

# SACA

2008 - 2009



# TO YOU

Year in Review

[www.sacacademy.com](http://www.sacacademy.com)

Vol. 1, No. 1





Photo by Mrs. Annie Carpenter

**Mrs. Gia Leonetti helps student Jose Valenzuela with his future planning.**

## Creating your future course inspires students to dream

By Dillon Landry

The Creating Your Future course helps students plan for a most important time: the future. In the course students look up information on their interests and what jobs appeal to them and determine goals to reach their dreams.

We also have representatives from the military and other groups come to the school and talk about their jobs and what the students could do for them when we graduate from high school.

The course is not all planning though, during the course the students must write a 3-5 page essay detailing what their choice is and some information on the career of their dreams.

Once they have completed the paper they need to create a PowerPoint presentation to show to the rest of the students in the Creating Your Future course.

## Creative writing club ready for competition

By Clark Kent

Southern Arizona Community Academy's third creative writing club and seminar is currently in mid-term. During the past month and a half, the club has been discussing the intricacies of writing short fiction. This has involved reading, discussion, and analysis of both classic and contemporary short stories.

Attendance of club meetings, which take place on Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. in the East Room, has ranged from eight to 12 students. Students who attend and participate through to the end of the seminar will receive credit toward graduation.

Students also participate in workshop critiques of each other's stories. As instructor of the seminar, and graduate of the University of Arizona's English and Creative Writing programs, Mr. Anthony believes that workshops should be an integral part of any young writer's learning process. Mr. Anthony noted that even professional writers take part in workshops to continue honing their craft.

Following the short fiction workshop, the seminar will move on to poetry for the remaining six weeks of the seminar. Anyone who is interested in being part of the club, attending the seminar, or competing in contests should inquire about details. This year, David Gause won an award for a poem entered in Tucson's "River of Words" poetry competition for grades K-12. David's poem is published on page eight.



# Eagles take championship game



By Juan Matus

The 2008 flag football season at SACA ended with a championship win for the Eagles over Aztlan Academy at Kino Sports Center on November 5.

During the pre-championship games the Eagles finished with a record of 5-3, beating Southgate in the semifinals 6-0 and moving on to the championship where they prevailed over Aztlan 24-20.

The team’s defenses consisted of Danny Chavez, Joseph Drow, and Haydon Buttram. The Eagles’ offensive players were led by Jorge Atondo, Cedric Squire, Josh Hoover, and Jose Blanco Lopez.

Regarding the season, Coach Jose Rodriguez said, “At the beginning of the season our goal was to improve each game and hopefully have a chance at winning the championship ... That is what we set out to do and we did it.”

Jorge Atondo said that even though there were many challenges during the season, Southgate being the most difficult, the team stayed focused. Atondo attributed this to the team’s “wanting” it and also to Coach Jose Rodriguez’s tenacity and direction.

In regard to his mentorship in the football program Coach Rodriguez said, “Throughout the year I preached that defense and discipline wins games. Our defense got us to the championship game, and our discipline won us the title ... Now that we have the title, we want to win it all again next year.”

Photos by Ms. Gia Leonetti

**(Left) Victor Cervantes, Jorge Atondo, and Coach Jose Rodriguez. (Right) The team celebrates.**

## Southern Arizona Community Academy

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“Where Life and Learning Connect”

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to prepare mature students academically to achieve personal goals and meet the requirements of the Arizona State Board of Education as well as to become lifelong learners by providing a one-on-one learning environment which fosters critical thinking skills, social responsibility, and ownership of success.*

### Contributors to this Issue:

Mark Anthony Febbo, Editor & Production Manager

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# SACA student attends National Youth Leadership Forum in D.C.



Photos by Robert Futch

By Ahren Bomerich

In February, I had the privilege of attending the National Youth Leadership Forum. The NYLF hosts programs centered on preparing high achieving students for careers in various fields.

I was nominated for the Forum on Defense, Intelligence, and Diplomacy. This involved traveling to Washington, D.C. for one week to take part in various meetings and leadership activities which educated us on the overall working of America's national security policies.

Stepping off the plane at Washington Dulles International Airport, I was greeted by an NYLF faculty advisor and shuttled to the 4H National Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside of the capitol district.

It was here I would be staying for the week, roomed with other attendees of the program in dorm-like living quarters. The night of arrival all attendees were assigned to a "group" consisting of about 20 other students, and with these groups the majority of the leadership activities took place.

The group system also provided a basis for healthy competitive spirit, and became a family of sorts over the course of the week. Activities for the week included seminars with big-name players in the defense industry, including Lieutenant General Keith B. Alexander, director of the NSA, and Jeff Kueter, president of the George C. Marshall Institute.

We had ample opportunity to explore the capitol dis-

*(Cont. page 6)*

# *NHS works alongside habitat for humanity*

By Victoria Villela

SACA's National Honor Society had the chance to give service to the community this month by participating in Habitat for Humanity.

Six NHS students, Matthew Figueroa, Everett Grondin, Victoria Villela, Mario Gonzales, Cheryl Pablo, and Annette Hill, took the chance to go to work on one of three occasions. Two students took part in landscaping; two painted a house; while the last pair cleaned windows and filled in cracks.

The students arrived at the school at the bright hour of 6:15 a.m. to get ready to leave for the day. At the work site they were bundled up but ready to serve as the site manager, J.J. , gave them tasks. As they worked, side-by-side with other volunteers and women from the state penitentiary, they were able to "get a taste for what it is to care," as Mr. Lovio, principal, said.

Annette Hill, who took part in painting the house, said it was lots of fun and a great opportunity. Everett Grondin, who landscaped, liked all the nice people he met at the site. All who participated in the activity would recommend it to future NHS members.

## **Starting college at SACA**

By Lorraine Villela

Most high schools offer a wide range of elective courses, but Southern Arizona Community Academy has a different take. SACA offers credit for college classes, and SACA pays for it. To get the benefit of a paid-for college class, you have to meet a few qualifications.

First, you must have adequate grades, good behavior, and meet the attendance requirement of 24 hours per week on a weekly basis. Participation in extracurricular activities is always a plus.

Next, students must get the approval of two instructors: one from a Math or Science instructor, and one from an English or Social studies instructor. Ultimately, approval comes from the school principal, Mr. Abelardo Cubillas.

"It's really cool," freshman Gena Pursley said. "You get to start [taking college classes] while you're still in high school."



Photos by Ms. Melissa Haller

**NHS students Mario Gonzales (Top); Cheryl Pablo and Annette Hill (Above); and Everett Grondin and Matthew Figueroa (Below).**





Photos by Mrs. Annie Carpenter

**(Above) Alex Turner in the dunk tank. (Below) Students duel at the SACA Fall Fun Festival. The Spring Fun Festival is tentatively scheduled for May 15.**



*(Youth Leadership)*

trict itself, and I personally visited the Supreme Court, National Archives, Library of Congress, and the Capitol Building, as well as the majority of our nation's great monuments.

A particularly memorable experience was arranging a meeting in the office of Senator John McCain, to obtain a "Gallery Pass" which allowed me to sit and observe the United States Senate in session.

I was also able to tour the secretive National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, responsible for atmospheric reconnaissance and visit the Udvar-Hazy Aeronautical Center, while other students visited sites such as the Annapolis Naval Academy and the CIA.

Overall, it was an eye-opening week from which I feel I gained a lot. I made some good contacts and got a good idea of what a career in defense might involve. The National Youth Leadership Forum also hosts programs for the medical, law, and technology fields, and is a superb opportunity for career-minded individuals.

## Students compete at an international level

By Victoria Villela

Each week on Tuesday at 11 a.m. twelve students gather in the conference room. They eagerly wait for Mrs. Carpenter to fill their heads with mind-blowing math problems as they prepare for the international competitions that take place every month.

Math Club is a place where students from SACA, who all share a talent in math, come together to learn about higher level math topics and then demonstrate their knowledge in competitions. Each week they receive instruction on a new math skill, and then a packet to help them master it before the next competition.

When the competitions come around, they all meet together and for 35 minutes they slave over seven mind-blowing questions. Shouts of joy can be heard in the room as students receive epiphanies and are able to answer the questions. After time is up, Mrs. Carpenter takes the top scores and submits them. A few weeks later we receive the results of how we placed internationally. SACA is listed in the top 100 schools.

Lorraine Villela, a freshman, enjoys Math Club because of the knowledge she gains as well as the friends she has met there.

Gena Pursley enjoys the math credits she receives for being a part of the club, and most participants enjoy taking a break from normal school work in addition to learning. So take advantage of the Math Club and join today!

## SACA may offer lunch starting next August

By Clark Kent

SACA is currently working with the Arizona Department of Education's Health and Nutrition Services to implement a free and reduced lunch program to begin for the 2009-2010 school year, according to Mr. Abelardo Cubillas, principal. This is being done with an aim toward helping students focus and stay productive throughout the day through proper nutrition.

# IT program gets youths ready for workplace

By Dillon Landry

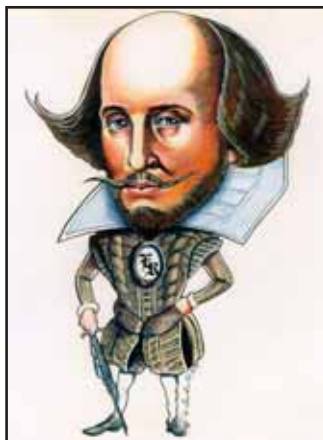
The Microsoft IT Program is a special opportunity for SACA that enables our school to teach students the information necessary to be certified as a Microsoft Application Specialist, an excellent item to have on your resume.

The program utilizes study guides and the official Microsoft online courses to help students understand such applications as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more. The study guide for each course is filled with the lab projects and important tidbits of information that aid in the absorption of the course content.

The core of the course is in the online interface. All the information you need to know to be certified as a specialist is located there in a variety of formats, everything from video demonstrations to interactive labs.

If you need help or need your work checked for accuracy, all you have to do is ask one of the technology teachers or a student that has been certified in the course. If you can follow directions well it should be absolutely no problem to become certified in all the Microsoft Courses offered at SACA. Each course is worth a half credit in vocational education, so if you can understand the content and pass the certification test you can easily fill in all of your electives in no time at all.

SACA is also an official Certiport testing center, so once you have completed the course content you can get certified right here at the school. What's more, SACA will even pay for student certification.



Fancy yourself a writer?

Sign up for the next creative writing seminar and get some credit for your efforts.

See Mr. Anthony for details.



Photo by Mrs. Annie Carpenter

**From left to right: Coach Jose Rodriguez, Cheryl Pablo, Rosselyn Chavaria, Vaniessia Godinez, Alisha Jones, Brianna Brown, Yeraldith Lopez, and Stephanie Aguilera. Not pictured: Austin Hourscht and Maurissa Smith.**

## Girls' team perseveres

By Andrea Sanchez

A normal basketball team calls for about 12 players. SACA has only nine, but this is a fact that hardly puts a damper on their spirit. The Eagles have gone 3-2 during this season, with more games to come.

For the duration of a regular practice the girls do routine drills as Coach Jose Rodriguez watches and learns about his players' strong points and weaknesses.

During an interview with the coach he commented that, "I want to show my players how to not get elated on a win or too low on a loss."

Coach Rodriguez has been involved with girl's basketball for 2 years and knows the feeling of winning, but warns not to get too arrogant, because with that win, there might come a loss to "knock you off your high horse."

Another interesting comment came from Brianna Brown, a member of the girl's basketball team, who said, "I would rather lose a game and know we gave it our all, than win a game knowing we didn't put our hearts into it." Coach Rodriguez not only teaches free throws and rebounds, but also the respect players must have for the game and opponents.

This road doesn't seem to end.  
It just stretches on  
into the horizon.

I've been walking  
for what seems like forever  
with the sun beating down  
on my sweat-soaked back.

I need a drink,  
but my bottle is empty.

Looking on,  
I see nothing but this road  
and the flat desert land  
that surrounds it like moss  
surrounds a pond.

If only I could turn off the sun  
this desert would just fade away,  
but I can't and,  
it won't.

Still no water  
am I doomed to walk  
in this unbearable heat  
all my life?

As the sun falls out of the sky  
the moon kisses the earth  
with a cool breeze.

Suddenly the road gets shorter  
and all I want to do is sit by the road  
and enjoy this sweet whisper of air  
on my sweaty face.

In the distance  
I hear a pack of coyotes  
serenading the moon  
in hope that she will stay and listen.

Now when I look at the road  
I see a bridge  
over a beautiful calm lake  
where I can fill my bottle.

The lake is the perfect temperature  
to swim in for a while.

The sun begins breathing warm air  
over the mountain tops.

As the sun rises  
the lake just melts out of being,  
along with the bridge.

Now it's just a road  
in the desert.

## LONELY MAN'S ONLY LAND

DAVID GAUSE

*Southern Arizona Community Academy's own David Gause is a winner in this year's regional "River of Words" poetry competition for his poem "Lonely Man's Only Land." David will be honored for his work at the Tucson Children's Museum on April 15, 2009.*

I guess it's time to keep walking....

Photo by Mr. Mark Anthony Febbo