first year," said Senior Paola Escamilla.

Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech was recited by junior Ana Paola Melendez. "Through his words, he delivers a message of equality disregarding race and it inspired me to pursue his dream and make it a reality," Melendez said.

As guests of honor, the visiting Ukraine students thanked PPAS for hospitality, friendship and look forward to coming back sometime.

Kseniya Zinchenko sang a song about love in her native language and Dr. Barbara Stottlemeyer, Dean of Students, and Counselor Ellie Perez gave gifts to Ukraine students, representing a little bit of Texas with cowboy hats.

To close the banquet, Gonzalez prayed for peace and love for the nations.

After the banquet the sophomore class sponsored a dance that took place in the Student Union Building (SUB).



photo by Ilse Ibarra

FROM LEFT, PAOLA ESCAMILLA, KARINA BELLO, ANA PAOLA MELENDEZ AND MELISSA LOPEZ.

Confessions of a Shopaholic guarantees a good laugh

by Ilse Ibarra
Staff Writer

Based on the novel "Confessions of a Shopaholic" by Sophie Kinsella, this movie brings comedy and romance.

Rebecca Bloomwood (Isla Fisher), a journalist in New York City, experiences an obsessive need to buy things she doesn't need with credit cards that as a child she called "magic cards."

By the time the magazine she was working for closes, Bloomwood realizes that it is time to face the truth. She had ignored all her bank bills and debts of several thousand dollars.

While she tries to find a new job to pay off her debt, she manages to get a job as an advice journalist for a financial magazine which is published by the same company she had dreamed of working for--a fashion magazine called Allette.

Luckily she obtains this job after mailing

an offensive letter and begins writing consumer's cautions of which she herself does not stand for.

Bloomwood's comparisons and descriptions of money management, take her to success and the admiration of her boss Luke Brandon (Hugh Dancy). As her dreams are finally coming true, she goes to even more hilarious and extreme efforts to keep her past from ruining her future.

Unfortunately our past will always be part of our future, proves to be correct when Derek Smeath (Robert Stanton), who is chasing Bloomwood to pay her debt pays her an unexpected visit.

With the help of her best friend Suze (Krysten Ritter), her parents Mr. and Mrs. Bloomwood (mother, Joan Cusack and father, John Goodman) and Shopaholics anonymous, she realizes that shopping will not bring her happiness or the love her boss



photo provided by nitrolicious.com

Luke feels for her.

This is not just another comedy movie, it will help us to consider the financial crisis the whole world is going through, learn lessons on how to live our financial life and it guarantees a good time to laugh.

St. Patrick's Day celebrated all over the world

by Ismael Sandoval
Staff Writer

Saint Patrick's Day is an annual feast day which celebrates Saint Patrick (385–461 AD), one of the patron saints of Ireland, and is generally celebrated on March 17, according to Wikipedia. Even though sometimes it is celebrated on March 15 and two times in history (1940 and 2008), it was celebrated on April 3.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated by Irish people mainly, even though many non-irish people are starting to celebrate it all around the world. It's themed around Irish things like the color green but orange is also accepted.

A St. Patrick's Day parade was first held in Boston in 1761, organized by the Charitable Irish Society. After this one, many others began to be held, one being the New York City parade--the biggest and the longest all around the world.

Because sometimes it is the season of lent, some bishops grant indulgences so the people can eat meat on these days if it is a Friday. This Friday is known as the "corned-beef indulgence" and if the holiday falls on Sunday, it is moved to the next Monday (March 18).

According to legend, St. Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pre-Christian Irish. That is why it is the plant of the day. And that is also the reason why people dress in green.

In 1903, the Bank Holiday of Ireland named it a national holiday and not only a religious holiday. Since then, kids don't go to school or parents to work.

According to oels.byu.edu/student/holidays/Stpatricks.html, some traditions include, wearing the color green to honor Ireland. If someone doesn't wear green, everyone else is allowed to pinch that person. But if you pinch someone who is wearing green, that person gets to pinch you back ten times. Decorations often include shamrocks.