

The Owl

MARCH/APRIL 2014



Spanish Class's European Trip

By Danny Gelles

April 9th through April 21st, nine Hudson High students took a journey to Europe. The students that attended were: Jesus Melendez, Olivia Otty, Shannon LaChance, Conner Graziano, Jacob Rivette, Ricardo Wise, Shonette Yarde, Jayre Reynoso-Alcantara and yours truly, Danny Gelles. Mrs. Gazzera, Mrs. Suttmeier and Mrs. Graziano were kind enough to chaperone us and share this experience with the students. The first stop was Spain. Here we were separated to live with our host families. In my experience, my family was kind and hospitable. The town I lived in was Montejo de la



Sierra. It is a small village nestled in the mountains of Madrid. The village was very small but had a rich history and a certain charm to it. While in Spain, we had many excursions to the neighboring cities of Madrid and Toledo. Both cities were amazing and some housed ancient castles.

As we waved our host families a solemn goodbye, we readied ourselves for our next adventure- Paris. Here we would not only experience the usual sites such as the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower, but also become immersed in venues like Napoleon's Tomb and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. The trip was breathtaking and opens one's eyes to the rest of the world. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone with an appetite for a great adventure.

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Italia Fantastica: The Experience of a Lifetime

By Katie Zanutelli

Over spring break, I along with many other students, had the wonderful experience of traveling to Europe and discovering a new world. We visited: Rome, Assisi, Florence, and Venice. In my opinion, traveling out of the country was a great experience. I was introduced to new cultures, customs, languages, and completely different ways of life. It was so interesting to try the different types of food in different areas and communicate with people who live completely different lives. Rome was an extremely busy, crowded area of Italy. Visiting the Coliseum and The Vatican was truly amazing. Words cannot describe the astonishing works of art left behind by some of the greatest artists in the world. Assisi was the complete opposite. The massive mountains surrounding it were breathtaking. Florence was also very busy- as it is the shopping capital of Italy. Venice was like a completely different world. We needed a boat in order to access it. The buildings and canals were different than anything I have ever seen before. Going through the canals of Venice in a gondola and just observing everything Venice had to offer was something I will never forget. Everything from the gelato, the beautiful views, the famous architecture and beautiful art, and the overwhelming amount of shopping was absolutely amazing. I would not trade this experience for anything and I will remember this for the rest of my life. We would like to thank Mrs. Barletta for all of her help in organizing our trip and making it so eventful!



Hudson Youth Government Day

By Ramisa Tasnim

Operation Unite, New York has invited several students from Hudson High School to attend its annual Hudson Youth Government Day. The program is to be held at City Hall on April 24th 2014. Students will meet many of the aldermen that are currently serving their wards, the Common Council president Don Moore, as well as police officers and judges. Students will also be able to learn more about these certain professions. At the end of the day, students will also participate in a mock common council meeting, taking the role as an alderman or as the common council president. This is a very exciting opportunity for students to learn more about how the local government works and the people who are currently working as part of the local government. Those who received a letter of invitation are urged to turn in their permission slips so that they are able to attend. Operation Unite has made Youth Government Day possible for many years and it is very excited about this year's program!

An Interview with Mr.LaCasse

By Farzana Akhter & Fahmida

Choudhury



Mr.LaCasse, our school's Dean of Students, is a former student of the Hudson City School District, Class of 1994. He enjoyed playing sports such as football, basketball, and baseball. He admitted that playing sports kept him out of trouble. His favorite subject was Social Studies, taught by Mr. Howe. He decided to go to SUNY Cortland, where he took many courses on history and economics and he received a double major. He entered grad school and was in the top fifteen of his class with Honors. When asked why he stayed in Hudson, he answered that he grew up in Hudson with his family and was very familiar with the environment. He started off as an elementary teacher and later decided to become a high school Social Studies teacher. We asked him which he liked better- being Dean of Students or a teacher, he answered both. Being the Dean of Students he can interact with students, create relationships and help them with problems they have. As a social studies teacher he is able to teach students history and economics. Mr. LaCasse is well known in Hudson High School and we are lucky to have him back.



The Hypnotist Show

By Gina Leccese



On March 21st, The Kevin Hurley Show, sponsored by Student Council, came to Hudson High School. One show was in the morning for students and a second show in the evening was for the general public. Several students volunteered to be hypnotized that morning. In order to be hypnotized, they were coached into entering an intense state of calmness. Although it did not work on all of the participants, the resulting hypnosis of the other students proved to be highly entertaining. Hypnotized students did everything from dancing to acting like exotic animals. One "lucky" student even gave birth. He sure was surprised after the show! Several students claimed not to remember what they had done while they were hypnotized, or had only vague memories of their actions once they were brought out of the hypnosis. The audience, however, will definitely remember the show. It was certainly a success and enjoyed by everyone.

Beauty and The Beast Rocks Hudson Stage

By Emily Spateholts

On March 27th, 28th, and 29th, Hudson High School performed the Broadway smash hit musical *Beauty and the Beast*. The overall production took over 3 months of practicing, choreography, scene-work and set design. The musical score included not only familiar favorites like "Be Our Guest" and "Belle", but also some new additions only for the musical; "If I Can't Love Her" and "A Change In Me" to name a few.

The show was only 2 hours, but was jam packed with intricate choreography,

complex harmonies, and extremely elaborate costumes. Mrs. Mastrianni, Mrs. Rees, and Danielle Delamater all made this show possible. The Hudson Robotics team also helped by lending their robot to play the invention created by Maurice.

The actors put so much hard work and dedication into this show that you could feel their excitement as they stepped onto the stage. The majority of the leads were seniors, except for six. The seniors were: Frank Fata (Lumiere), Danielle Delamater (Belle), Patrick Elliot (Maurice), Lindsey Falkner (Madame de la Grand Bouché), Emily Haigh (Grand Bouché understudy) Sarah Bartolotta (Madame

Darque), Billy Glasser (Gaston) and Oswaldo Rosete-Garcia (LeFou).

Beauty and the Beast was a wonderfully done production by the Hudson High School. The director, stage manager, and the choreographer definitely helped get this show on its feet. The actors also brought their hard work and dedication to the table with this show. The overall production was a hard road for all involved but with motivation and perseverance, the show warmed the hearts of all who attended. As they say in theatre: "There's no business like show business!"



Divergent

By Danny Gelles

“Faction before blood.” This pledge is the guideline for the future dystopia set in war torn Chicago. It has been many years since the great war and a new society has been sculpted. Here the people are split into five different factions, for the preservation of order and safety. Though the threat of the outer world is apparent, the most threatening phenomenon is Divergence. To be divergent means you do not fit in one given group, but are multitalented and express more free will. This is the case of the strong female lead, Trice, who must face the world head on with her rare gift.

The movie *Divergent* is a delightful mix of beauty, tension, and philosophy. The deteriorated Chicago landscape is a spectacle to see. The factions’ varied environments successfully create the atmosphere of the bold class divisions of society. The cinematography of *Divergent* is in a category of its own. It succeeds in capturing the mood of the scene as well as the action.

Divergent also undeniably resembles another recent motion picture, *The Hunger Games*. The idea of a future dystopia with rigid class structures was also done by *The Hunger Games*. Still, *Divergent* gains the upper hand. *Divergent*’s protagonist Trice or Beatrice was more developed than *The Hunger Games*’s Katniss. *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* also did superb jobs at picturing the class struggles of the societies, but again *Divergent* conveyed it better.



Student mural in the Science Wing.

Mrs. Brust's Humanities class visits the Vanderbilt Mansion!





Italy, 2014



HHS Cast of *Beauty and the Beast*!