



REMEMBERING **PAUL AND MARTHA PITMAN**

Our banquet this evening is named for two very special people without whose efforts we might not be here tonight honoring the academic achievements of Yosemite High School students.

The Pitmans, who were both educators in their 70's, came to Oakhurst to retire. That retirement would be short-lived. The Pitmans were a driving force behind the formation of Yosemite High School. Harry Baker, who was president of the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Sierra High School Board at the time, stated that Paul Pitman had come to him and said, "I understand you're working for a new high school...is there anything I can do?" Baker said that the Pitmans became involved at a critical time in the high school effort. Martha Pitman was the chairman of the Citizen Committee and Paul M. Pitman was the education counselor for the five mountain elementary school districts. Dr. Pitman was appointed acting Superintendent for Yosemite High School until February 28, 1974.

Jean Gibson, who was also active in forming the high school district, said that every time they suffered a defeat or setback, Paul and Martha would take off for Sacramento. There they consulted with the State Department of Education, the Educational Codes, and the Legislature. "They were able to give us encouragement and a way to

Welcome!

to the

33rd Annual

**Paul & Martha Pitman
Awards Banquet**

**Honoring the YHS
Class of 2019
Valedictorians**

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Laura Norman

INVOCATION

REMEMBERING THE PITMANS

Dr. Angelo Pizelo

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Laura Norman

DINNER

Buffet by The Pines Resort
Dessert by Sweet Dreams Cakery

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Regina Carr, Principal
Yosemite High School

Glen Billington, Superintendent
Yosemite Unified School District

Faculty and Staff
Yosemite High School

proceed to form our own district”, Gibson said. “Our biggest crusher was when the Department of Education rejected the request for another high school. That’s when Martha Pitman left for Sacramento like it was in her own back yard!” At the time, Martha was also soliciting every club and civic organization in the area and she wrote a weekly column keeping everyone informed on the high school district “battle”. Together, the Pitmans managed to find an obscure way – by obtaining 33 percent of registered voters’ signatures in a petition – to get a hearing before the State Board of Education. On September 18, 1973, the vote was 1659 to 244 in favor of separation from the Sierra Joint Union School District and formation of a new district composed of students from the Oakhurst, Coarsegold, Raymond Knowles, Wasuma and Bass Lake Schools. “More than half the voters were retirees who had neither children nor grandchildren who would benefit by a high school and yet in March, 1974, over 88 percent of the registered voters voted for a combined bond and state loan of \$5,200,000!” commented Paul Pitman. Yosemite High School was no longer a dream, but would soon be a reality! The school opened its doors to approximately 450 students in September, 1976.

On June 13, 1986, the Yosemite High School Library was dedicated to Paul and Martha Pitman. We dedicate our banquet tonight to their memory.



2019 PITMAN SCHOLARS

Tehya Abrahams
Monique Ades
Macy Bazzar
Joseph Bunnell
Andre Chevalier
Henry Curley
Trinity Curtis
Lillian Dickmeyer
Joseph Dudley
Chloe Duke
Eden Hussey
Jordyn Jackson
Natalie Lawrence
Linnea Leinau
Addison McCully
Sophia McGoldrick
Tyler Morgan
Emily Nowka
Ryan O'Meara
Amber Persson
Isabella Peter
Leslie Ramirez
Brandi Sneed
Kaylie Sullivan
Paige Szabadi
Jasmine Tanoury
Sayda Taylor
Kyla Thomas
Amanda Truelove
Abigail Williams

REFLECTIONS

.... of and by our award winners



TEHYA ABRAHAMS

My experiences at Yosemite High School have been some of the best and most meaningful moments in my life. I have learned how to further my knowledge in my academics and how to make the most out of my high school career. Some of my most memorable experiences at Yosemite High School are the rallies and sports games where our spirit and love for the high school shine! Being involved in these events have not only increased the love for my school but for the teachers and staff that had made my high school career worthwhile. My future goals are to further my education at the University of Utah and to major in Kinesiology. From the endless love and encouragement from my peers and teachers, I know it will be difficult to say goodbye to those who helped me so much. I want to thank my family and Yosemite High School for pushing me to strive for greatness throughout my high school career.

MONIQUE ADES

During the course of high school, I have had a lot of late nights, a lot of tears, and a lot of stressing. I have also had many laughs shared with my closest friends, late nights watching movies, and have made some of the best memories of my life. Leaving high school, and everyone here, is going to be bittersweet. I have experienced so much growth in just about every aspect of my life (just ask Skeahan about my freshman essays) and it will be both frightening and exciting to continue that growth in the next chapter of my academic career.



Remember when ...

I would like to give a big thank you to Ryan for always sharing his food with me when I forgot a lunch.



MACY BAZZAR

High school has been quite a memorable time. Although the IB program demanded sleepless nights and high levels of stress, I expect my experience to have been of the best. The second I walked on campus, it felt like home, and that's what it became. The students and staff at Yosemite High School are a family. We care deeply for another. The teachers have done an exceptional job at preparing us for college. I am so very thankful to have had such a high caliber education at a

public high school. I feel as if teachers do not receive the rightful credit, for they are the entire reason for our academic successes. I cannot express enough how thankful I am to have had the pleasure of learning beneath Skeahan, Mrs. Calderwood, Ms. Hardison, Mr. Collings, Mrs. Chenowith, and Sr. Browning. My opportunities for extracurriculars have been excellent. I was able to experience life on two varsity teams, and give back to the community. YHS gave me a connection to the elementary school, where I found where my heart lies: work around children. More than anything, this school has shown me a true sense of family. Friendships here run deep, between fellow students and students and teachers. Yosemite High School will always have a place in my heart; I will cherish the memories and gifts it provided me. As it comes time to leave, I will try my best to say goodbye with a smile. It is time to move on, find my place, and discover how I am meant to serve our world. However, I will always hold dear the place and people who made it all possible.

JOSEPH BUNNELL



ANDRE CHEVALIER

HENRY CURLEY

My parents tell me to “treat others how I want to be treated”. Although it sounds so obvious and simple, it is not always easy to do. In the news, I notice the harmful things people have done to fellow citizens like making racial comments, discriminating against others, not obeying rules, and committing physical harm. All of this makes me more aware of my actions and the civility I try to convey everyday.

Most importantly, we have to be kind to one another. If every citizen is kind to each other, the world would be hate free. Being kind regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, etc. and committing random acts of kindness can transform someone’s day and instill love and joy in their heart.

Throughout high school, my mother and father have had the most influence on me. I admire their love for others, friendliness, and never ending support. Everyday I try to care for others how my parents care for me.

Remember when ...

Remember when Joe Dudley was in IB English? Yeah, those were definitely



the glory days. The fact that Joe lived in Raymond, and still does, opened a door to countless “Raymond Jokes” courtesy of Skeahan. Not all the jokes were necessarily appropriate so I shall speak no further. Joe’s work ethic was truly amazing. Read, sleep, read, eat a peanut butter sandwich, read, ride a bull, and read some more. In all honesty, the more one reads the more intelligent they are, and Joe was no exception. While averaging about 10 books a week, he still found time to proofread almost all my essays along with half of the English classes’ essays. He always found ways to improve my essay even after I proofread it 4 times prior. Mind Blowing!

In all seriousness, I want to thank Joe for all he did for me whether that being proofreading essays, telling me how he walked his cow everyday so it would not get overweight, or for simply being my friend. Good luck in the Seminary!



TRINITY CURTIS

When I look back at the previous years it seems to have gone by so fast, even though in the moment it feels so long. The biggest lesson I learned is to be yourself and to not care what other people have to say about it. Each of us are only given one life and if we let someone else mediate it for us then we’re not truly living. My freshman year I was so worried about what everyone thought about me. I

was so consumed in being the “perfect” person to everyone. In reality I didn’t even like myself, I wasn’t being the true and genuine me. When I stopped caring about whether someone supported me or not I became a much happier person. It’s so much easier to just let loose and be yourself because when you try to seem perfect you put more stress and damage on your mind and body.

You’ll find your true friends when you are being yourself, instead of trying to be someone that you’re not. The same thing goes for relationships. If you’re not 100% yourself then you’re constantly competing with a better “you” that doesn’t exist.

Remember when ...

For me this story has had a big meaning in my life. Our freshman year I made the JV baseball team and it was a surprise to everyone that there was a girl on the team. I had received positive and negative comments. It had been the first time that the other teams we played had seen a girl play baseball. On one of our first league games there had been some inappropriate comments from the other team towards me. I hadn’t heard them because I was in the dugout but my teammates Henry Curley and Ryan O’Meara did. They had my back and told the kids that they need to have some respect. Instead of lashing out on them they kept their cool and supported me. I have always been very appreciative of what they had done for me because it was one of the first times I had a positive outcome from a conflict. As a girl playing a male dominated sport you get a lot of criticism but it’s people like Henry and Ryan that kept me playing.



LILLIAN DICKMEYER

High school has been such a great experience for me and I have made many friends and memories over these four years. My most memorable experience would definitely be my time in marching band. We had practice two days a week and over summer, so naturally I got close to much of the band, helping me as a socially awkward, anxious freshman make a group of friends I was comfortable with and a family. Being

in the band has also shaped me as a person, as you have to be able to multitask, work with others, and stay attentive the whole time to make it good.

High school has changed my future goals tremendously. In eighth grade I wanted to be a marine biologist, but after experiencing the teachers at the high school, I decided I wanted to be a high school teacher and give kids the positive experience I have had with most of my classes.

Remember when ...

Kyla Thomas is an amusing, interesting, and inspirational person. I met her sophomore year and our senses of humor fit like a puzzle piece. She has so many interests and is so open minded and caring. She has had two hip surgeries in the time I have know her and she still was getting as much school work done as she could manage. She is a perfectionist and is always striving to do her best with whatever she does, but she also does it with love and care.

Jasmine Tanoury is also a lovely person. She is so dedicated and does not seem to care what other people think about her. She is kind and caring and always tries her best with anything she does. We have always had classes together and sat near each other and would giggle about odd little jokes. Both of these ladies are so wonderful and I am glad to call them my friends and classmates.

JOSEPH DUDLEY

When I started going to High School it was a totally new experience for me because I had been homeschooled. The academics of the school really pushed me to try. After my sophomore year, I decided that the academics in the school were not challenging enough for me. However, I stayed at Yosemite because I had been in the welding class and I loved that class. So, I started to take online classes alongside my regular classes. In school, I developed my previous goal of entering into a seminary and to become a Catholic priest. I was most influenced by my parents because they pushed me to keep trying to find more challenges. Through all of this, I was raising steers or lambs for FFA, and doing water polo and swim.



CHLOE DUKE

Some of my most memorable experiences have been being on the volleyball team and making lifelong friends. The volleyball team has taught me a lot about friendship and teamwork and has overall built my character. My high school experience has helped me shape my future goals by giving me different opportunities to explore my options for my future. I have found out through high school that in my future I want to go

into the medical field and become a pediatrician. The teachers at this school have had the most influence on me and my future because they strive for the best in me and build me up to succeed. Not only do the teachers at this school want the best for me and my classmates they build strong connections with the students which only makes it harder to say goodbye when time comes.

EDEN HUSSEY

I went into high school with only a few friends and little idea of what I wanted to do in the future. As I am about to leave, I now realize how much I have grown. I have made many new friends and formed relationships with several teachers and faculty. I have learned much from my teachers and fellow peers and I am greatly appreciative of the new bridges that have formed throughout my high school career and I hope that they remain in the future.



JORDYN JACKSON

These past four years of high school have been the most influential years of my life so far. With the classes I have taken and the teachers I have had, I have grown academically, socially, and mentally. For example, the class that has impacted me the most is Peer Communications. This class has given me the privilege of receiving a "little buddy" whom I visit each Friday. From this experience, I have discovered my

passion for mentoring children which has encouraged to continue my education at California State University, Long Beach. Furthering my education will help me reach my goals of becoming a teacher in the future.



NATALIE LAWRENCE

Yosemite High School has given me the platform for success opening many doors for my career. Everything from expanding my passion for academics, to teaching me how to be less socially awkward, I find myself lucky to have gotten on this roller coaster we call high school we all the people here tonight. YHS and the class of 2019 will forever hold a special place in my heart. Always bleed badger blue!!!





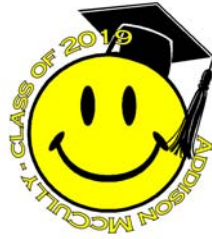
LINNEA LEINAU

High School went by so fast. I've learned so much at YHS and have gotten a lot closer to my fellow classmates. My favorite memory was when I first walked in to Mr. Skeahan's class and saw all the posters of his former classes and where they all went to school. I remember thinking that it was so cool and that one day I was going to be up on the wall with all my friends. Now we have put our poster up and it is so

amazing seeing where everyone in that class in going next year. During high school I knew I wanted to attend a 4 year university. That goal motivated me to take all IB and AP classes my junior and senior year. I excelled in math and science subjects and that got me thinking about engineering. In the fall I plan on attending San Diego State University and majoring in Mechanical Engineering. The most influential people in my life are my parents and my friends. They helped encourage me to do my best and supported me through all of my extracurriculars. I am thankful for YHS being such a welcoming and spirited campus with a close sense of community. Thank you to all the teachers who supported me throughout high school.

ADDISON MCCULLY

High school is full of experiences that shape you. Each and every thing I've been involved with through YHS has taught me something that I will be able to carry with me in my future. My academically challenging courses taught me information I need to go to a University and made me stay organized. In ASB I learned the importance of teamwork and was given a foundation for becoming a leader. Year-book taught me so much, but mostly taught me time management, how to work under pressure and to search for quality in content. My sports teams showed me the meaning of respect and to be a good example. Community service through clubs has truly led me to my future goals of bettering the world in any way I can and leading a life filled with compassion for others. All of these activities combined showed me the importance of dedication and hard work. Though, the most I learned from high school was from the people who surrounded me. Whether it be my family and their constant support, my teachers who dedicated themselves to my education, the coaches who pushed me to be my best, or the peers I encountered everyday in the halls...all were so influential to my growth as a person. Next year, I plan to attend Northern Arizona University in the fall as a nursing major. I am so thankful for my years at YHS for all they gave me and all that they continue to give.



Remember when ...

Andre is a master at accents when we are reading aloud in class.

Whenever something political is brought up, someone always yells, "Paige for President!" because of her leadership in the senior class.

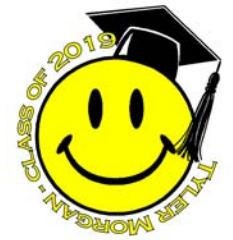


SOPHIA MCGOLDRICK

From the first day I stepped onto Yosemite High School's campus I knew that I was starting an unforgettable chapter in my life and one that I am extremely grateful for. I will always be in awe with the community and the family that YHS provides for its students; the teacher/staff that I have gotten to interact with on a daily basis have not only become my role models, but my friends. YHS provides an environment that balances the importance of education and the importance of improving one's self. I recognize now that every experience I have had in the last 4 years is one of a kind, whether that be participating in homecoming week, playing a basketball game in a packed gym, spending time with my little buddy at OES, watching the sunrise with my friends, getting accepted to college or simply learning in a classroom from my teachers and peers. However unpredictable the next chapter of my life may be, I will always have the constant support and love from my parents. They have pushed me to do my best and seek opportunities that have been the key to reaching my goal of attending a 4 year university. Next fall I will be attending UC Berkeley, where I believe I will be pushed intellectually and socially, but I also know that my high school experience has given me all the tools to truly succeed. Like the people I am surrounded by at school and at home, I am committed to living a life of self improvement and showing compassion to others.

TYLER MORGAN

When it comes to the realm of academics you can ask any student, and perhaps many teachers, and it is unlikely that they will expect me to disappoint. In many ways I have been a figure of success in the field of tests, quizzes, and homework, but if you ask me, I am far from a figure of perfection. I can say in the last couple years I have tried much harder to become a better version of myself by my own standards, be it by making myself more hardworking, sociable, or even just coming to terms with my passions. In this time I certainly made new friends, but also lost some others. In this time I developed an understanding about my peers. Be they ambitious, funny, athletic, smart, sad, discouraged, or lonely, for one or two significant qualities, we are all exactly the same. While one may inspire you and the other may infuriate you, the ability to bridge the gap and remain mature and understanding will always be the most important. I have come to terms with the fact that the only hope we have to better ourselves is by wanting better from ourselves. This very tenant is the reason my grades are high and my chin is up. Because I have practiced and promised myself to work hard in everything I put my mind to. But on the very same note, it is important never to compromise passion in the process of success.





EMILY NOWKA

High school is four years of your life that goes by in a flash. Every time graduation is mentioned it feels surreal because it does not feel like I am a senior. Throughout my high school career I have made friends, they have changed my life in many ways and made high school much more enjoyable. I was very fortunate to have amazing teachers who are great at their jobs and have compassion for their students.

I truly believe that having such great teachers has allowed me to learn as much as I have, and enjoy high school as it should be enjoyed. One teacher in particular who has helped me the most is Steve Browning. I had him as a Spanish teacher for 3 years and 2 years as my IB studies advisor. Not only has he helped me learn Spanish, he has also been an amazing mentor who seems to always know the right answer. Going into class every day and having him in there and seeing him happy and excited brightens everyone's day. No matter my mood that day he is always able to make me smile and laugh. Without his advice and teaching my high school career would have been much different and I do not think that I would have enjoyed high school as much as I have. High school is an amazing experience that needs to be enjoyed and appreciated because it goes by fast.

RYAN O'MEARA

Over my four years attending YHS I have learned a lot. I have learned to be resilient, I have learned to make some of my greatest weaknesses into my biggest strengths. Over the four years I have learned to appreciate what has been given to me, because I am truly blessed to live in the area that I live in and to have the friends that I have. I have also learned how to manage my time better, I can say with confidence that I have improved drastically over the four years.

My most memorable experience has been when a few of my classmates and I all traveled to Europe in October of 2018. Europe was my most memorable experience because it was truly the most fun I have ever had in my life. Being able to spend an entire week in countries I've never been to before with some of my closest friends was truly a blessing.

Ever since I was a child I wanted to do something big. I have always wanted to give back, and help people at all times. I believe this mentality has helped shape my goals of becoming a Psychiatrist. High school has helped shape my future goal, because it was in high school that I truly realized the importance of mental health.

The most influential person so far has been my JV football coach, because he was the one that truly made me appreciate what I am given when I am given it.



AMBER PERSSON

Remember When ...

Macy Bazzar is the nicest person I have ever met. Macy's work ethic and loving personality has been an extreme help in dealing with a lot of the stress that comes with senior year. There is no one true story of what Macy has done for me because she does something for me everyday. Though if I were to specify an important moment with her, it would be when me, Macy, and Abby Williams went to Yosemite on a whim. Now normally I am not the type of person to go out on an adventure like that but that night I was feeling spontaneous. We drove up to Yosemite with no plans, other than to just have fun, and that is what we did. We just drove around enjoying the music, and talking about whatever came to our minds. It was a small moment but it was a moment I will never forget. The simple feeling of being in her presence felt calming, as if I had no problems in the world. As we drove around in Yosemite at night with the windows rolled down and music playing loudly from my car stereo, I knew that I would never forget that moment. If I had just stayed home I would have never made that memory, I would have never seen Half Dome lit only by the moonlight. Macy brings out the best in people, and I know that she has the potential to do great things.

Throughout my high school experience I have learned to accept my slight social awkwardness through gaining self-confidence. I possessed an interesting combination of introverted behaviors while being heavily involved in theatre, which is what ultimately brought me out of my shell in a school environment. I have been involved in community theatre my whole life, but high school theatre is a different world. Who would've thought creating half-thought-out skits with friends or improv could help me become a happier and more fulfilled person? I have made many connections and friends I will cherish in the upcoming years. High school has taught me how to push myself academically and socially, leaving me excited to take the next steps into college and eventually, becoming a medical researcher working with stem cells. I am thankful for the pleasant experience and all the joy involved.

Remember When ...

Abigail Williams was once walking up to theatre, growing offended by the outrageous gawking of a nearby squirrel. She told the squirrel to stop, to which it unexpectedly sprinted toward Abigail and stuck onto her leg. She flung her leg outward and the squirrel went flying. The squirrel never gawked at Abigail again.

Over October break, a group of students, including myself and Paige Szabadi,

travelled to Europe. The first country we visited was Austria at which our first hotel had these amazing croissants. Of course, every traveler was in love with these croissants, but Paige was obsessed. In fact, when we left the hotel and were on a bus for a few hours travelling to our next stop, Paige demanded everyone's attention and reached into her bag. Sure enough, out came a gallon ziplock filled with at least 10 croissants "for the road" as she put it. She ate them continuously throughout the rest of the trip, unwilling to share. This happens to be the same trip she coined her catchphrase, "I'm just a little German girl." with a German accent.

ISABELLA PETER

I have learned so many life lessons from the people who I have attended school with, and the teachers. The IB teachers have taught me so much in the years I have had them. Simply being in their classes has taught me more about myself than I will have ever been able to understand alone. When I started high school I aspired to be a pediatric surgeon, but quickly found out that this was not an attainable goal, because I nearly fainted while dissecting pigs in biology. Soon after this encounter, Senor Browning gave the class his famous, "do what you love and the money will come naturally" speech. This speech shaped how I wanted my future to pan out. I was inspired to pursue exactly what I desired. I have always been a math, science, and art lady, and I wanted a combination of these three elements, and therefore I have decided to pursue engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Also every person in my family has supported me and urged me to put my best effort into everything I do. I am genuinely so happy to have grown up in Oakhurst and made the connections that I did. Every teacher has shaped the way I view the path that lays ahead of me and I am unbelievably grateful for every teacher I have had.



Remember When ...

The day of the dreaded Macbeth test. Here a lesson was learned about protesting a Skeahan test. My English class was sitting in Skeahan's room awaiting his return with the exam in his hand. Not a single person wanted to take this test, because we knew it would most likely be extremely hard. There was talk about a protest, against this exam, purely because we did not want to take this test, and we decided to take action. We stood right outside of Skeahan's classroom, hoping for the best: that we would not have to test on Macbeth. My class soon learned that we made a huge mistake, because Skeahan came back with a harder version of the test, with quotes from both Macbeth AND Lycidas. Very few did well. Here was born the Macbeth Mactest Macprotest, a big Macstake.



LESLIE RAMIREZ

Like many other students, Señor Browning has had the most influence on me. Wanting to further my education on becoming an educator myself Señor has taught me what passion for your job looks like. For the past four years I've been lucky enough to have him as a teacher and I've learned to smile and work through the stress from him. I'm happy to say that as time goes on I will be able to remember my high school experience with unforgettable people like my friends and teachers.

BRANDI SNEED

Over my High School years, while maintaining good grades is important, so is remembering to have fun while you have the time. Do not forget to set time aside to go hang out with friends. The thing I will always cherish is getting to go to the elementary school with my peer communications class and hanging out with our little buddies. Getting to help the kids at the school has been influential for my future, as I would love to be a Pediatrician. I would love to one day have the opportunity to help children. Mrs. Solomon has been the most influential to me. She has taught me one of the most important things in life, which is self love. She is always teaching our class how important it is to be kind to ourselves, because if you can't be kind and love yourself, then you will never truly love somebody else to the full extent. We would never talk to somebody else the way we talk to ourselves, so why should we be so harsh. Mrs. Solomon is always teaching new and important lessons that help in real world situations, they are lessons you can't find in any other classes and she teaches with so much love.



Remember When ...

My best friend, Paige Szabadi and I had P.E. together freshman and sophomore year. We were told to do athletic P.E. because we played a sport and "it was easy". Little did we know what we were getting ourselves into. We would always give Mr. Vaughn a bad time and try to come up with every excuse you could think of to not have to run. We would try to tell him we couldn't run because there was a 10% chance of rain and you know we could get pneumonia from that, or we had a softball game later that night and we needed to save our energy for the game. As much as we didn't like what we did in that class we definitely made some great memories with the best people. I will always laugh at all the ridiculous excuses we made, even though they never worked.



KAYLIE SULLIVAN

I believe that I have learned to value my time these last 4 years, it has gone by so incredibly quick that each and every moment served as something special. I would consider the teachers and staff at YHS to be one of the most meaningful experiences that I have had. They are all very supportive and they care about the students. I am very excited to take the skills I have learned at YHS to CSU Chico!

PAIGE SZABADI

I have been so incredibly lucky to have attended YHS with the Class of 2019. Throughout our four years, they have shown immense amounts of kindness to our peers, staff, community, and world as a whole. They inspire me to be the very best version of myself everyday and to continue to grow. When I am asked if I get nervous to talk at rallies or in any other group setting, I always say no, because I know there are people in the crowd supporting me. I have felt so much love while attending YHS, which makes leaving that much harder, but my classmates make me excited for the future and all it may bring, because I believe if people like them are in charge, we'll be just fine.



JASMINE TANOURY

High school has taught me to accept what I cannot change, it has put me through trials of the mind and in my relationships and it got the point to where I stopped enjoying high school; I could not wait to get out of here fast enough and get into the "real world". But this stopped me from actually enjoying my years as a teenager. Being who I am, I am always growing up faster than my years but high school and the people I have spent these last four years with have shown me that it is okay to take a step back and enjoy being young. I wanted to grow up and partially was forced to, and now that it is time to leave and go to college and be on my own, I am not ready. I wish that I had enjoyed high school and gone to the games and the dances instead of worrying about money and grades because high school is where you try to find yourself and make connections; and that is the part that I am going to miss the most, my friends and the people that I am not very close with but whos' smiles can fill me with joy.

Remember When ...

This isn't a one time deal, but somehow whenever I am with Abby and Macy

in particular, the Disney Barbie movies come up and Abby starts singing the duets. They are just some really great movies and I do not know why but the conversation almost always gets drawn back to Barbie. Last year in IB art, we would go around and talk about our pieces and Tyler Morgan was the king of speeches and tying his art to different meanings. For our diptych, he created the form of a man within nature and he made this represent the effect of mankind on nature and it was just beautiful.

SAYDA TAYLOR

Yosemite High School has always held a special place in my heart. Throughout middle school, high school was always the light at the end of the tunnel but little did I know how many doors this school would open for me. My four years at YHS have taught me how to manage a busy schedule, step out of my comfort zone and to stay motivated through difficult times. My teachers have never failed to help me out of a difficult situation, whether I was behind in class due to sports or if I was not understanding a lesson. I think that my experience here would have been much different without the endless support from my teachers. The academics are not the only benefit of attending Yosemite High School. The athletics here at YHS have been the highlight of my high school career. I will never forget the friendships I have made through sports. The amount of time and hard work from my coaches have made me into the athlete I am today. I believe it is because of them I am able to participate in athletics at a college level. Next year I will be playing indoor as well as sand volleyball for Fresno City College. I don't think my high school experience could have been any better and I can't imagine attending any other high school than Yosemite High School.



KYLA THOMAS

As an individual who did not attend Yosemite high school my freshman year and transferred to better my education, I believe that switching schools was the best decision I could have made. I personally moved for the IB biology class that I am about to test in. I have learned a plethora of life lessons as well as academic skills that has prepared me for college. I have especially learned time management and how to ask questions. Before if I did not understand a topic, I would simply get frustrated and give up, now I am motivated to continue asking questions and to persist until I comprehend the topic. The previous shame and embarrassment I experienced has vanished into a drive to learn. The most essential lesson I have learned throughout my high school years has been the importance of choosing what is best for me, regarding education as well as relationships. Rather than feeling pressured to do what past friends were doing, I have learned to choose the best choice for myself rather than someone else.

While in high school I have met some fantastic students and teachers, the one who stands out the most to me is Carole Calderwood. During the time I have been at YHS I have gotten to know Mrs. Calderwood on a professional and personal level, she has helped me through college decisions, and any obstacle that has come my way. I admire her, and she has provoked a substantial interest in the biological field.

Remember When ...

One of my fellow award winners and I have been friends for 3 years. When I transferred to YHS she came up to me and stated, “we are going to be best friends”. Since then we have described our friendship as “forced upon” and has been a long running joke throughout our friendship. If anyone asks, I was forced into a friendship with Lillian Dickmeyer.

One of my fellow award winners and I went on a trip to UC Berkeley with CSF and took the buddy system very seriously. On the BART and any time we would lose each other we would shout “BUDDY” over and over until we found each other. Needless to say, Jasmine Tanoury is my forever buddy and we have learned that you should never eat the graffiti.

AMANDA TRUELOVE

Initially, I did not anticipate that a high school-level education would give me experiences and people that will continue to influence my decisions for the duration of my life. Although this is only the beginning of my life experiences, in this last year at Yosemite High School I have learned more about myself and what I desire to accomplish through a career in nursing from my teachers, friends and peers than I did in any previous years. My teachers gave me a certain responsibility with the IB and AP curriculums, and although I did not always meet their expectations, I have become a greater individual because of it. This has been an incredible experience that I am fortunate to have obtained through a small mountain community, but I believe that there are improvements to be made determining what being a valedictorian really means. I am honored to be recognized as an accomplished student, but high school has shown me that although valedictorians and IB students are considered what we perceive to be “intelligent”, some never fail to make me recognize that being intelligent does not always mean being kind, generous or a good person. As I am being given the chance to utilize my voice, it is important for me to thank Mrs. Hardison, Mrs. Solomon and Mrs. Camstrom for their efforts to make the community service Senior Projects a mandatory assignment, and for attempting to make generosity and giving back to our community part of our education system.



ABIGAIL WILLIAMS

My experience at Yosemite High School has been a memorable one. It has taught me not only surface knowledge, but valuable knowledge about myself and the world. I have been able to develop my strengths and explore my weaknesses. In the future I wish to study philosophy and eventually pursue a career in law. This decision was largely shaped by my experiences in both Mock trial and Theory of Knowledge. In the future I plan on attending Bethel University in St. Paul. While I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Oakhurst and at YHS, I am excited to explore an entirely new climate. (A slightly colder one!) I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities Yosemite High has offered me. The chance to be involved in clubs, sports, and other extracurriculars all at once is something that has shaped who I am and that I am incredibly thankful for.