

NEWSWORTHY

The Newsletter of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Partnership Fund, a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting the unique learning opportunities available at TJ and maintaining the special relationship of alumni to the School

Renovation Enters Final Phase

AUDITORIUM OPENS WITH OVER 800 SEATS

TJ's renovated Performing Arts Wing, completed during Phase III of TJ's four-year renovation, made its debut in late October. With beautiful new Orchestra, Band, and Choral rooms complemented by storage, shop, practice, and dressing rooms, it's a dramatic addition to the campus. A new Auditorium Lobby (aka Aud Lob) opened at the same time (see photos of these and other spaces on our website, tjpartnershipfund.org).

By the end of 2016, performances and other major gatherings will be taking place in TJ's fully renovated Auditorium (at right). With over 800 attractive, comfortable seats, it is one of the school's most highly anticipated new spaces.

Auditorium seat plaques, offered to all Campaign for TJ Capstone Partners — donors who have given at the \$1,000 level or above — will show the community the depth of TJ pride. Eligible donors may enter the text for their personalized Auditorium seat plaques on our website at: tjpartnershipfund.org/auditorium-plaques/

In addition to receiving a seat plaque, all donors who have given at the \$5,000 level or above will be recognized on a donor wall to be displayed in the school's front lobby at the conclusion of the Campaign. In addition to a seat plaque and inclusion on the donor wall, donors who have given at the \$10,000 level and above receive recognition on room and common area plaques throughout the new building (see photo, below right).

CLASS OF 2020 PARENTS SHOW SCHOOL SPIRIT

With fewer than 100 Auditorium plaques still available, Class of 2020 parents have mobilized to ensure that the last class to enter TJ during the renovation is not left out. Before and during the Partnership Fund's annual Freshman Parent Reception, which took place on the first Sunday after school began, 2020 parents were already stepping up to mobilize their class (see back page).

Current TJ parents have pledged or donated over \$750,000 to support the Campaign for TJ, and Class of 2020 parents are committed to doing their part. In fact, no fewer than 30 freshman parents have already volunteered to call and encourage their peers during our planned December 7th Phonathon. With this kind of commitment, there's no reason that the parents of the Class of 2020 can't meet or even exceed the 61 percent participation rate record set by the parents of the Class of 2017. Go Colonial Parents!



Above, retired TJ Physics teacher Jim Rose stands in the new Hopper (Physics) Commons next to the plaque recognizing his generous Campaign contribution (close-up below). From left to right, standing, Physics teacher, Science & Tech Division Manager, and Neuroscience Lab Director Mark Hannum; Physics teacher Dr. John Dell; Jim Rose; Physics teacher Steve Scholla; Physics teacher Duncan Forbes; seated, Physics and Geosystems teacher Rob Culbertson; and Assistant Principal for Science & Tech, Gary Grosicki.



PARTNERSHIP FUND UPS COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS

The TJ Partnership Fund Board could not be more pleased with the results of its new Community Grant Program. In the program's pilot year, TJPF awarded five grants totaling \$5,470 (see March 2016 Newsletter and PF website). This fall, the PF significantly increased its support, awarding eight grants totaling \$8,950 to deserving groups whose projects enrich the student experience and the surrounding community:

Aerospace Initiative (\$1,500): This club of almost 100 students engaged in Team America Rocketry Challenge, drone projects, and TJ CubeSat, in addition to Battle of the Rockets (BoTR), needed funding to send four BoTR teams to competitions.

Art Club (\$900): Club members hoped to purchase art supplies for school beautification projects, including a wishing tree, and to invite speakers to discuss the influence of art on their STEM work.

Band Boosters (\$1,500): For eleven years, Band Boosters has raised about \$5,000/year towards replacing worn and outdated uniforms. The parent group is holding its "Fill the Shako" (marching band hat) fundraiser in order to raise the last \$15,000 needed.

Bioinformatics Society (\$1,000): This club that teaches students how to use computer programming and mathematical concepts to solve important biological problems sought funding to support a new event featuring speakers and computational challenges.

CubeSat (\$1,500): The class/club group requested funds to purchase specially designed CubeSat kits for their outreach satellite workshop so that they could make CubeSat technology accessible to less privileged students.

Cultivators of the Earth (\$750): The club sought funding to purchase perennials for the raised bed alongside the Dome area, along with tools and mulch, for beautification as well as for possible use in propagation experiments in the new greenhouse.

HackTJ 4.0 (\$1,500): Organizers of this successful annual hackathon, which hosted over 450 students for HackTJ 3.0 (see photo of Gym I, above), needed funding for a generator to bring supplementary power to Gym II — slated to open by the end of November — so that even more students — from TJ and other schools — can participate.

PC(re)Builders (\$300): The club needed tools and supplies for students to use when refurbishing donated computers.



TJ RECEIVES DECOMMISSIONED NASA SERVERS

Thanks to TJ's Mentorship Program, the Computer Systems (CS) Lab has a \$300,000 IBM server rack, courtesy of NASA. Last year, CS Lab Director Dr. Shane Torbert (with rack, at right) and Mentorship Director Alfred Lampazzi visited NASA's Center for Climate Simulation (NCCS) to meet with the mentor of a senior in the CS Lab. During the visit, Dr. Torbert learned that when NCCS replaces its servers, as it does periodically, it makes an effort to see that decommissioned equipment is reutilized rather than processed through equipment disposal, especially if the equipment is only several years old.

Once NCCS has decommissioned a piece of equipment and determined that no other NASA center or project has an interest in it, the agency notifies other non-profit organizations of the equipment's availability. Pursuant to the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, all US educational institutions are eligible to receive excess research equipment from NASA for use in technical and scientific education and research activities.

Having expressed an interest in an IBM server rack that had been used for climate modeling, Dr. Torbert filled out the required paperwork. Upon receiving the rack this October, he explained why it was such a meaningful acquisition:

"The 40 nodes each contain two Sandy Bridge CPUs, each capable of eight parallel cores, for a total of 640 simultaneous threads. There are 2 GB of RAM per core for a total of just over 1 TB of memory. Interconnect speeds between the nodes are over Mellanox Technologies InfiniBand, which is capable of data transfer at a rate of 40 gigabits per second, 40 times faster than the lab's 1 gigabit internal network and 400 times faster than common 100 megabit networks. Speeds this fast make possible the use of Remote Direct Memory Access. Each node also contains a Xeon Phi, Intel's alternative to the NVidia CUDA GPU used throughout the lab. This acquisition builds upon a previous donation from Northrop Grumman of a Voltaire (now Mellanox) to model Infiniband system."

TJ students will use the servers for parallel computing and for projects requiring cloud-type virtualization, such as Hadoop, which currently run off third-party systems.



STUDENT RESEARCHERS STUDY JEFFERSON MEMORIAL BIOFILM

About three years ago, rangers working for the National Mall & Memorial Parks (NAMA), a division of the National Park Service (NPS), starting noticing that occasional dark patches on the dome and base of the Jefferson Memorial had begun growing larger and darker. Although the patches looked like the result of smog or perhaps a mold or lichen, they turned out to be a biofilm made of a complex colony of microscopic organisms that adhere to stone surfaces.

In 2014, the National Science Foundation (NSF) launched a study to investigate the biofilms, installing a small weather station on the Memorial's roof to examine biofilm activity as it relates to environmental conditions. Judy Jacob, NPS Senior Conservator and a member of the NSF study team, spoke to **Dr. Mary Susan Burnett's** 7th period Biotechnology Research class about biofilms generally and the Memorial biofilm in particular, and the challenge of simultaneously addressing complex aesthetic and scientific issues affecting such a public structure. She explained how little is known about the biofilm, including whether it contributes to stone deterioration, stone protection, or simply has a benign presence. Answering this question and others will help the NPS — ultimately responsible to the taxpaying public, who will foot the bill for any solution — make a treatment decision.

Earlier that week, three of Dr. Burnett's Biotechnology Lab students and one student from **Lisa Wu's** Oceanography Lab, together with the two Lab Directors, were at the Memorial learning about the biofilm from NAMA personnel and obtaining research samples. NAMA staff explained why the problem will likely take some time to resolve: Power washing removes surface material, laser ablation is time-consuming, and biocides leave an orange residue. Moreover, no treatment offers a permanent solution. Before trying other treatments, the staff would like to better understand what they're dealing with.

Enter TJ researchers. After reading about the biofilm in the paper, **Mark Hannum**, TJ Neuroscience Lab Director and Science & Tech Division Manager, connected his friend Jennifer Epstein, NAMA Education Specialist, with Dr. Burnett. Epstein introduced Dr. Burnett to Jacob, who in turn introduced her to Dr. Federica Villa, the NPS project microbiologist based in Milan who is now advising the student researchers.

Twelve of the thirteen students in Dr. Burnett's 7th period class will be working on some aspect of the biofilm project. "This reflects the way science is done in a typical research lab, where members work collaboratively on various sub-projects related to one or two larger research areas," she said. She envisions that some projects will extend over multiple years. Possible projects include:

- Comparing samples from various parts of the memorial (the group hopes to get samples from the dome on a future visit) to see how the composition varies;
- Collecting samples from the air surrounding the biofilm to compare the air microbiome with the biofilm on the marble (one theory connects increased growth of microorganisms with lower air pollution levels; pollen from Tidal Basin cherry trees is another potential contributing factor);
- Attempting to grow the substance in the lab in order to better understand its character; and
- Experimenting with disabling the biofilm's pigment production so it could no longer turn black.

Students will use TJ's confocal microscope, recently purchased with Campaign for TJ funds, to examine collected and lab-cultured samples, and the *Thermo-Fisher* ion torrent Personal Genome Machine, purchased earlier, to identify the various microbial species present in the biofilm as well as their relative abundance. Dr. Burnett anticipates needing several additional pieces of equipment, as well as supplies, to support the work, including a bioreactor to grow a simplified version of the biofilm in the lab, and an impinger, which allows the collection of airborne microorganisms.



Above, from left to right, Dr. Mary Susan Burnett, Biotechnology Lab Director; Lisa Wu, Oceanography Lab Director; Catherine Dewey, National Mall & Memorial Parks (NAMA) Chief of Resource Management; Justine Bello, NAMA Architectural Conservator; seniors Juliana Gruver, Eric Liu, Nathan Alam, and Yashaswini (Yash) Makkena. Below, National Park Service Senior Conservator Judy Jacob talks to Biotechnology Lab students. Second from bottom, senior Juliana Gruver collects a sample. Bottom, NAMA Conservator Justine Bello shows senior Nathan Alam areas treated by laser ablation.



ALUMNI GATHERINGS GOING STRONG

New York City: Yext, a company started by five TJ alums, hosted its third annual Alumni in NY gathering in its mid-town Manhattan offices on Monday, September 26th. The cocktail party drew over 70 attendees for a fun evening of reuniting and networking.

Dr. Glazer, who this fall will take over the leadership of the Manhattan campus of *Avenues: The World School*, a preschool-through-12th grade private school, told the crowd that he eagerly anticipated joining the New York alumni group as a “TJ alumni Principal.” **Howard Lerman, TJ ’98, Yext CEO**, thanked Dr. Glazer for the profound impact that he has had on the school.

Lerman went on to reiterate the message that he took to TJ seniors following the announcement of Yext’s \$250,000 Campaign for TJ donation (see June 2016 issue): TJ is at least as deserving a recipient of philanthropy as any *alma mater*. Each alum should reflect on the advantages TJ has given him or her — Lerman feels that TJ is largely responsible for laying the groundwork for his success — and give back in an amount that acknowledges that impact.

Lerman brought his point home with the announcement of an individual Campaign gift of \$10,000, which was followed by the announcement of a \$10,000 gift from Yext CTO **Sean MacIsaac, TJ ’98**. Go Yext, Go NYC, Gooooooo Colonials!

Washington, DC: **Evan Burfield, TJ ’95**, welcomed alums from TJ ’88 to TJ ’12 to his 1776 accelerator’s downtown DC space on Wednesday, October 19th. He and Dr. Glazer made the case for supporting TJ, with assistance from juniors **Justin Zhang** (a 1776 summer intern) and **Rae Moar**, who talked about the impact of donated funds on their TJ experience.

Alums had fun seeing old friends and meeting new ones. They also responded generously to the call to action.

Boston: Partnership Fund Board Chair, Srikant Sastry, Parent ’17, arranged for the PF’s first Boston area alumni event to be held at the offices of *Grant Thornton*, where Sastry is National Managing Principal, Advisory Services (based in the firm’s Alexandria, VA, office).

The November 3rd date was set to coincide with the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS) annual conference, taking place this year in Boston. TJ is a founding member of NCSSS, and every year the PF provides the funds for a team of TJ faculty and administrators to attend. This year’s delegation included: **Head Librarian Anne Applin, Social Worker Danielle Armstrong, Biology teacher Aubrie Holman, Math teacher Pat Gabriel, Computer Science teacher Ria Galanos, English teacher Jennifer Seavey, Counselor Christina Ketchum, and Asst. Principals Shawn Frank, Pam Gravitte, and Gary Grosicki.**

Faculty and alums had a wonderful time catching up, each reminding the other of why supporting the school is so important.



Above: From left to right, John Goodwin, TJ ’08, Cindy Wei, TJ ’08, Principal Evan Glazer, and Haven Rowland, TJ ’98 at Yext. Below: Ji-Hyeun Kwon-Min, TJ ’07, donates via the TJPF mobile site at the DC event. Bottom: At the Boston event TJ English teacher Jennifer Seavey is flanked by two Harvard sophomores from TJ’s Class of 2015, at left, Maya Chung, and at right, Pooja Chan-



EARLIEST CLASSES CELEBRATE 50TH REUNION

Until the specialized science and technology Governor’s School known as Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) was created in 1985, students attended Thomas Jefferson High School (TJHS) at the same location on Braddock Road for two decades. The first graduating class was the Class of 1966.

Over Columbus Day weekend, the Class of 1966, along with the Classes of 1967, 1968, and 1969, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of TJHS with festivities that included attendance at TJ’s Homecoming BBQ and football game, renovation tour, and dinner at the Arlington Capital View Hotel.

TJHS Class of 1966 organizers **Helen Disenhaus, Nick Proferes, Class President Hal Stull** (with the original school crest, at right) and **Betty Reese Witherspoon** made the event memorable for the alumni and guests who enjoyed marveling at the new TJ.



ALUMNI SURGEON HEALS TJ'S HEAD OF SECURITY

As TJ's head of security and safety, **Robert (Bob) McCormick** spends all day on his feet. He orchestrates the movement of cars and buses on campus during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up (photo at right) and patrols the school halls, perimeter, and parking lot to enforce rules, keep out intruders, and spot potentially dangerous circumstances. On nice days, he enjoys spending his lunch hour walking around the school's track.

A decorated three-season athlete in high school, McCormick played football and basketball in college and pursued a professional baseball career. As co-founder of the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Fairfax Stars girls basketball program, he has coached national-level teams for 20 years, taking many to the "Sweet 16."

After feeling pain in his hip while playing golf, he talked to an orthopaedic surgeon affiliated with Fairfax Stars, who ordered an MRI and diagnosed the problem as arthritis. The team physician then suggested McCormick see Dr. Nitin Goyal, one of the area's leading practitioners of a new hip replacement technique known as the "direct anterior approach," which promises less postoperative pain, accelerated recovery, and fewer complications than older techniques.

McCormick met with Dr. Goyal, who has performed more than 1,200 surgeries using the technique and performs the most complex hip and knee replacement procedures in the region. The doctor identified him as a candidate for an anterior replacement and gave him several options. McCormick opted for surgery.



Dr. Nitin Goyal, TJ '99

See Dr. Goyal's video, where he mentions graduating from TJ, at <http://andersonclinic.com/directory/people/show/nitin-goyal>

Medical School: Thomas Jefferson University Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Philadelphia, PA, 2005

Graduated top of his class

Elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society

Internship & Residency: Rothman Institute, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, 2005-2010

Everett J. Gordon Award to Chief Orthopaedic Resident demonstrating "most outstanding clinical and surgical achievement"

Fellowship: Rothman Institute, 2010-2011

Specialized training in complex knee and hip reconstruction

Co-editor of two joint replacement textbooks, author of several articles in major orthopaedic journals



"The surgery took place on Aug. 9th, and it took just 45 minutes to complete. When I woke up, I was told that everything went perfectly. Shortly after that, I was visited by Dr. Goyal. He asked how I felt, and said that in a few minutes I would be asked to get up and walk with the aid of a walker, which I did fifteen minutes later.

"While we were discussing rehabilitation, it came up that I worked at TJ, and he told me he attended TJ as a high school student. He then told me that he was amazed that after helping pioneer this surgical technique, and writing two books on the subject, so many people selected him for surgery simply because he had attended TJ. (Of course, I wasn't one of them, but it was an amazing coincidence.)

"Four hours after starting the surgery, I walked out of the facility with the aid of a walker. Four days after surgery I was able to walk on my own without a walker or cane, and a week later I was walking up to two miles on my own. I had virtually no pain, and the only discomfort was the normal swelling from the ten-centimeter incision area. I went to work three weeks after surgery, and by then was walking between four and five miles a day. At my first surgical review one month after surgery, I was informed that I could resume normal activities, work out with weights, etc., and that in two weeks I could begin chipping and putting.

"I'm happy to say I've been playing eighteen holes for a month already and feel great. I am ever thankful for Dr. Goyal's expertise and care."

CLASS OF '96 CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Reunion Events: October 7-8, 2016

Informal Bar Night, Friday, 9:30pm-2am, semi-private space at *Don Taco* in Old Town Alexandria

Tour of TJ, Saturday, 10-11:30am, with group photos in Gym, followed by BYO family "picnic" (in cafeteria due to rain)

Main Event, Saturday, 7-11pm at *Town Hall* in Glover Park, DC, featuring appetizers and open bar.

Reunion Organizers: **Debi Axilbund, Emily (Moyer) Christenson, Kirin (Surpless) Hage, Paul Levitan, Jennifer Connor Naylor, Deniz Selman, Jennifer (Walker) Steiner, Allison (Fairley) Vartabedian**

Some Alums of Note



Aditya Bamzai is a first-year law professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he teaches Civil Procedure and Computer Crime Law. Previously, he was an appellate attorney in the Justice Department's National Security Division, where he briefed and argued cases about national security, computer crime, and the separation of powers in the federal courts of appeals. Bamzai was editor-in-chief of the University of Chicago Law Review and served as a law clerk to the late Justice Scalia.



Nathan Clark is hand-crafting gourmet marshmallows with flavors like Bourbon, Fireball, Lavender, and Sriracha with his wife Jenn under the name *Wondermade*. Crowned one of Martha Stewart's American-made favorites, the company is rapidly expanding its nationwide wholesale business. Here's a little marshmallow science from their website: *"We exclusively use cane sugar [because it's] the best tasting sweetener around. There are corn syrups made to taste just like cane sugar. Many people cook with them, but they're chemically different. Cane sugar is sucrose; corn syrups are a mix of glucose and fructose in varying percentages. That means they bind to ingredients differently, they cook differently and your body processes them differently."*



The *New Yorker* called **Steven Beck** (left), "one of the city's finest young pianists." **Michael Mizrahi** (right), an Associate Professor of piano at the Lawrence University Conservatory in Appleton, Wisconsin, is also an award-winning soloist.



Dr. Joseph Lee is a radiation oncologist affiliated with Inova Hospitals who specializes in gynecological, pancreatic, prostate, and gastrointestinal cancers. He also holds a PhD in Bioengineering/Biomedical Engineering.

Terry McDonnell (at right) is a Kellogg Assistant Professor of Sociology at Notre Dame where he studies the role of objects and media in everyday life. He has pioneered the theory of "cultural entropy" which looks at how and why the intended meanings and uses of culture face unintended interpretations that undermine their creators' ability to communicate effectively.



Antoinette Hillian, who received her PhD in Genetics, is a Clinical Research Specialist at the Seidman Cancer Center in Cleveland, Ohio. For over a decade, she has volunteered with a program that provides free tutoring for local K-12 students.

Dr. Cassie (Gyuricza) Root (at right, also pictured on TJ tour, above right) is an orthopaedic surgeon who focuses on problems of the elbow, forearm, wrist, and hand. A Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and a *Washingtonian* Top Doctor, she is affiliated with Arlington's *Nirschl Orthopaedic Center*.



John DeWeese worked on the hit video game *Spore*, in which players develop creatures through the evolutionary life cycle from microscopic organism to intelligent being and beyond, and was co-creator of the *Word Lens* app (part of *Google Translate* since 2015), which translates photographed text in real-time without the Internet and prompted early reviewers to quote Arthur Clarke's third law: "any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."



Above, two infants take their first tour of TJ, courtesy of their mothers, from left to right, Cassie Root and Organizer Allison Vartabedian. Below, left to right, Benjamin Gerald, Carly Panchura, Munge Kagia, and Organizer Debi Axilbund hang out at the Saturday evening event. View more '96 reunion pictures online at tjpartnershipfund.org/newsletter/latest-issue.



CALLING ALL ALUMNI AND PARENTS OF ALUMNI: GOT TJ STUFF?

Since the beginning of the renovation's planning stages, Dr. Glazer has nurtured the vision of a special place set aside for alums to spend time steeped in TJ nostalgia. Now that the renovation is coming to a close, he is asking alumni to identify items that they would consider contributing to an Archives Room under construction near the building's front lobby.

The goal is to collect pictures, video, and artifacts from every graduating year so that the Archives can be a welcoming stop on a tour of the new building as well as a comprehensive resource for alumni, their parents and partners, and current and retired faculty.

To fill out the electronic survey, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/TJarchives>



STUDENT INTERNS, VOLUNTEERS HELP KEEP TJ ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Summer Interns

The TJ Partnership Fund (PF) was excited to welcome its first student development interns to the PF Office this summer: **Anjna Nair, TJ '16**, and **Tarunikha Sriram, TJ '18**. The interns spent time in and out of the office, learning the nuts and bolts of fundraising and helping TJ in the process.

Both girls assisted with tasks related to the onboarding of new TJPF Board members, alumni outreach, and donor stewardship and recognition. Both also joined PF staff in escorting Jack Kent Cooke Foundation leadership around TJ's Middle School Tech Institute (see MSTI, August 2016 issue) and showing the renovated building to Vint Cerf, one of the "Fathers of the Internet" who also happens to be a father of a TJ alum and, together with his family, a Campaign for TJ Monticello Partner.

The highlight for Anjna was meeting donors and explaining to them how their donations were being used to benefit the school. She also enjoyed helping to plan the Internship Fair. Cold-calling alumni taught both of them the challenges of fundraising while giving them a chance to develop useful communication skills.

Tarunikha particularly appreciated having an opportunity to work independently on projects from beginning to end, such as the binders she thoughtfully put together for each TJPF Board member. She is working part-time during her junior year so that she can continue to work on a major PF project — the Campaign for TJ donor wall that will recognize donors who have given \$5,000 or more to the Campaign. The wall, which will be located in the Nobel Commons where it can be seen by all school visitors, will be completed by the end of the Campaign in December 2017.

"You get to see a little bit behind the scenes at TJ," Tarunikha said, "and all the work you do benefits your high school." Anjna agreed: "I think it's a good opportunity to give back to a school that has given you so much. It gives you a chance to really reflect on your time at TJ and see what goes into raising the money that gives us our great technology and programs."

National Honor Society Volunteers

The Partnership Fund is thrilled to announce another new partnership — this time with TJ National Honor Society (NHS), a club for juniors and seniors who meet GPA and service hour requirements and pledge to perform additional service activities inside or outside of school.

As the PF's first NHS Liaison, senior **Aadith Vittala** recruits and organizes NHS volunteers for school-related PF events, such as Back-to-School Night where students handed out flyers to parents at the door. At the September PF Board meeting where he was formally introduced, he told Board members how excited he was to have the opportunity to help TJ in a meaningful way. He and all the NHS volunteers are a wonderful addition to the PF family and serve as excellent reminders of the impact of school support.



Above, Partnership Fund intern Tarunikha Sriram, TJ '18. Below, National Honor Society student volunteers fuel up in preparation for Back-to-School Night. From left to right, CJ Wilson, TJ '17, Jack Schefer, TJ '17, Eric Deng, TJ '18, Aadith Vittala, TJ '17, Natalie Zhang, TJ '18, Saarthak Sethi, TJ '18 (not pictured Timothy Lou, TJ '18, and Ruiran Xun, TJ '18).



**Freshman Parent Reception
Sunday, September 11th**

An elegant model home by *Classic Homes of Virginia* (buildwithclassic.com) was the venue for the 2016 Freshman Parent Reception. Owner/President **Vivek Puri, TJ '92**, who hosted last year's event in another McLean model home, told the freshman parents that he owes much of his success to having attended TJ (and mentioned how impressed he was by the star TJ intern who worked for him this past summer).

Over 200 guests enjoyed refreshments while they met and mingled with Principal Glazer, TJ staff, experienced parents, and each other.

The Parent Class of 2020 has a great vibe. Special thanks goes to Class Liaisons **Yuyan Zhou, Parent '16, '20**, **Tricia Su, Parent '20**, and **Michelle Khoury, Parent '20**, along with PF Matching Volunteer **Amy Reich, Parent '20**, all of whom spoke at the event. They have already been joined by PF Volunteer Chair **Shaista Keating, Parent '20** and Diwali Celebration Committee Chair **Shikha Dixit, Parent '20**, both of whom volunteered at the reception — after only four days as TJ parents — for these important leadership roles.

**Navigating TJ
Tuesday, October 18th**

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time. They just have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew

Moderated by freshman parent Shaista Keating, who sprinkled inspirational quotes throughout the morning session, the Navigating TJ panelists shared how volunteering has helped them understand what their own children — and others — are going through, get the inside scoop on TJ news, and meet other parents with whom they have a lot in common.

Photos, from top to bottom:

- 1) Guests mingle at the September 11th Freshman Parent Reception.
- 2) Navigating TJ panel, from left to right: PTSA President **Mariena Barletta, Parent '16, '18**, Partnership Fund volunteer **Thuy Nguyen, TJ '16, '18**, Former PTSA President **Silvija Striks, TJ '18**, and PTSA Corresponding Secretary **Yongqing Lu, Parent '17, '17**
- 3) At TJ's Diwali, Spanish teacher **Sra. Alexandra Pou**, left, and counselor **Andrea Smith** show off their gorgeous saris and hennaed hands.
- 4) Diwali Celebration freshman emcees, from left to right, **Avyuk Dixit**, **Monica Saraf**, **Sanika Karandikar**, **Ayush Jonnala**, and **Ronith Ranjan**
- 5) Namaste dancers at TJ's Diwali (more photos at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/z57lwzm>)



**Diwali Celebration,
Saturday, November 5th**

After a year's absence, one of TJ's best parties has returned, thanks to organizer **Shikha Dixit, Parent '20**. With singers, games, henna, party favors, student dancers and emcees, and delicious food catered by **Kiran Gunnam, Parent '20**, TJ's Diwali Celebration is better than ever.

Festive lights and decorations transformed TJ's Nobel Commons into a fantastic party venue. **Principal Glazer, PF Board Chair Srikant Sastry, Parent '17**, and seniors **Josh Rutzick** and **Sveta Jagannathan** spoke about TJ's unique opportunities and special community. Over 250 people attended, and there's already talk of an even bigger event next year. Happy Diwali!

Upcoming Events

ALUMNI DAY: Sat. 11.26, 12-3pm (T-giving)
School tours & activities for ALL CLASSES
Memorial Service for Bettie Stegall, 3-4pm

Reunion '91: 11.25-26 (Thanksgiving)
Welcome Reception: Friday 11.25 TBD
Main Event: Saturday 11.26, 6pm
Fairview Park Marriott, Falls Church

Reunion '06: 11.25-26 (Thanksgiving)
Happy Hour: Friday 11.25 6pm, Bracket Room, Arl.
Main Event: Saturday 11.26, 7pm
Smith Public Trust, NE DC

Reunion '01: 11.27 7pm (Thanksgiving)
Happy Hour: Ireland's Four Courts, Arlington

Reunion '11: 11.25 6pm (Thanksgiving)
Happy Hour: Spider Kelly's, Arlington

Giving Tuesday: November 29th!

Internship Fair: Wed. 1.18.17, 2-4pm
To participate, contact szabel@fcps.edu

Lunar New Year Celebration:
Saturday 2.11.17, 2-5pm at TJ

TJ could not fulfill its mission without the voluntary contributions of parents, grandparents, friends, alumni, and corporate partners. To learn how you can support TJ through the Partnership Fund, please visit us at tjpartnershipfund.org, or contact Development Director **Arista (Tia) Kinis** at akinis@fcps.edu or 703-750-8317.

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