

SLOHS EXPRESSIONS

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Congratulations to the Class of 2024. Graphic courtesy of senior Alma Tinoco.

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The Perfect Time Is Now, Seniors! Take Flight!



While many students are attending Cuesta College and Cal Poly, a large portion are moving out of town or even out of state all together. Photo courtesy of senior Asia Jade Hagans.

OPINION EDITOR ASIA JADE HAGANS

San Luis Obispo is a town many seniors at San Luis Obispo High School can say they've lived in for their whole lives. Most seniors have gone to the same elementary schools, lived in the same neighborhoods, and done the same things. SLO is a great town to raise a family in but if you're young, you shouldn't stay here forever.

"After I graduated college at [Cal Poly], I moved down to San Diego for about a year. My girlfriend at the time was finishing up at UC San Diego and so I moved to be closer to her. SLO is a really nice place to live, but there are a lot of other great places to live and it's nice to know what's out there. Obviously there's a little bit of feeling homesick," said Chemistry teacher Ryan Ritchie.

There aren't many things for young adults to do in a place like SLO. We are too young to go where the college kids go but too old to go where the middle school and elementary kids go. All we can do is work and shop, but who wants to do that all the time? Who wants to drive thirty minutes to an hour to have some fun for maybe two hours? Who's trying to spend their whole check in one store? Obviously, people are going to go to parties and get into things, but that gets old quickly too!

"I wanted to get out of SLO; I don't want to live here anymore. SLO is a great city, I just think that since I've spent so much time here, it's gotten dull to me. I chose to go to Chico State because it's beautiful up there and it's a change of scenery which I need," said senior Andrew Moersdorf.

Leaving SLO for college- or any other reason- is probably one of the most beneficial experiences any senior can have. Moving to a new city or state brings more opportunities for growth and opens people's eyes into seeing things they wouldn't have otherwise. It's a way to become cultured and meet people who you most likely wouldn't have met lest you continued to stay at home base.

"I'm going to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and majoring in na-

tural resources and environmental science. I was on the fence for deciding to go there and my intent wasn't to leave California. I don't think it has anything to do with liking the town or not. I just think it's a good opportunity to meet new people. There's a lot of pressure on people to go straight to a four year or community college after you graduate and I think it should be normalized that people can feel comfortable [taking a gap year] and not feel like they have to go to college," said senior Maggie Mckay.

Remember though, there is nothing wrong with staying in town. It can be really difficult to get up and leave the place you've always known and that's fine! If you want to take a gap year and rack up some cash, do that. If you're trying to transfer out of community college after many years, do that too. If you just want to stay near family and friends, that's also okay!

"I didn't really know what school I wanted to go to or what I wanted to study. I saw a TED Talk in Mr. Leebrick's class about [gap years] and I was like 'oh, that sounds pretty cool' so I decided to do it to get a break from school. I'm moving to San Diego with my sister because she's going to school down there. I would have moved anywhere but definitely out of SLO because I wanted a new experience," said senior Ainsley Stephens.

You don't have to leave SLO; you could never leave if that's what you want. But, understand that there is more to the world than here, Santa Maria, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. A lot of seniors are already well traveled but for those who aren't, you can still get out there. California is a gigantic state, most people who were born here can't even name all the cities let alone recognize certain places within their area code.

"I've traveled to Argentina, Taiwan, Italy, France, England, and Malaysia. I don't know a ton [of California cities], but I can recognize names of cities," said senior Elena Hsia.

Just give it a thought. Open your wings and embrace the newfound freedom you are about to have. Don't stay strapped down to SLO because you think it's the only option--it's not.

Are Electives Necessary For A Complete School Year?

REPORTER COLIN DOYLE

Being a senior at San Luis Obispo High School means that there is a temptation to do only electives in order to cruise through the last year of high school. But is this the best idea? Senior students in high school have to make the decision to work hard and finish as strong as they can, or lay back and relax and enjoy their last year on campus.

Of course, this decision is fully up to the student themselves.

"[Electives are] not as productive as they can be. I feel that senior students should have some form of mandatory requirements," said senior Emily Nicoletti.

Saving all electives in your senior year causes a rougher time for students when they go into their freshman year of college.

"I think one or two electives is a good break," said senior Audrey Drenckpohl.

All electives can be helpful for students who are seniors, but they all agreed that there is a good ratio between hard classes and electives.

If students have a large amount of electives, it can cause a better experience than having all hard classes, but making that choice means it will be harder to go to college because there will be a lot of work to be done. Students would not be ready to dive full steam ahead into college due to not remembering time management and how to keep school life and a social life at the same time.

It is important to have a ratio that works for you and your schedule.

For everyone, this ratio may change slightly based on your work ethic. People who are harder workers and want to push through might want to have less electives compared to someone who wants easy laidback senior year.

"I suspect that the lack of rigor by having just a lot of electives would not set those seniors that are college bound out for success," said Computer Science teacher Steve Crow.

Overall, it is exciting for the students who are seniors and are going to college in just a few short months.

I hope that seniors enjoyed their time here no matter what path they took when it came to electives.

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Life After School



When you're working hard out there, it's okay to take a break. Photo courtesy of senior Alma Tinoco.

REPORTER BOB MEYERS

The school year is ending, and all the San Luis Obispo High School seniors are off to college, right? Whether people like it or not, the idea that all high school graduates must prepare for and go to college has invaded senior culture throughout our nation, and SLOHS is not immune.

Despite this, there are seniors who have other plans after school, from traveling to joining the military to entering the workforce. So why does our school focus so heavily on preparing for college, while borderline neglecting any other options for our seniors?

"I think that there's definitely an expectation where if you aren't going to college, people think: 'Oh, so you don't care about your future.' And that's not accurate," said senior Naomi Garrett.

While it's not precise, it definitely creates a mindset about college in the eyes of seniors, which causes many to not even consider anything besides college. According to the SLOHS Senior Expressions Poll, only 3.7 percent of SLOHS seniors are taking non-college paths, including senior Joaquin Barba, who is instead joining the Navy when he graduates high school.

"I don't think that college culture is something that I want to partake in. I think it'd be very irresponsible to do such. And with things like tuition, college at this point seems more like setting myself up for failure than success," said Barba.

So perhaps one reason high schools focus so much on college preparation is because of a lack of a significant demographic of students interested in anything else.

But why is this demographic so small? One possible reason is the lack of preparation high school gives for entering the workforce, as only fifty percent of SLOHS seniors think high school prepares students for the workforce. With more and more manual jobs being replaced by machines, jobs left for humans are ones that require critical thinking and ingenuity. And while plenty of people in high school possess these traits, many businesses think that those skills are not fully developed until college, and thus require college degrees.

"You're more highly valued if you have [a college degree], because you're specialized in a specific role. You've gotten higher education, so it makes you better at fulfilling a specific task," said senior Lawrence Wozniak.

Wozniak is not alone in this sentiment, as 88.8 percent of SLOHS seniors believe that having some sort of college degree greatly improves your chances of being financially successful.

The norm of going to college immediately after high school is a norm whose roots run deep in our society. And while it's perfectly acceptable to pursue immediate higher education, it shouldn't be presented in a way in which it seems like it is our only option. Our schools should focus more on preparing students for all options, allowing them to have more than one possible path after high school.

College? Whatever: Take A Gap Year Or Two Instead

EDITOR TEA FISCHER

Many students at San Luis Obispo High School feel they must go to college. According to SLOHS Senior *Expressions* poll 94.3 percent of students said they were going to college. Why are they going? Many think they're pressured and society is telling them they have to. However, I don't think that's the full story.

"It's a time you can take a break from school and figure out what you want to do. Figure out who you are outside of school," said senior Cade Laity.

Gap years are a great way to figure out not only what someone's passionate about, but also what they want to do with their life.

Starting one's own life can be really overwhelming. Taking a gap year to travel, or to work can help ease the overbearingness.

"Explore. The best thing to do is travel," said senior Chris Camp.

There's nothing more freeing than traveling by oneself exploring the world on one's own.

However, like most things there are drawbacks.

Students that get out of their school routine find it more difficult to readjust after taking a year off. This leads to procrastination, declining grades, and unorganized habits.

Don't let that phase you though, Tigers! SLOHS seniors who are still unsure of what they want to do, take a gap year. Get a passport and go explore the world. The world is wide and it's waiting for people to explore it!

Sources: *semesteratsea.org*, *bls.gov*, *Expressions Poll 157 on May 9*

Where Adventure Meets the Open Road: Senior Trips



Seniors Diego Senn and Nate Kraker had a great time on one of their past summer trips. Photo courtesy of senior Diego Senn.

REPORTER MILES BLACKWELL

With many San Luis Obispo High School students going straight to college after the summer, they don't have any free time to take breaks from the world and go on vacation.

As seniors are moving out of their family homes, are they planning on bringing back memories of family road trips over the summer? Over the summer, seniors should take time on vacation to be with just their friends, and have a good time.

"I'm going to Mexico over the summer with Nate Kraker, he's a senior, but three surfers on a road trip just got killed in Northern Baja, so we might re-plan our trip, and maybe do Europe instead. It might be a bit safer," said senior Diego Senn.

Mexico has been going in and out of phases of unrest

for many years. It has been safe for a long time, but is it becoming more dangerous. However, is it too dangerous to go on a road trip?

"This year over winter break, I ended up going down to Punta San Jose, which is a little fishing village in Mexico. Diego Senn and I are planning on going down to Baja once again. With the summer swell, it's a little different, so we have to go a little further this time. Planning on going down as far as Scorpion Bay, really taking our time on this one, surfing along the way, fishing, just living the way you're supposed to out there," said senior Nate Kraker.

Road trips with family are fun, but it is even better going with just a friend. Of course it is!

"It's definitely different going with just friends. You never really know

what's going to happen, you might meet new people. It truly is a real adventure, the unexpected happens, and you just have to embrace that, and go along with the ride," said Senn. If students have been on a trip to another place with friends, they know that they won't know what's going to happen. They might meet new people, or their plans may change completely.

"The adventure is the main appeal of it to me, you know, never actually knowing what you're going to get, people you'll meet, and the times and experiences you get to have with your best friends," said Kraker.

Road trips are a great way to get out of life. They're a great way to spend the last summer before college, with people you may never see again. So you should get out and enjoy the summer

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15 Seniors Have Committed To College Sports!



11 of our athletes attended Collegiate Signing Day. Photo courtesy of SLOHS Athletics Instagram.

HEALTH & SPORTS EDITOR TÉA FISCHER & REPORTERS PHOEBE D, LUCA P, & RUBY B.

This year 15 (self reported) San Luis Obispo High School athletes have committed to play athletics in college. Committing to play athletics at the college level shows the dedication and impressive athletic ability that has earned these seniors a spot on competitive teams.

To celebrate their achievement, *Expressions* interviewed the seniors to gain insights about their lives and about their passions that motivated them to further their athletic careers.

Téa Aebischer will be attending UC Davis for Beach Volleyball. Her favorite memories from high school came from being with her teammates who are her best friends and playing CIF finals at Buchanan High School. Aebischer wants to feel out what playing at a higher competition level is like and whether it is something that she would be interested in pursuing after college.

“Be proactive about communicating with coaches and take initiative at an early age for recruiting. Just get yourself out there,” said Aebischer.

Amani Avina is committed to College of the Sequoias for Football. Avina played football throughout his four years at SLOHS. One of his favorite memories is from beating Templeton because it was a big part of the season. He would like to thank his mom for always supporting him from the get go. He highly recommends any aspiring athletes to work hard during the off season.

“My biggest goal during college sports is to become the best player that I can and make a impact on the team no matter what,” said Avina.

Ashley Brewer is committed to play D1 Soccer at Cal Poly, SLO. She has been playing soccer her whole life. Brewer’s favorite memory is the bond that she built on her team and the tournaments that they got to compete in. She would like to thank her parents and her club coaches for supporting her along the way.

“Focus on enjoying your sport, and don’t let things get in the way of joy. You should be playing because you like it” said Brewer.

Tony Garcia will be attending Cal Lutheran University for Football. His favorite memories from playing football are the unity and family that he developed on the team and the support he gained. His goal for college sports is to improve as a player.

“My biggest piece of advice is to keep your head down and battle through it. There’s going to be a lot of things thrown at you in a lot of different ways, but you have to keep a level head and be a team player all the time. It’s not just about you, it’s about the team and enjoying the experiences while they last,” said Garcia.

Lindsey Giannini is committed to Swim at Barry University in Miami. Her favorite memory from high school was spending time with her teammates on overnight trips. Her goals for college is to manage balancing her major, nursing, with swim. Giannini would like to thank her coaches Rosenbloom and Grace, her club coaches and teammates, and her parents for supporting her through everything

“Improving in the sport in college is important, and just being in an environment where you can really know the team and be comfortable,” said Giannini.

Weston Greenelsh will be attending Cuesta College for Cross Country and Track. Weston has been running since middle school. His favorite memory is going to travel meets and hanging out with the team before races. His goals for college sports are to improve his running ability, meet new people, and grow as an athlete and a person. He would like to thank coach Steinmaus, his teammate Nolan Roemmich, and all the people who have supported him along the way.

“Have fun, and when it comes down to it, do your best and never give up,” said Greenelsh.

Zachary Siebenlist is committed to play Soccer at UC Santa Barbara. He has been playing club soccer his entire life, and his favorite memory was qualifying for the MLS playoffs in Nashville. His goals for his first year in college is to get playing time as a freshman and score as many goals as he can. He would like to thank all his club coaches who helped him develop as a player, and his parents for giving him time and dedication. He would also like to thank all the players he has gotten to play over the years.

“Really pay attention to what your coaches and family have to say because of all the work and commitment that they put into you,” said Siebenlist.

Faith Hartford will be attending Biola University for Cross Country and Track. Her favorite memory was going to the Sequoia National Park for cross country training for a week and bonding with her team. Hartford’s goals are to get stronger in running and have better motivation. She would like to thank her coaches, her parents, Coach Basch, and Coach Steinmaus for always being there and helping her out.

“Even when you’re having a bad day, you can still make it a good day so keep pushing,” said Hartford.

Wyatt Maulhardt will be attending the University of Connecticut for Track and Field. His favorite memories are from running the dunes in the offseason as a challenging workout away from the track. Maulhardt wants to run fast and is looking to get acclimated to new experiences in college. He would like to thank his parents for helping him through the entire process and supporting him in college decisions. He would also like to thank coach Krill and his teammates for pushing him to be the best version of himself.

“Sometimes when things get difficult, it’s easy to not see the point. If you let yourself really push through and keep devoting yourself, your time is going to come and you just have to work for it. You can accomplish a lot more than you think you’re capable of,” said Maulhardt.

Parker McCarthy will be attending Fresno Pacific University for Swim. McCarthy has been swimming since third grade. His favorite memory is from the team’s successful senior season with a very memorable team. His goals in college are to make it to NCAA competitions and nationals. He would like to thank his mom, dad, step dad, coach Allen, and his club coaches and team for being super supportive of him throughout the years and keeping him centered.

“Keep your options open, because you don’t know what opportunities can open up to you. All of the work you put in does pay off eventually,” said McCarthy.

Ben Oetman is committing to Cal Poly for Soccer. Ben’s favorite memory throughout his soccer career has been beating Lindsey for the CIF win. His goals for his athletic journey in college is getting playing time and having a lot of fun. Oetman would like to thank all of his coaches as well as his parents for always supporting him.

“Go out of your comfort zone and try to push yourself,” said Oetman.

Matthew Perje will be attending Cal Baptist University in Riverside for D1 Swim and Dive. His favorite memory is from League this year because of the energy at the meet and the overall good experience. Perje would like to thank his coaches Coach Mario, Coach Allen, Coach East, and Coach Ernstrom for helping him along his journey.

“It’s important to make sure you keep a good balance between academics and athletics, and not being afraid to put in the work for where you want to go. Just believing that no goal is too big to achieve,” said Perje.

Nolan Roemmich is committed to run Cross Country and Track at Western Washington University. His favorite memories are from runs with the team and swimming in the creek on warm days. His goals for college is to have consistent improvement and stay healthy. He would like to thank his parents for supporting him, his teammate Weston Greenelsh for pushing him to be better, and coach Steinmaus for helping him with training.

“Staying healthy and consistently improving is what is most important. Even if you don’t feel motivated to do something hard, you just have to do it and get in a mindset that will make you willing to work hard,” said Roemmich.

Jackson Stitt is committed to play Golf at California Lutheran University. His favorite memory was winning league two years in a row and playing great as a team in every match. In college, he wants to see how much his game can progress and pursue a career as a professional.

“Make your sport more than a job, if you enjoy it and you have the drive and motivation to practice every day, that’s what will get you far,” said Stitt.

Troy Warrecker is committed to playing Football at Monterey Peninsula College. His favorite memory from high school was the stretch of three games this season from Pioneer Valley, Morro Bay, and Santa Maria. His goal in college is to earn a scholarship at the FBS or FCS level and continue playing football.

“Get in that weight room, it’s the most important thing for football. If you don’t feel like you’re ready for college football but you still want to keep playing, Junior College is definitely a great solution so you can stay in the sport,” said Warrecker.

Seniors Julie Vigil, Torunn Larsen, and Eli Miles Reflect on their Artwork Over the Course of Their High School Experience at SLOHS

REPORTER CASSIOPEIA MAMARDLO

San Luis Obispo High School not only excels in dominating athletics and high academics, but also in creative art! Hence, there are a handful of committed and visionary artists who have enriched the aesthetic atmosphere here at SLOHS. Beyond their eye-pleasing work, every self-made piece carries extensive dedication and meaning.

This is what SLOHS seniors have to say about the process, reasoning, and meaning behind their phenomenal work!

“268 Hands’ took about a year to complete, it kind of showcased a timeline of my style and skill when it came to drawing unique hands. I’ve always liked drawing hands because I don’t really like a single focal point, I like multiple. I aim for a meditative experience for the viewer, expressions like desire or reaching for something is commonly interpreted,” said senior Eli Miles.

The form of Miles’ works takes after repetitive displays of human hands in unique variations. The content all comes together to exhibit a yearning upwards like expression, mirroring modern society’s culture of mass gratification and competition. Although the piece is mainly expressional and for the aesthetic, Miles intended his work to provoke viewers into contemplation.

“Bubble Girl’ is a piece with an emphasis on the highlights, from my colored pencils. I have always been into realism, especially on small canvases, but Mr. Norton pushed me into a big canvas this time, I really like it. I think I conveyed the idea of childhood innocence being a fruitful seed for innovation, imagination, and creativity really well,” said senior Julie Vigil.

Through the use of diverse mediums, from acrylic to color pencils, Vigil has shown great range when it comes to artistic abilities. Most of her artwork contains people in dreamy-like rendering and mood to invoke the different human emotions and experiences. This piece specifically follows a little girl blowing a bubble that takes the form of planets to reflect childhood imagination. Vigil has always been creative since birth and she wanted to especially show the beauty of children’s curiosity through this artwork.

“[For] this piece, I used acrylic paint, which I’m not familiar with... I just wanted to paint something that I would enjoy painting since it was such a big piece. I wanted it to be scenic and calming, but at the end I was frustrated and added aliens and a bunch of stuff,” said senior Torunn Larsen.

Realistic and graphite drawings make up the domain of Larsen’s portfolio, but this piece deviates through the use of acrylic. She had always been involved and dedicated to art since adolescence, and it shows from her numerous art recognitions from the Congressional Art Competition and The Monday Club. This piece specifically delivers the message of serenity and existence in nature, a theme Larsen has been exploring because of how calming the natural world is. The bird and swamp are aimed to invoke appreciation for life and living beings around us.

These artworks, like many that bring color and life to SLOHS, truly highlight the importance of reflection, expression, and harnessing one’s imagination to produce a unique masterpiece!

Seniors Miles, Larsen, and Vigil will move on from San Luis Obispo High School and into their bright, colorful futures, carrying with them the power of artistic expression.

One Beat, One Class: The Song That SLOHS Seniors Own Forever

REPORTER MARA DE BLAS VILLARÁN

From the most listened-to artists like Kanye West and Taylor Swift, to the most played songs such as “Kill Bill,” and “Creepin’,” to emerging artists like Olivia Rodrigo and Dominic Fike; San Luis Obispo High School’s Class of 2024 has experienced miserably terrible releases and surprisingly great discoveries within the music industry during their four years of high school.

The highlight of it that the senior class rightfully possesses is “Euphoria,” by Kendrick Lamar.

This year’s graduating class is the last one to have spent their COVID-19 years during high school, so they have deservedly reserved the right to complain. “Senioritis” has also had an intense spread this year, which mainly says: seniors are tired. This, again, gives them the license to be the “biggest haters,” as mentioned in the song.

“[‘Euphoria’] definitely relates to our senior class because a bunch of us in here are D1 haters whether it be secret or just to someone’s face, we’ll all be hating on somebody. Being the class of COVID and everything we’ve had a lot of tragedy in our year... and ‘Euphoria’ brings us all together as haters,” said senior Asia Jade Hagans.

If there’s something SLOHS seniors can be proud of, it’s having the privilege to own the culturally significant Drake and Kendrick Lamar beef. Even though this conflict between the two rappers goes way back, no one can deny it has recently rocketed.

“[The Drake and Lamar beef] has definitely escalated. At first, it was kind of a joke and now it’s genuine bombshells being dropped on rappers’ personal information, and even the public has started to get serious about it,” said senior Alma Tinoco.

However, it isn’t crucial to fully understand the situation in order to enjoy and relate to the lyrics of the song that best represents the Class of 2024. On April 30, 2024, Lamar dropped this life-changing, eye-opening, six-and-a-half-minute track with some lyrics to which the seniors couldn’t relate more.

“I like the part where he’s like ‘I hate the way that you walk, the way that you talk, I hate the way that you dress, I hate the way that you sneak diss, if I catch flight, it’s gon’ be direct,’” said Hagans.

Out of all the songs dropped, this one resembles the senior spirit, but both Drake and Lamar are amazing artists, and the senior class doesn’t necessarily back only Lamar in the dispute.

“I’m team Drake because he’s so funny and I like his songs, and Lamar cheated on his wife,” said senior Cassiopeia Mamaradlo.

Still, many others support Lamar and argue that he’s the better rapper.

“I’d say I’m team [Lamar], Drake got absolutely destroyed by [Lamar] and he’s trying to pick up the pieces but it’s not going anywhere,” said Hagans.

“Euphoria” is a song that can make students laugh, dance, scream, help them cry, get their anger out, or just vibe, which is just as unstable and volatile as this year’s seniors and their mood, so congratulations to the Class of 2024 for being lucky enough to call this song their song.

If students have not listened to every track released by both Drake and Lamar recently, they are missing out, so they should put headphones on and enjoy.

Seniors, feel euphoric, this one’s for you.

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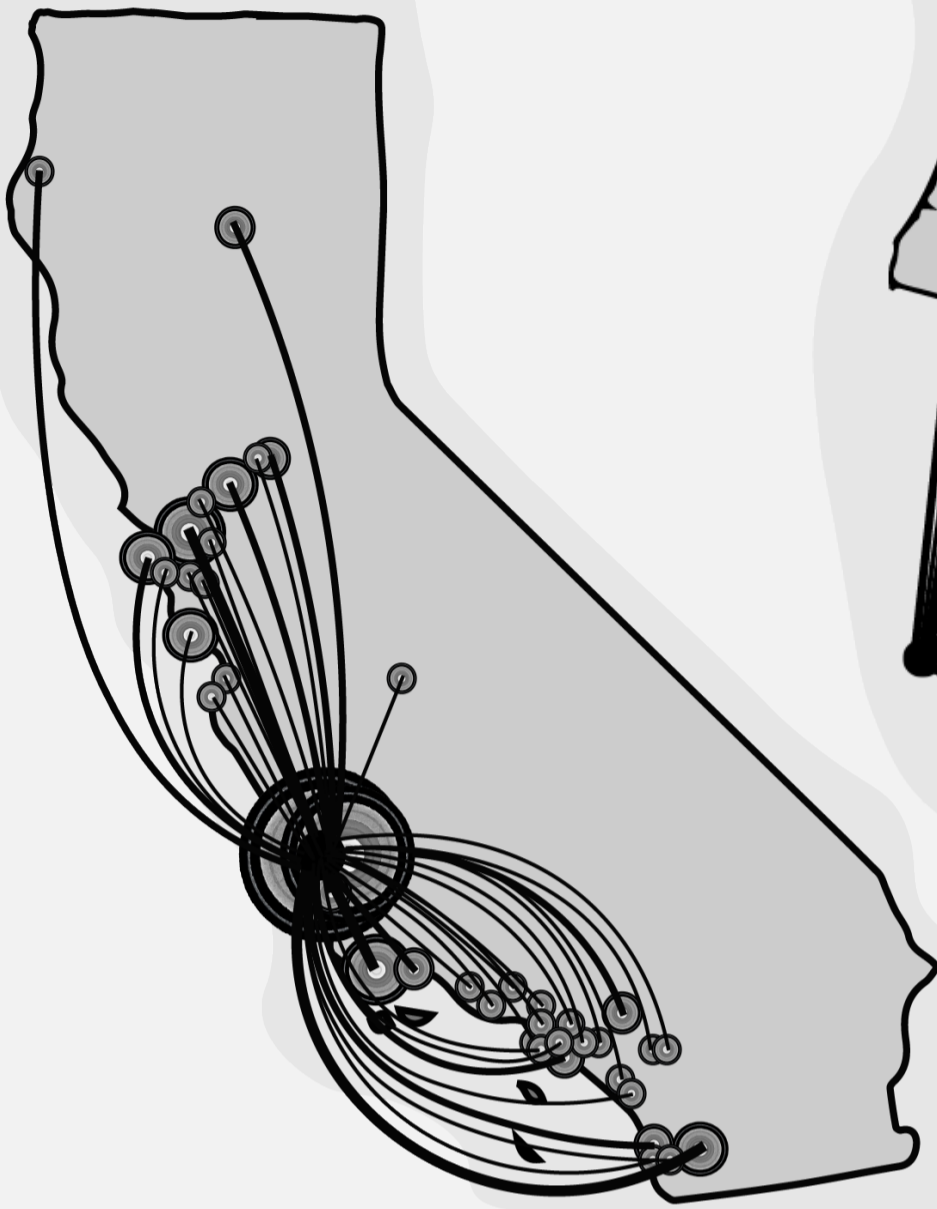
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Stay In Contact with Friends After High School!



Saying goodbye to their closest friends can be one of the hardest things seniors have to go through. Photo courtesy of junior Mara De Blas Villarán.

REPORTER MARA DE BLAS VILLARÁN

As college acceptance emails draw sparkling smiles on San Luis Obispo High School seniors' faces, distance grows between many friendships, leaving them with a bittersweet feeling as they finally put on their caps and gowns.

Still, embracing change is something many students have been forced to learn over the last few months of their high school education journey, finding excitement rather than fear in moving onto a new stage of life and watching their close circles build new friendships, as well as growing their own.

"I'm really lucky to have made really strong bonds with all my friends, and I know it's going to be really painful at first to leave them but I'm really excited to see, firstly, what they do in their new relationships, their new frie-

ndships, but I'm also excited to be open to new friendships as well," said senior Charley Beck.

Ever since SLOHS students moved from elementary school to middle school, they've gone through different chapters of their own stories, in which the characters have naturally changed over time, but some friends have stayed along each other's side from the beginning. "My best friend is a girl I met in kindergarten, which is very sweet," said Beck.

This is why many of them are very optimistic about the future of their friendships during the next few years, because it has already happened in the past. In fact, over ninety percent of the Class of '24 believes they will keep their friendships after high school, according to the SLOHS *Expressions* Senior Poll.

However, there are some who disagree with this, and think that they need a new start to rediscover themselves.

"People don't really know what they want or who they are right now, and it's hard to make strong friendships that I want to keep, especially when people keep changing," said senior Shea Mercer.

It is fundamental to acknowledge that, with distance, students might lose touch with some of their peers, but their closest friends will most likely maintain contact, making "quality over quantity" one of the "pros" of this process, by focusing on nurturing meaningful connections with a few close friends rather than trying to maintain a large group.

"I like having a smaller group of friends that are really close rather than a big group of people I don't know that well, because I really like having deep connections with people, and so being able to hang out with a tight knit group of friends is more fun," said senior Siena Boscaro.

While saying goodbye can be complicated, it's crucial to remember the importance of staying connected with those who have been on our side through thick and thin. Distance may pose challenges, but it also presents opportunities to create new traditions to stay in touch with friends. Whether it's scheduling regular video calls, planning reunions, or even starting a shared journal or calendar, finding creative ways to maintain relationships can be very helpful.

Additionally, as seniors navigate the transition into adulthood, it's essential to find a balance between existing friendships and exploring new opportunities to expand their social circle. Class of '24, seize the opportunity to embrace change, cherish memories you've created and look forward to the adventures that await you.

Make the most out of the future, grow, and go explore Tigers!

Seniors Are Choosing Their College Majors!

PEOPLE & CULTURE EDITOR KI JOUET

Having a specific major in college can be extremely helpful in providing guidance and a clear path for students as they go about their adult lives and professional careers.

Most of the seniors of San Luis Obispo High School's class of 2024 are off to college next year, but this begs the question, what are these students choosing as their majors?

Expressions interviewed multiple seniors to find out not only what majors they are choosing but what goes behind such a big and influential decision.

Expressions: What college and major have you chosen?

Senior Kaitlin Turner: I'm going to Cuesta and I'm trying to get two majors for my associates for biology and public health.

Senior Kate Geise: I'm going to UC Berkeley, and currently I'm undeclared. I applied under undeclared because I was just wondering how I was going to balance a harder subject with social life. I'm trying to decide between Molecular and Integrative Biology.

Senior Levi Ruth: I've chosen to go to Cuesta for their promise and I'm deciding on a major. I'm thinking either liberal arts or business.

Expressions: What made you choose your major?

Turner: I'm not really sure yet what I want to do with my life so I'm just trying to get as many science classes in as I can.

Geise: I did some stuff outside of school with molecular biology and genetics at Cal Poly. So I really thought that I was gonna go into that, but when I found out that I got into Berkeley, I decided to switch to undeclared.

Ruth: I think it might be a good way to help me decide on a career, and then I can decide on a major from there. Liberal arts covers a lot of different areas that I might be interested in, and then business covers so much that I feel like it'd be a good safety net for what I might want to do in the future.

Expressions: Do you want to go into a career involved with your major?

Turner: I want a career involved in some sort of science or medical studies. Public health has more medical stuff and biology has more science classes. I'm trying to do both so I have a broad background.

Geise: Yeah. I'm into being a researcher or doing secondary school. But it's complicated because some things just don't make money, even what you're interested in.

Ruth: Yes, I would. I don't want to waste time in school if I don't have to.

Expressions: How would you advise younger students to choose their major when they go to college?

Turner: I would advise them to choose classes in high school that they really enjoy, whether that's electives or [core] classes. And then if there's something they enjoy doing, and they're also fairly good at it, I would go towards that.

Geise: I'd say doing activities outside of school that are similar to majors that you might be interested in. It's difficult to find that real world experience, but if you can sort of see the types of field you'll be going into, once you graduate, it's good to be able to project your life forward and see what's ahead.

Ruth: I wish I had more information on that myself, but I think getting experience on the job and with classes [that] we have at the high school. Getting a wide selection of things that you may or may not like but are just trying is what's going to help you decide on what might be sustainable for the future.

No matter what someone chooses as their major, or even if they don't have one at first, having an area of focus is a great first step on the college and career journey!



What Does The Class of 2024 Do for Fun?

NEWS EDITOR KEVIN RODRIGUEZ

The class of 2024 has gone through many events and changes during their time at San Luis Obispo High School. These have impacted every senior's livelihood, and many had to pick up something to kill time, especially during quarantine.

Expressions interviewed some seniors about the hobbies they picked up during their four years of high school.

Expressions: What are your hobbies?

Senior Azreal Reading: I bake and I like to read and [do] art.

Senior Alexis Palmaymesa: I like to draw digitally and traditionally, and I like to play the electric and acoustic guitar. On occasion, I like to rollerblade around the neighborhood.

Senior Drew Walker: I like to go climbing, powerlifting, and right now I'm obsessed with "Pokémon".

Senior Thomas Wilimek: I've been playing guitar since like fourth grade and so now [I've] been making music with that. Nothing serious but that's now my central hyper fixation.

Expressions: What made you decide to pick up your hobbies?

Reading: I like quiet hobbies that I can do in the morning because I wake up really early or things I can do at night that aren't too loud and are kind of just calming.

Palmaymesa: I took up rollerblading after [being] quarantined because it was my excuse to go outside.

Walker: On the Central Coast, we have just really good weather and I live sort [of] in "Bishop's Peak" and there's a lot of good outdoor climbs there.

Walker: Climbing rocks is free, so just go outside and do it. But make sure you have a crash pad.

Wilimek: My parents started making me go to art lessons but I like the challenge now, how satisfying was to finally get songs that you've been trying to work on for a while and then last Christmas I got myself "FL Studios" and I have an actual like audio interface that I can use to record some of the stuff I do.

Expressions: What advice would you give if anyone would want to try it?

Reading: Everyone starts somewhere like you're not going to be good when you first start. So just like go for it, and you know, look at things on the internet that will help and just practice.

Palmaymesa: If you're trying out rollerblading, I suggest taking lessons or at least starting things though instead of zipping down the street. As we're drawing and guitar, [there are] a lot of really good lessons, like online.

Wilimek: Learn an instrument first because it makes everything easier and also learn music theory. Only do guitar [and] piano everything else. No offense to the band.

Expressions: Have your hobbies changed through your four years here?

Reading: No, not much, I have just gotten better at them.

Palmaymesa: I definitely rollerblade less now but I draw and play the guitar. Walker: I started allocating less time from playing music, like in jazz band. To doing more outdoorsy stuff like climbing, camping, all that.

Wilimek: Well, yeah. I mean everyone has phases of things that go to, but I have hyper fixations. I learned how to sail at one point, I longboard for a really long time going downhill.

The class of calamity has undergone many changes, while some are stagnant. With everything the future is holding out for them, it may be a good chapter for their new lives.

Live a little, do something fun!

What Happens at SLOHS Stays at SLOHS: Seniors Share the Weirdest Things They've Seen

REPORTER ANGEL TEPEPA GARCIA

It's not out of the ordinary for schools to be breeding pools of weird and odd behavior. So when students hear stories about these things from others, the authenticity can be blending with fact or fiction. To get things straight, *Expressions* got some San Luis Obispo High School Seniors to talk about their weird memories and disturbing experiences through a tedious four year tenure.

From bizarre occurrences to inexplicable sights, the graduating class of 2024 shares their stories of the weird and freaky.

"Hearing people have intimacy in the bathrooms [is definitely weird]," said an anonymous senior from the *Expressions* Senior Poll.

This has been one of the more recent and mind boggling stories that have come out in the year of 2024, which was the discovery of romantic intimacy in the most unexpected of places- the campus bathrooms.

Sources reveal that the facilities inside of the

new 200s building above the cafeteria, have been exceeding the expectations of a "safe space" and getting 'freaky' in bathrooms. The administration remains vigilant, emphasizing the importance of maintaining peace and respect for these shared spaces.

They say love has no boundaries, and in some way that is a very true statement, especially at SLOHS. It's this scholarly love that follows the unspoken moral code that students have placed upon every relationship on campus, so when stories of "students above the age of 18 dating freshmen" come out, seniors are surely quick to give a 'side-eye.'

"It's so weird, and it's literally illegal because most seniors are 18 and freshmen are like 14," said senior Isabella Francis.

Raging hormonal high school aged teenagers are bound to let their romanticism get ahead of them, but we don't take into consideration the other emotions and drives that many of these students have as they grow up.

"I remember one time trying to go to the bathroom in the science [100s] building around my sophomore year and the stall door was missing," said senior Diego Luna Cruz.

In the year of 2021, many TikTok users bore witness to one of the most impactful and damaging youthful movements of the modern era, "devious licks" or as the law would declare it "theft and vandalism" took SLOHS by storm, with the biggest loss being a "bathroom stall door" being stolen from a bathroom.

As the school year unfolds, these stories remind students of the diverse experiences on SLOHS campus. They may raise eyebrows or spark laughter, but they also encourage students to understand each other better (even the bathroom gremlins).

Ultimately, it's through these encounters, both mundane and extraordinary, that we truly appreciate the high school years.

Source: *Expressions SLOHS Senior Survey*

Ever Heard of Kimberly? No? Let's Meet Her!



Senior Kimberly Estrada is pretty awesome. Photo courtesy of senior Angel Tepepa Garcia.

REPORTER ANGEL TEPEPA GARCIA

Students at San Luis Obispo High School put in a lot of effort to succeed in life, oftentimes doing this with a lot of responsibilities on their mind. One such person is senior Kimberly Estrada.

Expressions interviewed Estrada to ask about her perspective on life as a Hispanic student.

Expressions: Who is Kimberly Estrada?

Senior Kimberly Estrada: I am a first-generation college student, I'm the oldest sibling out of four, and I have two dogs! I am club president of two clubs, apart of both the AVID and ASB programs. When I'm not volunteering, I like to sew and listen to podcasts.

Expressions: How does high school feel now that you are about to graduate vs. when you first started as a freshman?

Estrada: I started my journey through Zoom and am ending it feeling very fulfilled with my experiences at SLOHS. I noticed a lot of personal growth throughout my years and I'm excited for graduation.

Expressions: As someone of Hispanic descent, did you feel represented or welcome on campus?

Estrada: I do! I have noticed a lot of representation in recent years and am glad to see it. I see a lot of diversity in ASB, and I like how the school embraces different cultures.

Expressions: Do you believe that you had an easy upbringing?

Estrada: I've experienced some challenges but I'm very fortunate to have the opportunities I have today.

Expressions: Has your family and their experiences helped motivate you to succeed as a student and a human being?

Estrada: Yes, my parents have sacrificed a lot for my siblings and I've had a lot of support through my years that has highly encouraged me to try my best both academically and personally.

Expressions: Do you have a message for those students from marginalized communities, who don't know what their future entails?

Estrada: It's important for everyone to give their best efforts regarding their academics even if they aren't considering pursuing a higher education because it's important to have options out there.

Anything is possible, no matter the age, color or upbringing, students of SLOHS can work through anything.

Do Seniors Regret Not Taking Any CTE Classes?

REPORTER SANTIAGO BALDODANO

Everybody knows that the most exciting classes at San Luis Obispo High School are the electives, but are these classes actually worth taking?

As Honors and AP courses become increasingly important in the college world, many upperclassmen are loading their schedule with advanced, hard-core classes instead of exploring SLOHS' CTE pathways. While this is smart, many seniors still have still had incredible experiences while taking career classes.

"My favorite part about CTE classes is getting to explore elective classes that potentially could spark an interest or passion. They offer opportunities to work with passionate teachers who've had experience in the field and can help you along your journey," said senior Max Ranta, who completed the Graphic Design pathway.

SLOHS is fortunate to have many high-tech, modern facilities for the CTE classes. In addition, recent renovations to other pathways have made new equipment and applications available to any students who take a class in that pathway.

"[In Animal Science], students work directly with live animals for activities such as giving vaccines, safely restraining, physical exams and much more. Students also do the dissection of various organs for the anatomy units along with the cat dissection like regular anatomy and physiology," said Animal Science and Agricultural Science teacher Anna Bates.

Yet with all of these luxuries, only a small percentage of seniors have

actually finished a CTE pathway. This might come as a surprise, given the benefits and job opportunities that arise from these classes.

"A lot of our students go into colleges with Animal Science majors and Pre-veterinary medicine as well as obtain entry level jobs in the vet tech field," said Bates.

Despite these obvious benefits, many SLOHS students have found that CTE classes aren't worth the time and taken-up space on their schedule. This is the vast majority of students, especially those with aspirations to attend a prestigious university.

"I would have loved to take more CTE classes, especially because our school offers so many unique ones. I just often didn't have space in my schedule to fit them in because I took a lot of AP classes throughout my time in high school," said senior Camilo Baltodano.

Many seniors have been left choosing between either taking more AP classes or taking more CTE classes. Even with the school's trimester system, it's very hard to start and finish a career pathway while taking lots of advanced classes because there simply aren't enough classes in a year.

"If I had space in my schedule, I would have probably done something like digital media, just because I think it would be important for me to get more use of Adobe and other programs," said Baltodano.

Most seniors at SLOHS won't ever take a capstone CTE class, but for incoming seniors, it might be worth taking a CTE class or two just to see what SLOHS has to offer.

Check out the Class of 2024 Senior Superlatives



Legend Legato: Most likely to disappear off the face of the Earth after graduation.



Alec "Fulk" MacDonald: Weirdest nickname.



Caden Gough: Most likely to go four days without sleep.



Chaz Yray: Most likely to start WWIII.



Carson Norrbom: Weirdest car.



Julia Rizzo: Best short senior.



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So Long *Expressions*: Senior Editor Goodbyes



Senior Editor Alma Tinoco

I joined Newspaper my sophomore year because two of my closest friends were in the class. Now they're gone. Guys you left me in *Expressions*. Despite that, I loved being able to meet new people in this class and interacting with many others around campus in the name of journalism. I'm glad I was able to be a part of this class, no matter all the moments of stress I had. In all seriousness, join *Expressions*! it's a worthwhile experience in the end.

-Alma Tinoco



Former Senior Editor Karl Karsh

Honorary trimester three editor Karl Karsh. He graduated early, but he was part of *Expressions* since his sophomore year and a beloved member of the team. Nairne and I miss you, hope the real world is treating you well.

-Written for Karl Karsh

I'm super glad I joined Newspaper this year! It was really cool going from reporter to editor and I wish I joined sooner lowkey. I met a lot of people who are awesome and I'm sad to never see ya'll again. This class is definitely one to take so join it! Goodbye underclassmen, good luck and don't be sucky! Goodbye upperclassmen, ILL MISS YOU FOREVER MWAH XOXO (so long SLOHS)

-Asia Jade Hagans



Senior Editor Asia Jade Hagans

I joined newspaper by accident. My counselor put it into my schedule during the first trimester of my senior year, and I thought I would hate it, but it turned out to be much more fun and engaging than I predicted. The class gave me a lot of freedom in what I wanted to write about, and was a nice and easy class after taking more difficult classes the years before. I would definitely recommend the class for anyone, regardless of their grade or interest in journalism. Coming from someone who got hit in the face by senioritis, I recommend!

-Ki Jouet



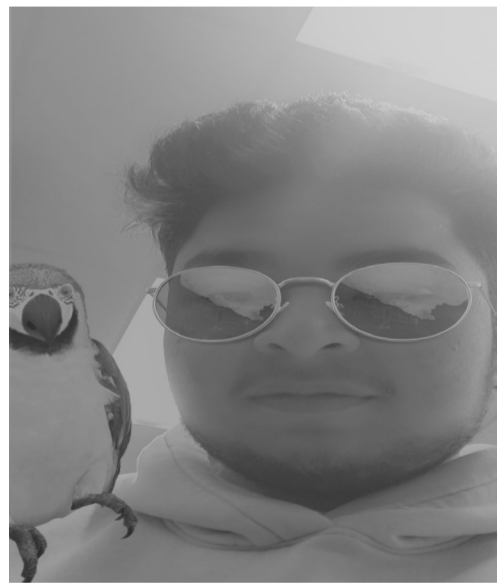
Senior Editor Ki Jouet



Senior Editor Téa Fischer

Wassup :) I joined *Expressions* this year. I took this class because of my love for writing and wanting to write what I'm passionate about, even if it ruffles some feathers. Anyway, I want to say thank you to those that I interviewed. As silly as it sounds, without your voice, my articles would not exist. For all you underclassmen out there who either want to take our journalism class: don't be afraid to express your opinion. If there's a story idea that you feel is important for people to know, write it. Take those risks, have fun.

-Téa Fischer



Senior Editor Kevin Rodriguez

Explore a lot of things and always give people a chance to know you.

-Kevin Rodriguez

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SLOHS, make sure you say farewell to the STAFF members that are departing this year:

Physical Education teacher and Coach Jack Greer
Automotive teacher Jeff Lehmkuhl
Assistant Principal Julie Mamo
Assistant Principal Bernardo Salcido
Social Science Steven Seyfert