

The

# Pirate Speaks

Senior Issue  
May 2013

Class

of

20

13

# *The Pirate Speaks Crew*

**Advisor:** *Sheri Carter*

**Carrie Brower**

*Madison Byrd*

**Dan Jordan**

**KATIE SIMS**

**Editor: Emily Waters**

**Guest Writer: Tayler Boggans**

Dear Readers,

I can't believe the school year is over already, not that I'm complaining, bring on summer!! I would like to take a second to applaud those who made it through Mrs. Worrell's class, when none of us thought we would. Also, congratulations to the Class of 2013! I think I speak for the rest of the school when I say, take us with you!! Well, maybe not the freshmen, we can leave them here. On a serious note, it has been a great year full of fun memories, exhausting projects, lots of life lessons, new friends, and the will power to come back next year. Happy summer guys!

Sincerely,  
Emily Waters

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# The *Crazy* Guy at the End of the Hall

By: **Emily Waters**

Mr. Jeff Spears, a science teacher, has been an educator for 30 years; it is the only job he has ever had. He has been selected as teacher of the year one time and star teacher three times. He said the neatest of the star teacher awards was when his oldest son, Ben, chose him as his star teacher. If someone were to write a book about Mr. Spears' teaching career he said it would be called The Crazy Guy at the End of the Hall.

This is an important school year for Mr. Spears, he plans on retiring this year. His decision became clear this year, "Actually, I wanted to teach until Michael (his son, a junior at PHS) graduated, but this year it became very evident that the time had come for me to move on with my life." Although, his career doesn't end here, he said, "I am trying to go teach at a private school as well as work with home school families."

**"Don't worry, be happy, and  
*always* do your best."**

If Mr. Spears could go back in time thirty years ago to his first year of teaching, he would tell himself, "Don't worry, be happy, and always do your best." He knew he had made the right decision becoming a teacher when, after teaching a new concept, he saw the "light" come on in one of the students, "I was hooked." "I have always enjoyed working with students and watching them grow and mature."

Although it's clear he loves his job, it isn't the only job he has ever dreamed of having. As a child, Mr. Spears was very sickly, so he wanted to be a doctor so that he could help people. His favorite quote is, "What lies behind you and what lies before you are tiny matters compared to what lies within you. Only you can use your ability; it is an awesome responsibility."

Mr. Spears leaves us with this parting message: "I have really been blessed to teach here at Pearl, I only hope that I have blessed others. My sons have received a wonderful education and enjoyed some great experiences. I have had the opportunity to work with some great people."

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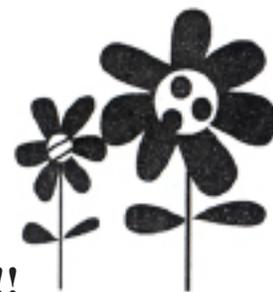
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# My High School Experience

The end is here; the end of the school year for some and the end of high school for others. The Pirate Speaks asked the seniors of Pearl High School to sum up the last four years in just one little word. When they look back they'll remember the chaotic class changes, the stressful homework, the exciting football games, the noteworthy life lessons, and all the fun they had in the commons. Those are things they will carry with them *forever*.

*Tiresome*

-Daniel Notree

**Chaotic**

-Jaraiya Edwards

*Forever*

-Devin Miller

*Stressful*

-Devin Patterson

**Fun**

-Diamond Ranson

**DIVERSE**

-Cody McKay

**Worthwhile**

-Chris Blackstock

**Memorable**

-Katelyn Vanderford

*Inspiring*

-Dan Jordan

*Noteworthy*

-Morgan Thompson

*Exciting*

-Ryan Worsham

**HA!**

-Rachel Granger

# in One Word

By: **Emily Waters**  
**Carrie Brower**

**Successful**

-Brittany McLemore

**Crazy**

-Holly Lott

**Fast!**

-Leondrea McIntyre

**INSANE**

-Billy McWhinnie

**INTERESTING**

-Ryan Azevedo

**GREAT**

-Tessa Courtney

**Different**

-Michael Carpenter

*Procrastination*

-Kendal Kellen Turner

**Extraordinary**

-Brandon Massy

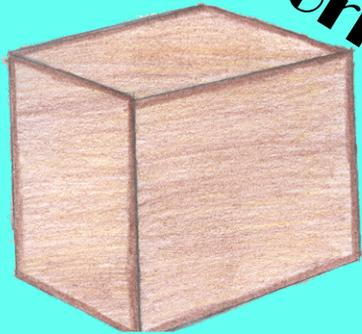
*Memorable*

-Candace Jackson

*Piratey*

-Sarah Boozer

# Just around the corner



The students at Pearl High School told *The Pirate* Speaks about their future in **ten** years.

By: *Madison Byrd*

"I'm going to be a nurse." **Allie Killebrew 12th**

"Bailing my brother out of jail." **Emily Brennan 10th**

"Still at Pearl High School." **Thomas Manchester 12th**

"I see myself being a successful fisherman." **Justin Brewer 9th**

"In the military." **Malik Turner 10th**

"I want to own my own Subway." **Jacob Cook 10th**

"Teaching at Pearl Lower." **Sara Hardin 11th**

"On the moon." **JaQuia Gilbert 12th**

"Still in vet school." **Kevin Frazier 12th**

"Working as a computer tech." **Braddon Williams 11th**

"Living in Louisiana." **Courtney Nolan 12th**

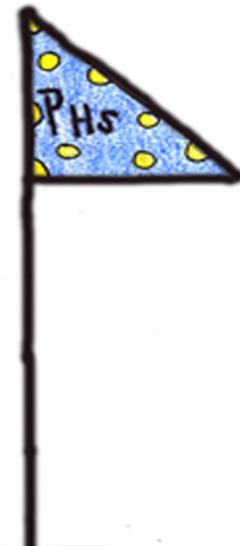
# Senior Year

By: **Carrie Brower**

Diondria Bingham is a very involved senior at Pearl High School. She participates in band, basketball, track and field, Key Club, Beta Club, and National Honors Society. She has gotten all A's for at least one nine weeks all four years she's been in high school.

Diondria is a hardworking student who spends her time wisely studying and preparing for her future. Out of all the classes she has taken, Human Anatomy and Physiology has been her favorite. She said, "I enjoyed learning about the human organ systems, and I loved drawing all our formal drawings." The most beneficial class she's taken has been band. "It has taught me to be a better leader and a better person." She said if she could tell her freshman self one thing, it would be "to keep striving to be the best you can be. Get the most out of these four years. Do as much as you can and get involved. You do not want to look back and say 'I wish I would have done this.'"

Minus the occasional diagnosed "senioritis", Diondria says her senior year was everything she expected; fun, busy, and life-changing. "I have learned to not wait until the last minute to complete assignments." If she had a book written about her high school career, she says it would be called "The Senior Plan". "It would be about me doing what it takes to graduate. It would show all the challenges I would face along the way." Diondria has worked hard to get where she is today, and plans to further her education to become an architect. In ten years, she sees herself working at an architecture firm and working on her own architecture business. Senior Diondria Bingham leaves us with her parting words, "It was a good experience, but it is time for the pirate to leave her ship."



*"It was a good experience,  
but it is time for the pirate  
to leave her ship."*

# I'm Glad I Didn't Drop Out

## Because...

By: KATIE SIMS

"I'm graduating!"  
-Tyler Scott

"The year's not over yet."  
-David Anderson

"I didn't spend 11 years in school to drop out the last year."  
-Miranda Hawkins



Class of 2013...

"I learned so much from this school that I will take with me for the rest of my life."  
-Jordan Nichols

"I still get to see my friends everyday, and I get to keep my scholarships."  
-Devin Carter

"I want to be successful in life."  
-Chance Brock

You're almost there.

"So I could get a well paying job and not be a hobo."  
-Matt Ansley

Seniors told The Pirate Speaks why, now that it is so close to graduation, they are happy they did not drop out.

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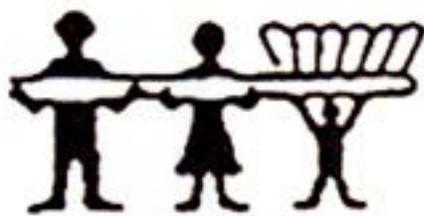
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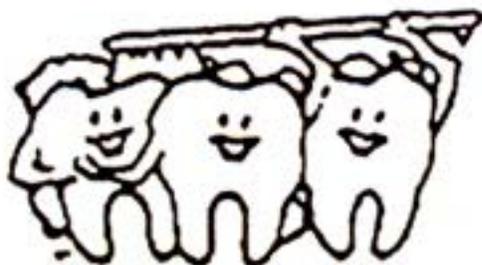


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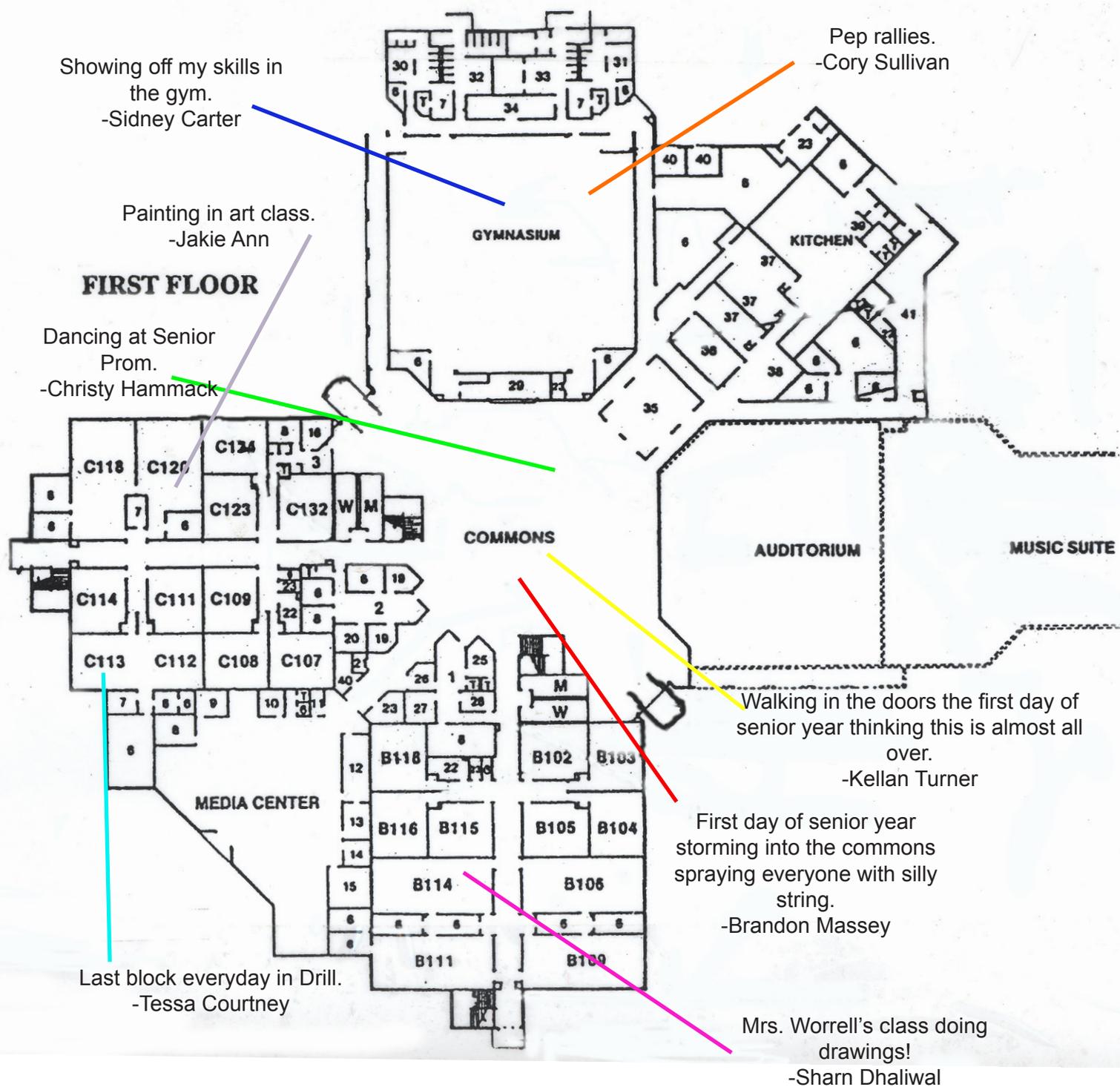
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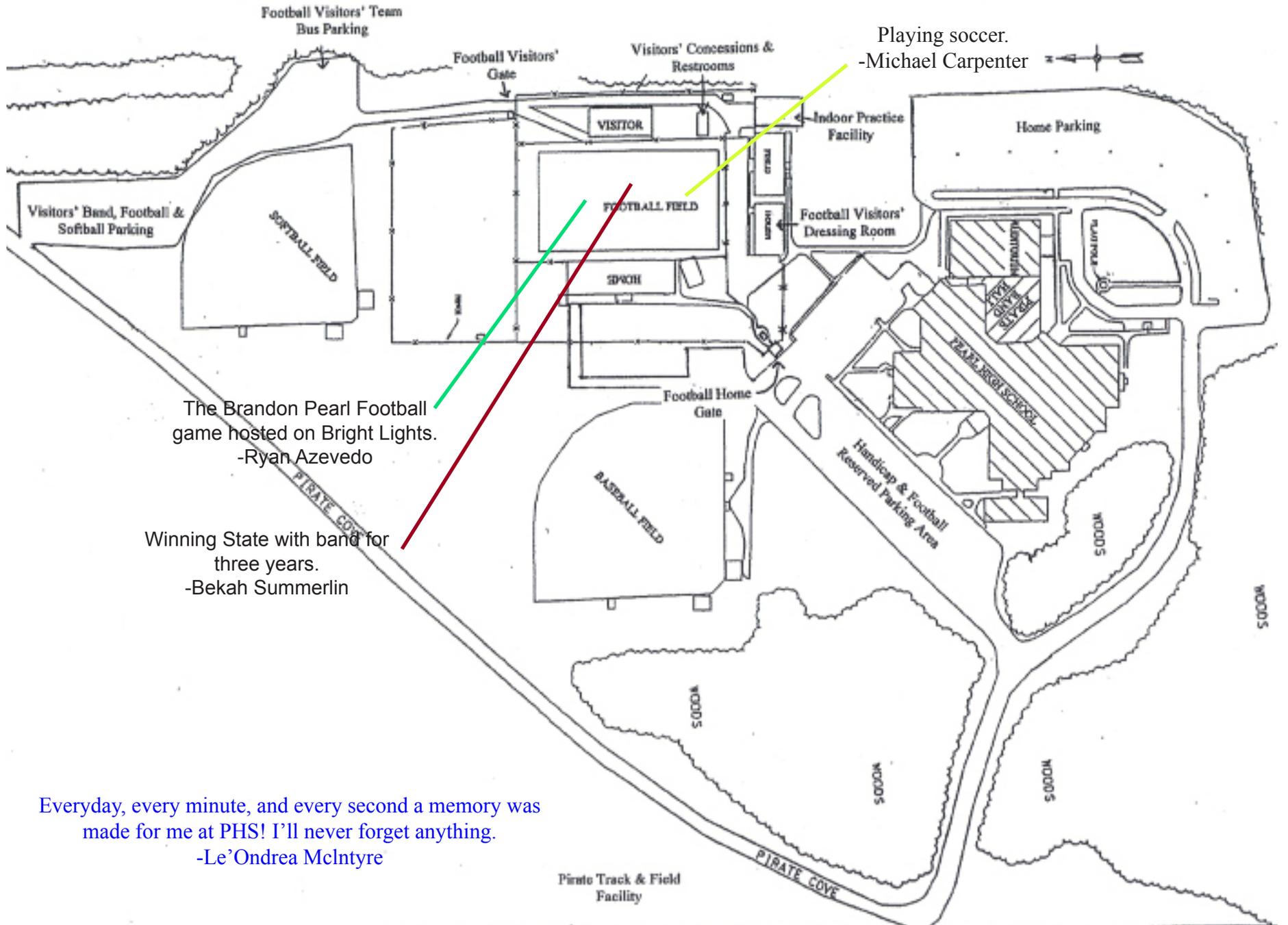


# When I look Back I'll Remember...

By: **Emily Waters**

The class of 2013 is graduating. The Pirate Speaks Staff asked the soon-to-be high school graduates, what their favorite memory was over the last four years. They gave rather inspiring answers, thus proving that even though high school is over, and they will be leaving their books behind, they will always have the comforting memories of making friends, playing sports, achieving their goals, and preparing for their future.





Playing soccer.  
-Michael Carpenter

The Brandon Pearl Football game hosted on Bright Lights.  
-Ryan Azevedo

Winning State with band for three years.  
-Bekah Summerlin

Everyday, every minute, and every second a memory was made for me at PHS! I'll never forget anything.  
-Le'Ondrea McIntyre

# THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

By: *Madison Byrd*

Senior Alex Brower, current member of the Hall of Fame, is counting down until she graduates in a matter of weeks. Alex has enjoyed her time to shine at the top of the food chain as cocaptain of the Pearl “Pirate” Band color guard, but admits she is ready to leave. Struggling to list them all, she tells that she is a member of Beta Club, Key Club, Pirate Connectors, Super Scholars, Quiz Bowl, and National Honors Society.

Among the clubs and extra curricular activities she participates in, Alex is in all honor classes, and has been since her freshman year. “It’s not too much to handle if you apply yourself, but during marching band season it was tough. All in all the honor classes helped with scholarships, so I definitely don’t regret it,” Alex stated.



*Alex Brower has been a member of the Pearl High School Color guard for four years and plays the flute during concert season.*

Looking back to when she was a freshman, Alex reveals she has no regrets from her high school experience; she has proudly achieved all of the goals she strived for when she was a freshman. Explaining what motivated her to strive for her goals, she said: “I’m more intrinsically motivated; I was trying my best to have good things to put on a college application.” Alex is going to attend Honors college at Southern Miss, where she is planning to receive a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science. “I want to be a librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.” She elaborated, smiling at the thought of her future.

Alex’s favorite memory is when she went to Washington, D.C. with the school band. Tenth grade English teacher, Mrs. Crawford, had the biggest impact on her life, inspiring her throughout her high school career. Despite all of her wonderful memories and friends she has become so close to, Alex is impatient for graduation day to arrive. When asked what she would miss the most about high school, she laughed and said “Nothing really, maybe the people. I’m just ready to leave!”

Alex’s advice to lower class men is to expand your horizons and try something new, get involved and meet new people.

**‘It’s not too much to handle if you apply yourself, but during marching band season it was tough. All in all the honor classes helped with scholarships, so I definitely don’t regret it.’**



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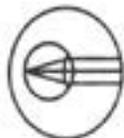
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# Life? It's Not Over Yet.

By: KATIE SIMS

“Life can be much broader once you discover one simple fact, and that is - everything around you that you call life, was made up by people that were no smarter than you. And you can change it, you can influence it, you can build your own things that other people can use.” The previous quote is by Steve Jobs, and it is one way in which Jimmy Bailey, a senior and the star student at Pearl, describes his high school career, but there was far more to high school for Jimmy than a simple phrase.



*Jimmy Bailey has been a part of the PHS band for his entire high school career.*

Jimmy has gone to Pearl for his entire high school career and can remember, on the first day of school his freshman year, expecting it to be really hard but now says it was not as hard as he had originally thought it would be.

Jimmy, when asked how he feels with graduation so close, answered, “Ready for it to be over, especially English.” Jimmy is looking forward to more free time and no band or summer reading. He says he is going to be attending MSU after graduation and will be studying in the computer science field.

Two teachers were the main motivators for Jimmy: Mrs. Crawford, his star teacher, and Mr. Little, his band teacher. “Mrs. Crawford always understood and tried to work with our schedules with band,” he said, “And Mr. Little taught us to be better people.”

He also said that there was one major regret he had. “I really wanted to take choir; and I wish I had given something else up, so I could have done choir.”

While Jimmy is ready for graduation, he said there are a few things and people he will miss. He says one of the biggest things he’ll miss is the ability to be involved in *everything*. “I’ll miss Mrs. Crawford because she always understood what was going on,” Jimmy said.

“If the best four years of my life are anything but the last four years of my life,” Jimmy said, “I’m not living right.”

Jimmy would like to leave something for those remaining at PHS after he leaves, “Take advantage of every opportunity; don’t let any opportunity go to waste; don’t let money be a deciding factor. If you want to do something, do it!”

# In 3 Little Words

By: *Madison Byrd* and **Emily Waters**

The school year is unfortunately coming to an end. The students of Pearl High School were asked to reflect on their school year, and describe all 180 days of the year in three little words. It was quite difficult, but the students of Pearl High School are always up for a challenge.

“Loooooong, cold, colorful!” -Sarah Allen 10

“Almost Senior Time!” -Sara Hardin 11

“It’s Been Non-stop.” -Cheyenne Fraun 9

“Blood, sweat, tears.” -Taylor Mason 9

“Exciting, difficult, challenging.” -Nick Childers 12

“Full of experience.” -Kristen Hodges 11

“Worst year ever.” -Becca Brock  
10

“Very, very boring.” -Kanisha Taylor 11

“Swag, swag, swag.” -Jenna Skeen 9

“Lesson well learned.” -Rebecca Donald 9

“Frustrating, interesting, interchanging.” -Ahkala Trigg 11

*"Timeline of a Plate" By Dan Jordan*

The time has come at last  
To wear cap and gown  
Among the crowd quite vast  
Walking off stage with glee  
In hand with a high school degree

And now it is time for college  
A place of higher learning  
To add more to the sea of knowledge  
Achieve this step and it may seem  
One step closer to that dream

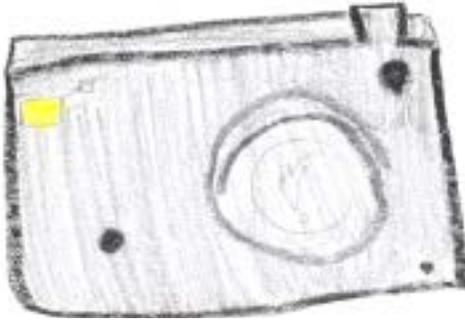
Cheer! For it is that time of year  
After college there is but one path  
To find that future career  
Somewhere across the land  
To get cash in hand

It has been years in the career empire  
Dream accomplished, life fulfilled  
And now it is time to retire  
Sitting at home peacefully  
Living off of social security



Now life draws to a close  
As if the end of a great symphony  
And the wilting of the red rose  
But the fragrance remains, of sweet memory  
Hopefully to once again convene  
The class of 2013

# Don't Forget To Pack



The class of 2013 is getting ready to go off to college. The Pirate Speaks prepared a list of necessary items that they will not be able to survive without.

By: *Taylor Boggans*

A lucky hat for those days where you have absolutely no time to do your hair.

A LOT of Ramen Noodles for those days where that's all you can afford.

Your favorite sweats for those days that is all you feel like wearing.

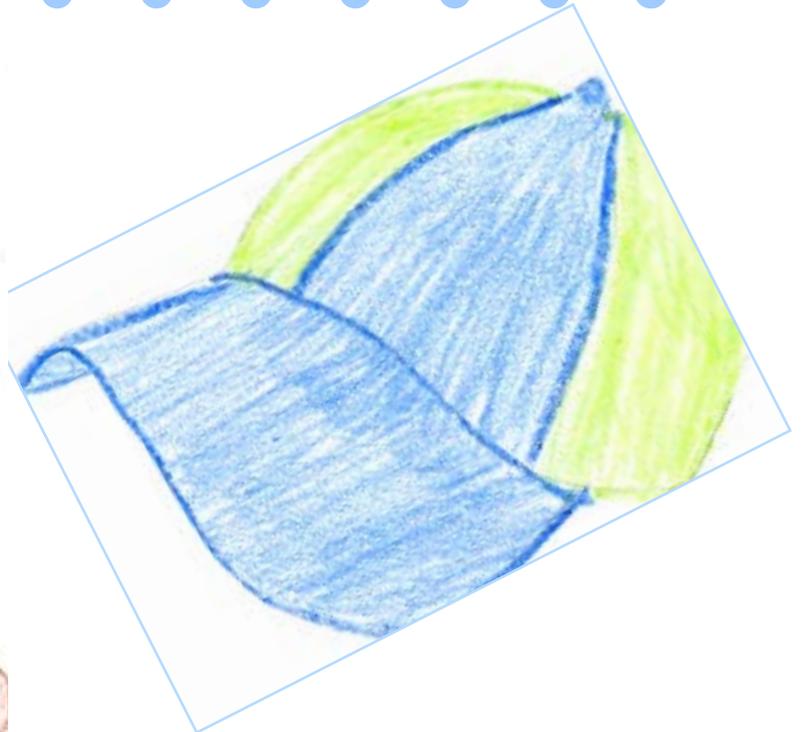
Your favorite pillow because you'll be needing a lot of sleep.

Ear plugs for when your roommate is being way too loud.

Cute pajamas to make you feel like a kid again.

A camera to capture all of your memories.

A stuffed animal to remind you of home.



# *The End...*

Here it comes. The end is near. The end of what?

The end of the school year; the end of homework every night and waking up early to get here.

But for some, it's more than that. For some, it is the last time they will pass through these halls. This is the last time they'll make the trip up Pirate Cove.

Even if it is not your last time, it is the end of this time. While many are happy, some may feel sad as they read these words; but do not worry.

As this year comes to a close, the warm, bright summer opens up. The summer takes us to a place full of dreams to follow, mistakes to learn from, and room to grow.

And in this room to grow, you have the chance to let your talents blossom. Time can be devoted to this talents rather than the school requirements.

So remember, as these year ends, there is a door opening to extraordinary possibilities.

By: KATIE SIMS



## Donation to Pearl High School

The Waring Oil Company, LLC, of Vicksburg, wholesale marketing partner for Exxon/Mobil, donated \$500 to PHS for use in the area of math and/or science. This gift is in conjunction with the Exxon/ Mobil Educational Alliance program given annually to nominated schools throughout the nation. PHS was nominated by local Exxon/Mobil station located at 101 Pearson Road owned by Sonny and Lucky Singh. Pictured (left to right) are Bob Burns, consultant for the Waring Oil Company, and PHS administrators Dr. Lundy Brantley, principal, John Craven, Richard Smithhart and Dale Shepherd, assistant principals.

## Local professionals speak to English I students

*By guest writers: J.T. Dampier, Shantell Jones, Sydney Benton*

PHS students got a lesson from the ‘real world’ recently when a former newspaper editor visited their class.

Grace Simmons-Fisher, the director of communications for the Mississippi Department of Corrections, talked with ninth grade students about her 30-year career in the newspaper business and public relations. She explained the importance of enhancing reading and writing skills at a young age. These techniques helped Fisher out of being shy all the way to being a successful newspaper reporter.

She said she was a good reporter because she was always interested in people. “My husband has had to drag me out of convenience stores on many occasions because I would meet someone and just not stop talking,” she said, laughing. This is only one example of why young people need good communication skills.

Much of her lecture consisted of experiences and explanations of her current job at the department of corrections. She spoke with the students about the size of the correctional facility. She told the students interesting facts, such as tax payers pay \$42.11 per day to support each inmate. The students took great interest in what Simmons had to share with them. “She gave great advice, no matter what we want to do as a career,” Shantell Jones said.

*By guest writers Nick Myers, Tevin McGuire, Earnest Wiggins III, Bianca Williams*

The President of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education recently visited students at PHS to talk with them about the value of education and hard work.

Selena Swartzfager, of Brandon, spoke to Ms. Hadden’s 5B English I class. She told them, “You can have a successful life if you get your education and work hard,” Swartzfager said. In her early school years, she played basketball, ran cross country, played volleyball, and was a hard-working student.

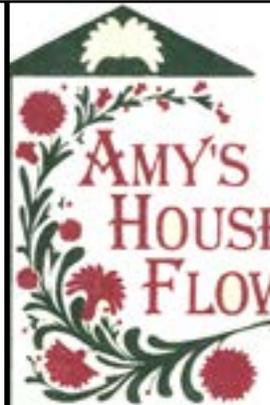
She told the class that, while English was not her favorite subject, she saw the value in learning to read and write well. That is especially important in her job as president of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education, where she frequently has to write grant applications and reports to secure funding for her organization.

She began to pursue a finance career because she was good at numbers. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi and majored in human research and management. She earned a master’s degree in business administration. During that time, she saved money by working at Wendy’s and a dude ranch.



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*“God Is Our Boss”*

Madison Byrd

Dan Jordan

Garvie  
Browner

Katie Sims

Emily Waters

To all those at PHS:

These four years at PHS has been insightful and fun. Marching in the band has taught me so much.

The many teachers helping me to have a better education Newspaper, where I can put my skills to use. And of course, my many friends to share memories with and to make life easier.

As a freshman on the staff, I really enjoyed working with the sophomore girls and the one senior guy. Together, Mrs. Carter and them have inspired me to write often, smile more, and love alot. I can't wait until next year. 

As a newbie walking into newspapers, I didn't know what to expect.

But as the year went on, I grew as a writer. I have made some lifelong friends with some

wonderful people. Newspaper has been a great experience & I'm extremely excited about next year! 

Yay! It's overrrr!! I have a few thank you's I would like to give out. First, thank you to Mr. Crane, your excited yelling and dramatic examples always kept me awake during 1st block (even though I would rather been asleep), not to mention the ever so suble trash can kick. Next we have

Mrs. Worrell. Thank you so much for keeping me busy! I mean who needs sleep? Then we have señora Ochoa, you are fabulosos! Last we have Ms. DeFoore, the only math teacher I've ever had that speaks english! Thank you guys so much! 

So as this chapter is closing on my high school journey, I'm happy to say it was great!!!! I enjoyed working with the other staff members. I can honestly say I can't wait to see what the next chapter, Junior Year holds for me. 

-The Staff



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So . . .  
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray  
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,  
you're off to Great Places!  
Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting.  
So . . . *get on your way!*

