

seniorfeature

I really like seeing open-minded seniors who have their priorities straight.
Jennifer Hilley, AP Literature teacher

Valedictorians accomplish 4.0 GPA

Twenty-one seniors receive top of class ranking

By BRIDGET HARTIG AND JACK RUMMLER

While students must balance rigorous course work, clubs, community service and sports, they struggle with keeping a high grade point average. Despite this, one student accomplished salutatorian and students accomplished a perfect 4.0 grade point average making them valedictorians.

"I really like seeing open-minded

seniors who have their priorities straight," AP Literature teacher Jennifer Hilley said. "They are mini adults and on the start of a very long journey. It is great for them to be able to acknowledge their success."

To obtain the valedictorian title, one must accomplish a perfect 4.0 unweighted GPA. However, these students also involve themselves in sports, community service and clubs such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta.



Scan this QR code to read in-depth profiles of the valedictorians.



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SOPHIA BROWN

Going to: University of Central Florida
Planned major: Actuarial Science
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Baking Braves, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Lacrosse, Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Ocean Activists, ReThink Life Discovery Church, Student Government Association



Favorite class: Finance magnet classes with William Daniel
Favorite movie: *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*
Where to study: Hanging from an eno hammock

DARIAN CABRERA

Going to: University of Central Florida
Planned major: Criminal Justice
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Bowling, Programming Team
Best memory: Homecoming senior year with friends
Study anywhere: A room high in the sky because it would be nice and quiet to focus on studying
Greatest struggle: Staying focused and putting in effort at the end of each school year
Favorite Class: Digital Design with Colleen Dugan
Spare time: Going to see movies with friends, watching youtube or playing video games



LAUREN CASSIDY

Going to: University of Florida
Planned major: Biomedical Engineering
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Always Wear Your Seatbelt, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Ocean Activists
Hardest class: AP Physics 1 with Michael Undieme
If you could meet anyone: Isaac Newton to help with physics and learn if the apple actually hit him on the head
Spare time: Reading, sleeping and baking



MARIA CORTES-ORJUELA

Going to: Valencia and direct connect to University of Central Florida
Planned major: Psychology or social work
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Key Club, Math Club, National Honor Society Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society
Hardest class: AP Chemistry with Glenn Listort
Best memory: Meeting closest friends and helping community in Key Club.



KAITLYN CULLEN

Going to: University of Florida
Planned major: Pre-Med to become an OB/GYN
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society, Student Government Association
Hardest class: AP Calculus BC with Teresa Tachon
Favorite class: AP Biology with Jamie Bortner
If you could meet anyone: Lin Manuel Miranda because of his talents, his philosophies, how he has put them to use and because of *Hamilton*.



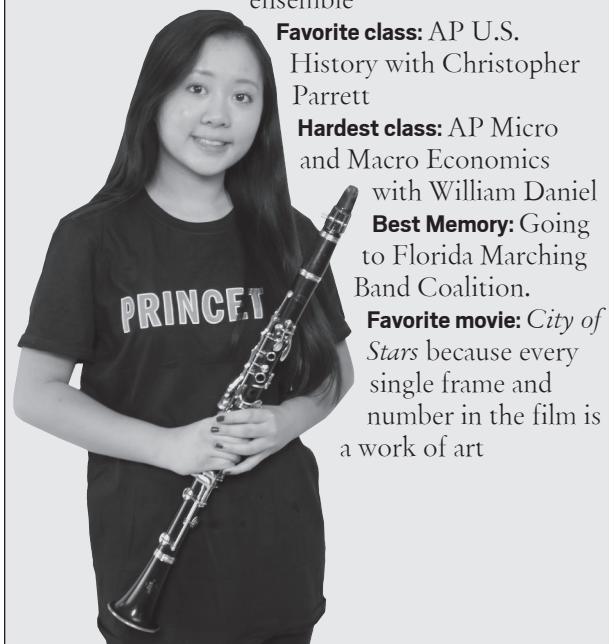
JULIANNE CHEATHAM

Going to: Colgate University
Planned major: Environmental Science and Theatre
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Aerial silks, Central Florida Performing Arts, Crafting for a Cause, Freedom Ride, Mighty Knitters, Orlando Health and Rehabilitation Center, Talako Indian Dancers,
Hardest class: AP Micro and Macro Economics with William Daniel
Best memory: Reading Cassandra Stilwell's quote sheet at the end of the year
Free Time: Hiking, knitting or reading



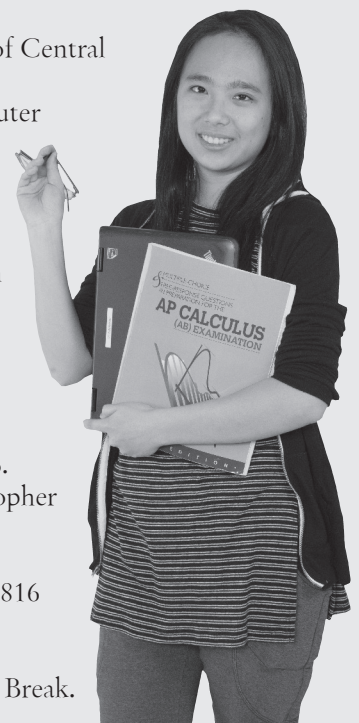
CHESLEY CHAN

Going to: Princeton University
Planned major: Music Performance and social science
Clubs/Extracurriculars: All-State Band, All-County Band, Florida Symphonic Youth Orchestra, Marching band, Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, wind ensemble
Favorite class: AP U.S. History with Christopher Parrett
Hardest class: AP Micro and Macro Economics with William Daniel
Best Memory: Going to Florida Marching Band Coalition.
Favorite movie: *City of Stars* because every single frame and number in the film is a work of art



XIAOJIN DAI

Going to: University of Central Florida
Planned major: Computer Science
Clubs/Extracurriculars: FIRST Robotics, French Club, French Honor Society, Key Club, Math Club, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad
Hardest class: AP U.S. History with Christopher Parrett
Biggest achievement: Joining FRC Team 5816 and going to Smoky Mountain, Tenn. to compete over Spring Break.



SENIOR GRADUATION

The Class of 2017 will graduate at the CFE Arena at University of Central Florida on May 18 at 2 p.m. The valedictorians will present a video. The Sound of the Braves and the chorus will perform for the audience.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS?

It feels accomplishing because of how good my grades have been so far and knowing all of the effort I've put in makes me want to keep pushing.
Allana Crawford, junior



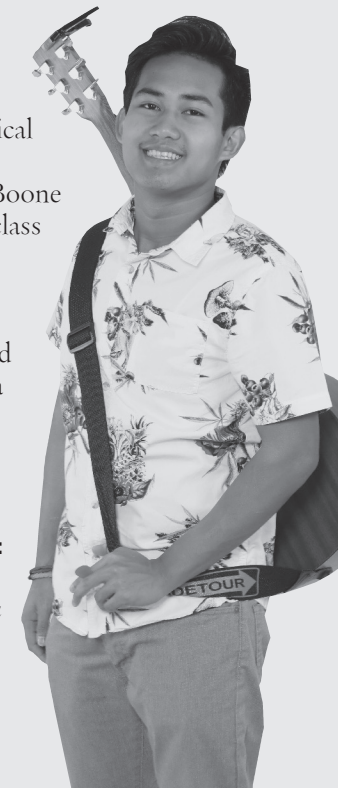
EMMA MCCLANE

Going to: The University of Florida
Planned major: Business Administration with a minor in German Language
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Always Wear Your Seatbelt, Garden Club, Math Club, Math Honor Society, National Honor Society, varsity cheer, Yearbook
Favorite class/teacher: Yearbook with Renee Burke
Spare time: Run, sleep, shop, and go out with friends and family



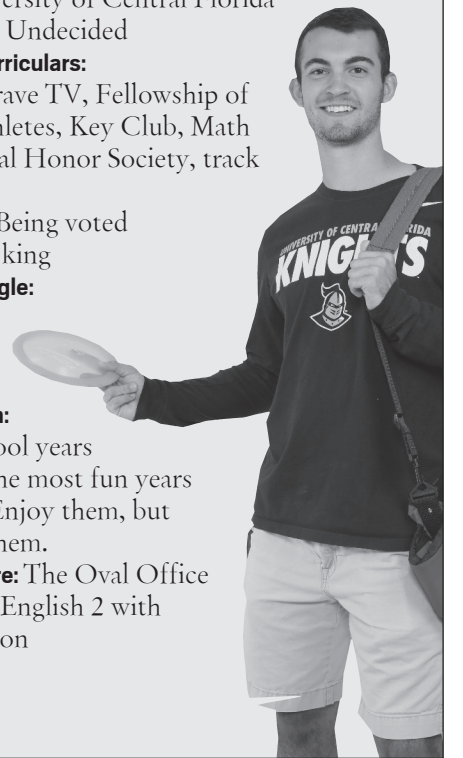
BOB VINCE NARANJO

Going to: University of Central Florida
Planned major: Biomedical Sciences
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Boone Animal Rescue Club, class council, Math Club, Skills U.S.A., Volleyball
Favorite class: AP World History with Christina Bay-bay Bykov
Biggest achievement: Becoming a certified pharmacy technician
If you could meet anyone: Ed Sheeran
Favorite Movie: *Zootopia*
Spare time: Sleeping and playing guitar



DOMINICK ORLANDO

Going to: University of Central Florida
Planned major: Undecided
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Basketball, Brave TV, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Key Club, Math Club, National Honor Society, track volleyball
Best memory: Being voted homecoming king
Greatest struggle: Time management
Advice to underclassmen: The high school years are some of the most fun years of your life; Enjoy them, but don't waste them.
Study anywhere: The Oval Office
Hardest class: English 2 with Jennalyn Patton



OLIVIA PAGE

Going to: University of Florida
Planned major: Marketing and Public Relations
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Club soccer, Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Ocean Activists, Spanish Honor Society, Savvy Seniors, soccer, Yearbook
Favorite movie: *Devil Wears Prada* or an action packed Marvel movie



MEGAN PIRINO

Going to: University of Florida
Planned major: Undecided
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Baking Braves, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Orlando Soccer, Ocean Activists, Soccer, Spanish Honor Society, Yearbook
Spare time: Playing soccer, fishing, finding trendy places to eat and do impromptu photo shoots with yearbook friends



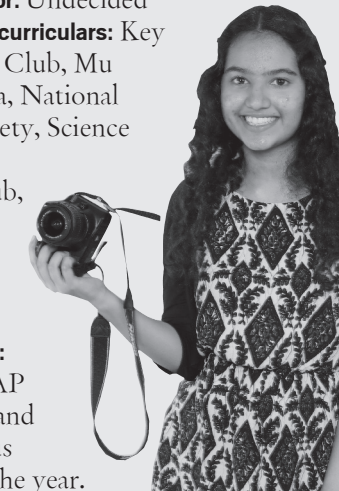
SIDNEY ROMAN

Going to: Columbia University
Planned major: Political Science, Biophysics, or Economics, with the end goal of one day being the President of the United States of America
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Crew, Drama Club, Gay-Straight Alliance, Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Star Wars Club, Thespians
Least valedictorian-like quality: Spending almost all of the free time playing video games or generally procrastinating
Biggest achievement: Receiving Eagle Scout rank after 12 years
Favorite movie: *Pulp Fiction* by Quentin Tarantino



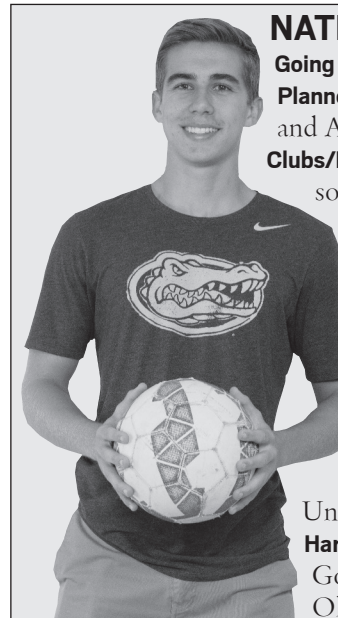
HAJRA SAEED

Going to: Undecided between University of Florida and University of Central Florida
Planned major: Undecided
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Key Club, Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad Spanish Club, Spanish Honors Society
Biggest achievement: Achieving AP Chemistry and Pre-Calculus student of the year.



NATHAN WENDLING

Going to: University of Florida
Planned major: Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Club soccer, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Ocean Activists, ReThink Life Discovery Church, soccer, Spanish Club
Favorite class: AP Physics with Michael Undieme
Hardest class: AP U.S. Government with Sydney Olson



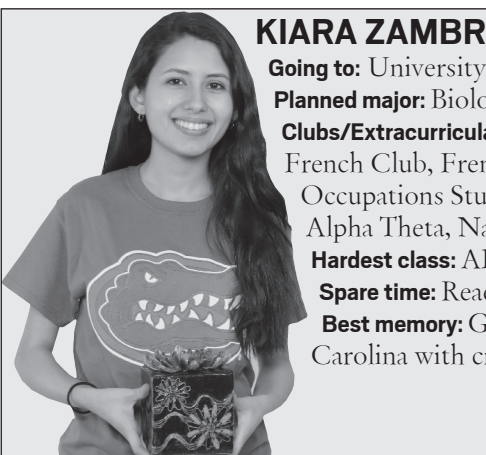
JORDAN WILSON

Going to: Florida State University
Planned major: Business Entrepreneurship
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Always Wear Your Seatbelt, Cheer, National Honor Society
Where to Study: Moss Park
If you could meet anyone: Sara Blakely because she is the first female billionaire and an entrepreneur.



KIARA ZAMBRANA

Going to: University of Florida or Duke University
Planned major: Biology or global health
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Cross country, finance magnet, French Club, French Honor Society, Girl Scouts, Health Occupations Students of America, Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, track
Hardest class: AP Physics 1 with Michael Undieme
Spare time: Reading, playing the piano and running
Best memory: Going to running camp in North Carolina with cross country teammates



THOMAS MOORE, SALUTATORIAN

Going to: University of Central Florida
Planned major: Engineering
Clubs/Extracurriculars: Fishing Club, Water Polo
Favorite class: English IV with Hutsell
Biggest Achievement: Making it to states for the first time in water polo.
If you could meet anyone: Adolf Hitler to see his explanation on his state of mind
Advice to underclassmen: Do all of your work and pay attention

