

Some Finals Words



Michael Lee
Newsletter

What you see before you is a finished product. But what really goes on behind the production of this newsletter? And how did a nut like me end up as the editor of this thing?

Well, this is the tale of Michael and the

newsletter. It was the summer of '06 and I had just finished RYLA. Being that it was RYLA, the lack of sleep and the fun of it all really drove a nail into my sanity. So one day I decided to apply for District Council. Why? Because Janet needed a competent editor and HEY WOULD YOU GUESS? It looks good on a transcript! Little did I know I was stumbling like a blindman into room full of enraged hippos (the most dangerous animal in Africa; they run as fast as men and can literally break one in two).

So what does doing my job entail? Newsletter Coordinator? I'm not really a coordinator, more like a slavedriver. Well, first I have to notify everybody a month in advance of the deadline for their blurbs. Then I must remind them, more threateningly as time goes on. Then I must extend my deadline by a month (this is the key to the job). Then I have to read all of the blurbs (the hardest part). Then I must edit them, place them, and then send it to our beloved Governor.

This issue is killing me. You see, prom night was last night. Currently, I've been slaving on this newsletter (and waiting for stragglers) for the past...6 hours. I had fewer hours of sleep than that. Hopefully I'll get it done before midnight though.

So yes. To anyone who wants my job: take it, it's yours. It's the second hardest job on DC, surpassed only by the Lt. Governor position. Speaking of Lt. Governor, I feel sorry for those who think that it's the easier position. Anyways, when you guys vote today, remember: even if people are new, do not be afraid to vote for them, sometimes new blood is a good thing.

Interact District 5170 Newsletter

- Governor: Janet Chau (Cal)
- Lt. Governor: Jennifer Yee (UCSD)
- Secretary: Chelsea Xu
- Historian: Minh Nguyen (SJSU)
- International: Brandon Li (Cal)
- Newsletter: Michael Lee (UCLA)
- Webmaster: Yuanyu Chen
- New Clubs North: Kathryn Fong (Cal)
- New Clubs South: Eric Mendez (Cal)
- Youth Act: Betty Su (Cal)
- Rotaract: Thanh Nguyen (SJSU)
- Variety: Hoi Sing Mok (UCLA)
- Special Events: Victoria Dzuong (UCD)
- Publicity: Jason Owyang (Boston U.)
- Area 01 Rep: Rhian Morgan (London)
- Area 02 Rep: Elliot Hung (UCSD)
- Area 03 Rep: Terri Wang
- Area 04 Rep: Justin Shih (Cal)
- Area 05 Rep: Asha Choudhury
- Area 06 Rep: Pauline Nuth
- Area 07 Rep: Alexandra Daily
- Area 08 Rep: Zuodi Liao (UCD)
- Area 09 Rep: Alan Guttirez (Harvard)
- Area 10 Rep: Bianca Franklin (UCLA)
- Area 11 Rep: Danielle Wang (Cal)
- Area 12 Rep: Stephanie Cai (Stanford)
- Area 13 Rep: Amanda Merriweather (Puget Sound)

Interact Chair Advisor: Lee Fort

For more contact information, please visit www.Interact5170.com.

Disclaimer

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Mission Accomplished

GREETINGS, DISTRICT 5170 INTERACTORS,

As we approach the end of this Interact year, I salute you for your outstanding work on behalf of your clubs, schools, communities and the world! Your crowning achievement has been the raising of over \$46,000 for Action against Hunger. You have earned the respect and admiration of Rotarians throughout our district.

Thanks to the efforts of current and former Interactors, our Interact district has the reputation of being the most accomplished in the world! Several of our District Council members will have the honor of leading the Interact forum at the June Rotary International convention in Salt Lake City.

For those of you who will be graduating seniors, I congratulate you on successfully completing your high school career. I wish for you great fulfillment in your college career, and I hope that you keep your passion for community service burning bright. If your new college/university has a Rotaract club, join it; if not, start one! You will be richly rewarded. For you returning Interactors, I am looking forward to serving with you next year!

Finally, I dedicate this quote from Walter Chrysler to you:

"The real secret of success is enthusiasm. Yes, more than enthusiasm, I would say excitement. I like to see people get excited. When they get excited, they make a success of their lives."

Peace,
Lee E. Fort, Rotarian
District 5170 Interact Chair

Current Sum: \$50,369.07



Janet Chau
Governor

Congratulations, Interact. We've raised enough money this year to feed so many people, but I have never been hungrier in my entire life. As I leave the last year of my high school experience, I leave knowing that I have come of age. My peers and I are to become full participants in society, a society that I hope to spend my life improving.

We often feel helpless even as we remain afloat. For me, between grappling with the dreaded grade point average and competing with rival basketball teams, it has been a frantic balancing act. Sometimes I wish I had the power to change everything. But we cannot rewrite the laws of this world, and we don't own much of

our own property. Those of us who work often do so for minimum wage and few of us have seen our efforts accumulate into lasting effects. As we are told daily by our elders to "wait" for the future, we see issues which require immediate attention. The hunger of the starving and the plight of the dying is not a matter that we can simply "wait" for. We don't need to inherit the earth in order to save its people. I am proud to thank each and every Interactor in our District for refusing to wait.

I would like to thank each and every member of Rotary International, the organization that has carried us through our most difficult moments. The Rotarians deserve just as much recognition as we do, for providing us with support while allowing us to stand on our own feet. They not only allowed us to grow, but grew beside us through the dialogue and the events we participated in. I'm confident that future generations will continue to honor this relationship and inspire and support the generation after them to change the world.



Jennifer Yee
Lt. Governor

How do you summarize one's most rewarding life experience in one blurb? Well, let's start with this: think about family. What is a family? It is a group of people who share a common interest, who talk as much as they can, and who unconditionally love each other. This is Rotary. Rotarians are our second parents and are there whenever we need help and support; Interactors are their children. We, as Interactors, have a special bond that cannot be broken, because we are all like siblings entwined in some special way, whether we have passed each at Fall Leadership Conference or built the tallest straw tower at President's Retreat.

We never forget the people who have crossed our path and shaped our lives, affecting who we are somehow. Therefore, we must take this time to THANK each and every member of our Rotary family for helping us by mentoring, putting on district events, and being the support group we've always needed as teens.

So, what was the point of Interact for most of us? Is it to meet upperclassmen, to be able to stare at dazzling hotties and to score a prom date, or to complete service learning hours? During Freshmen year, I was in it just to finish my service learning hours and then quit. The way I felt about Interact changed after meeting Kat Leung, the Interact President my freshmen year. Upperclassmen are intimidating, no doubt; but, in a way, she made me comfortable being in Interact, which no other club did. Other clubs did not pay particular attention to their members, they just hoped that members will show up to participate. It doesn't work that way. It's not just the international action that entices people, but the real interaction with others that only Interact has demonstrated for me.

I'm not sure how the past did it, how District 5170 has grown to be 5,000+ Interactors in an area much smaller than other ones, but I'm very appreciative to have been a part of it. Come to think about it, we have not only impressed ourselves, but the whole Rotary world. Congratulations Interactors, no one in this world should be more proud of you than yourself.

Interact 5170 District Council Job Descriptions

Please note that these are only BRIEF descriptions of each position on DC.

Area Reps. 1 through 13:

- Serves as a liaison between the schools in your area and the district.
- Coordinates area events/socials to keep schools active and to promote unity.
- Coordinates monthly meetings in order to keep club presidents aware of district events and get updates/feedback from clubs.
- Coordinates at least one fundraising project each semester.
- Updates DC with club events.

Secretary:

- Takes minutes during meetings, to be sent to the Webmaster for publishing.

Variety Coordinator (Treasurer):

- Keeps track of money raised by whom and club and for what organization.
- Updates DC on total fundraising money on district projects.

International/Local Events Coordinator:

- Is responsible for district international/local activities.
- Encourages the 'International Night Project,' to celebrate cultural diversity and to showcase youth talent in order to raise money.

Newsletter Coordinator:

- Keeps all Interact Presidents updated with District Council.
- Must be able to generate layouts and designs on a publishing program.
- Must possess a great amount of patience, high disappointment threshold, and strong work ethic.
- Newsletter comes out about once a month.
 - Contains updates from DC.
 - Vary in length from 4-12 pages.
 - Articles/photos that spotlight clubs activities.

Webmaster Coordinator:

- Updates the district website with upcoming events, directories, minutes, newsletter, etc.

Historian:

- Takes pictures of district events, including socials, meetings, retreats, etc.
- Creates the Spring Banquet slideshow and videos.

Publicity Coordinator

- Makes flyers about district projects.
- Posts information in local newspapers.
- Makes videos for community/international projects.

New Clubs North Coordinator and New Clubs South Coordinator:

- Start Interact clubs at schools that do not already have an existing club
- Help start clubs, recruit members, find events, etc.

Rotaract Coordinator:

- Serves as a liaison between high school-based Interact and college-based Rotaract.

Youth Act Coordinator:

- Helps high school Interact Clubs start and support Youth Act clubs at local middle schools.

Special Events Coordinator:

- Helps manage district events.
- Must be available as a resource for any clubs with questions regarding starting/attending programs or events.



Hi! My name is Fatemeh Adlparvar and I am applying for District 5170 Interact Lieutenant Governor because I have a passion for Interact and leadership. I've been involved in Interact since my Freshman year in High School at Washington and I've served as a dedicated member, Historian/Public Relations, and President. I've also attended RYLA and I've developed SO many friendships that I KNOW will last me a lifetime. At Washington I'm also very involved in my speech and debate team and have served as Public Relations Director and current Debate Captain. I am currently the Chief of

Staff for the Junior Statesmen of America as well as my chapter Secretary. I was an editor and writer for my school newspaper, the Hatchet. I've been tutoring math (Geometry and Algebra) at Washington since my Freshman year every Thursdays. I am also secretary for the Environmental club at WHS and have been a member of CSF for all three years in school so far. I've completed over 500 hours of community service over my high school career and 95% of those hours are through Interact! I've also participated in the Annual Rotary speech contest for three years in a row. In my free time, I love to dance at Yoko's Dance Academy or chill with RYLA/Interact friends.



Hello Interactors! Welcome to Spring Banquet! How was your year? My name is Pauline Nuth, and I currently hold the Area 6 Representative position.

Working with DC and everyone else; to see the joy, the passion, the love...I've taken everything I've done this year to heart. I've dedicated myself to Interact, persevering for success, not just for myself, but to epitomize the meaning of "Service Above Self."

Those of you who know me know: I'm not just committed, but truly devoted to Interact, which I've dedicated myself to since freshman year. I've been a board member since second semester of my freshmen year and this past year, I was Co-President of my club, as well as working alongside District Council as an Area Rep. As far as leadership "positions" go, I've served as the Martial Arts Club Public Relations Officer, Yearbook Editor, Chinese Moon Festival Committee Member, Link Crew Leader, and Class Representative. This past year, I've challenged myself with 4 AP classes.

After doing all of this, I feel like I can take on anything. The past year felt like the roller coaster ride of my life...full of loops, ups and downs, and nevertheless a thrilling experience. If anything that this year has taught me is that it's made me stronger and taught me, as Lee Fort would say, to "be flexible." I am so psyched for next year!



My name is Sabrina Wong and I am currently co-president of the Interact Club at Independence High School. I have been an Interact member for three years, and for my first two years, I held the leadership role of being a board member. At Independence High School, I have participated in the annual club events such as the Fall Food Drive, Multicultural Night, Charity dinner, and Inspirational Night. As a part of District 5170, I have attended both the Fall Leadership Conference and the Presidents' Retreat twice. I have also attended shows and events hosted by other areas. I am a part of the Chinese

Moon Festival Committee at Overfelt Gardens in San Jose. where I have worked with other clubs and organizations such as Key Club and CSF Club to put on an opera show, poetry contest, and moon festival yearly for the city. Besides Interact, I manage my time between school itself and other extracurricular activities such as sports and school programs. I have been a part of the school's Yearbook staff and participated in the Link Crew program for Freshmen students. Badminton is my sport, but I am only Team Manager this year, as I need to balance my time between my activities while committing myself to Interact.



03
Terri Wang

Hey everyone! Can you believe summer vacation's just around the corner? Although that also means our Interact year together is coming to a close, I hope your Interact spirit carries on whether you're starting a new journey in college or continuing your journey through high school. I can definitely say that being part of Interact has been one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences in high school. Participating in District Council, especially, has further amplified my love for Interact and its motto of "Service above Self."

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who supported me and helped me get through this challenging year. First and foremost, I want to thank my wonderful parents who always encourage me to try my best in everything I do (and who have been very accommodating chauffeurs haha)! Thanks to Janet and Jennifer who are fantastic leaders and were always so understanding and appreciative of our work! Thank you Rotarians who are constantly there to give us guidance and moral support! I also want to thank Amador Valley Interact, the officers in particular, for having my back and being remarkable friends. And of course, I want to thank everyone else on District Council who has made this whole experience all the more amazing!

So for all you people who are on the fence about joining District Council next year, I strongly encourage you to do it! It's a great way to take your leadership and communication skills to the next level and reach out to so many people while you're at it. We really made a difference helping Action Against Hunger this year, and I know they really appreciate all the hard work and dedication we showed to this cause. Great job!! For me, this is what Interact is all about. It's about making a difference, no matter how big or how small. Isn't it true that whatever efforts we exert to make people happy and healthy seem worthwhile when their smiles and faces brighten up? Throughout my years in Interact, I've felt appreciated and blessed countless times. And now, District Council gives me the opportunity to share this with so many other Interactors!

As for next year, I plan to continue my involvement in District Council. I love everything about it! Well...almost. Because if there's one thing I could change, we should have more Area 3 Interactors on it! To wrap it up, I love my Area 3 flamingoes and congratulations to our incredible Interact district for all its accomplishments!



04
Justin Shih

I used to hate the world because I thought everybody was out to get me. Isn't that how we're trained to think? Study hard to get ahead so we can beat everyone else! What kind of world is that? What's the point of being a nice guy if you're going to finish last? Well, let me tell you, life isn't about being better than someone; it isn't about finishing first or last. And it took me the longest time to realize this.

Rotary was the spark that changed everything. It completely changed my attitude, made me want to commit myself to community service. It was the spark that has given me hope that things will get better, that, there's a future ahead of us, and that I will shape it. This confidence has gotten me deeply involved with Interact on a club and district level. Now when I look at the world, all I can see are the opportunities to do good, the opportunities to benefit all concerned.

The Interact motto of "Service Above Self" truly has taken over my life. And I realize that all my Interact experiences tie together to make the person that I am. Someone I'm actually proud to be.

So the only thing I ask of you is to be a good person, be fair, and speak the truth. Because as Rotarians and Interactors, the whole world is relying on us to make the difference.



Asha Chouhury

We may be the largest Interact District in the world, but we STILL have the potential to expand, raising much more money and reaching many more people. As we continue to develop, we are setting precedent for every other Interact Club in the WORLD. And if we happen to squash a few Key Clubs along the way, then more power to us. ;)

I would like to thank each and every advisor who has been with us for this experience, and also my parents for believing me every time I told them I was leaving the house to "study for SATs" when I was really helping Interact.

The inspiration that flows out of the people I've worked with this year has proven to be a much better motivator than any form of caffeine (by the way, too much Monster will kill you). The laughs I've had with everyone this year remind me of what my work is worth, whenever I'm pushed to endure long nights or hectic days.

I'm glad to have grown so close to everyone on DC, and reluctant to let them leave us at the end of this year together. But at the same time, it's wonderful to let go. I'd be happy if I leave even a fraction of the impression that each of them left on me.

... by Zuodi. And frankly, he did a pretty good job.



Pauline Nuth

feel like we went through hell this year. I mean, last year's presidents didn't leave us with anything, we literally planned everything from scratch. I just wish we could have bonded more and played more Taboo and sing more Karaoke and watch more Oprah. There's always next year, right?

To Piedmont Hills: It was a pleasure to work together. I think this year's charity dinner was a lot more successful than last in the sense that we all worked together and no one school was stuck doing the dirty dishes like last year. We put long hard hours into planning Multicultural Night, and considering the fact that we pulled together the show in a month and made \$1,000 (more than ever before), I'd say it was a success.

To DC: You guys are a bunch of amazing individuals. I totally remember the first "in depth" conversation, that wasn't about Interact...it was in Janet's car, and she was driving Brandon, Michael, and me home...and we were talking about the Avian Flu. Talks like these I'll never forget...and moments like tossing each other into the ocean at the President's Retreat, I'll never forget...I'm going to miss you all so much!

Simply stated, I am truly honored to have served as your Area 6 Representative. I hope next year will even more fun, more successful, and more unforgettable. Best wishes!

District Council 2007-2008 Governor and Lt. Governor Statements of Candidacy



Hello hello! My name is Asha Choudhury.

As another incredible Interact year is ending, it's time to look to the next. With that brings the election of Governor and Lt. Governor. I'm running for Governor because I think it'd be really awesome to march around district events while everyone salutes me and calls me Skipper. But more importantly, I'm running for Governor because simply put, my passion is people. I've held class office in order to give back to those who create timeless memories for me every day. I've been a team captain so that I can help unite an amazing group of girls and push them to their greatest potential. Most importantly, I've served as Co-President of the Interact club at Mission San Jose High, and I'm proud to say we've had our most successful year yet- raising over \$4000 for ACF and reaching out to nearly 600 people on our mailing list. I'm excited to take these experiences, as well as those from being the Area 5 Rep, and apply them to the district as a whole. It's amazing what our sheer existence, not to mention our intentions and actions, can entail, and I'm ready to inspire, direct, and celebrate the district in the year to come.



My name is Jamie Slagle and I hope to run for Governor. A little about myself, I'm going to be a senior next year, and I always have been involved in leadership at school. I was elected to class council sophomore year, and this year I was elected as USB (United Student Body) Secretary. The person who original ran to our USB Vice-President dropped the position in the summer, so I took on that job as well I am also the Interact Co-President at our school. In addition, I am a huge soccer fan, so I often help out the Jr. High girl's soccer team after school while I wait for my little brother to finish class.

I love having the opportunity to make a difference in the life of people. Over the summer, I work at Summer Day Care for the city of Newark. I am a leader to the children, who are between 5 and 12 years old, so I play games with them, take them on field trips, and have a lot of fun everyday. Eventhough I know I could have a job making more money elsewhere, I chose this job because I know I am making a difference in Kid's lives. I am helping them make friends and learn how to play kickball and monkey soccer. The smiles I get from the kids make my day, and I know I couldn't get that by working at Safeway.

For next year, I decide to not run for high position in USB because I wanted to devote more time to Interact. I still will be on USB, but have a much easier job; I am making a video yearbook of the year. About halfway through this past year, it really hit me. All the work that I had done for USB was fun, but the work I had done for Interact was amazing. I am proud of every hour of community service that I have earned, and every dollar that will soon be sent to Action Against Hunger. The Interact work has such meaning behind it, that I would be honored to be Governor next year.



Eric Mendez
New Clubs South

Well, what's there to say? Another year of fun, madness, fundraising, stress, service, and achievement is finally over. For several months we've worked on the common goal of raising over 45,000 dollars for Action Against Hunger, and I am proud to say that we surpassed this objective together as a district.

From RYLA to the President's Retreat, I leave District Council full of crazy memories and even crazier friends. When I first applied for 5170's New Clubs South Coordinator, I never expected to meet such a diverse group of individuals or experience such an impact on my life. I was ready to work hard for those who can't help themselves, but I wasn't ready for the elevating and eye-opening journey that I

would undertake in doing so.

More than anything, I was lucky to get the opportunity to network with students across District 5170. Interact gave me the chance to find friends from Hollister all the way to Oakland, something not many organizations have the privilege of making possible. Getting to know the people on DC and becoming close friends with them, even though some are uptight (Janet) and others are ten different kinds of crazy (Asha), made everything worth the time and effort.

Now that I'm off to college, I am glad to have joined Interact my sophomore year and pleased to have taken the opportunity of becoming part of the District Council family. I take with me the satisfaction of helping make a difference in the lives of those suffering from hunger and other tribulations. On the other hand, I leave next year's Interactors the challenge to exceed us, their predecessors, both in level of growth and achievement.

We're finally here at the Spring Banquet, the last of the major events during the Interact year. All your hard work, heart, and effort have led to this point, so enjoy it Interactors, you guys deserve it.



Victoria Dzuong
Special Events

Dear Interact, what could I possibly tell you about this year? I think each and everyone one of you will remember Interact as an EXPERIENCE, and not as a slogan or tagline. The fond feelings each of us develop toward Interact are stronger than any expression of purpose and lead us to develop infectious attitudes. How crazy is it that we memorized the DC cheer? And the RYLA chant? It's heart-warming to notice that each of us who went to RYLA still remembers the words.

In speaking to former Interactors, I've come to better appreciate what we've accomplished this year. As generations of Interactors come together, we are capable of charting our progress as a district. We as a district grown over the years, and it's the result of Interacts like you (yes, you reading this newsletter).

I've experienced my share of difficults in preparing events like our charity dinner and multicultural night, but I hope that with each future incarnation of these annual events, our reputation within the community and the magnitude of our events will grow. I'm grateful to have met a very remarkable role model in Janet Bich Chau, our very patient Governor.

I look forward to my upcoming college years at UC Davis, where Zuodi and I will take over the local Rotaract and convert it into a Rotary-sponsored field hockey league. By inviting men to the traditionally female-dominated sport, we can erase the ugly smear of sports-related sexism from college campuses. By sponsoring charity competitions between local prison inmates and middle schoolers, we foster the creation of lasting friendships and mentorships. And by introducing the sport to non-Caucasians, we can dissolve racism. The UC Davis Extreme Field Hockey Syndicate sponsored by Rotary International has a great deal of potential, and may be my proudest achievement. I'm just kidding, but seriously everyone...through Interact we CAN do ANYTHING.



Alexandra Daily

This year has certainly been a fun one. Saying goodbye to the seniors, especially all of those on D.C. is going to be really tough! I've had a lot of fun as well though. Whether it be the craziness of Fall Leadership Conference or the bonding at the Presidents Retreat it's all been a great experience for me and I'm looking forward to next year. To hear about the personal and group commitments to this project is truly inspiring and it is tremendous that I get to be a part of such an amazing organization. I think the truly most inspiring thing this year is seeing the bonding between interactors from all over. There's been a tremendous sense of togetherness that before I was involved in district council I didn't see. Like a lot of Interactors, I wasn't aware of the sheer size of district 5170 and I was so surprised to discover how many people are united under one cause in district 5170 and continue to be surprised everyday. Next year I'm hoping to continue my quest to unite area seven and I hope to learn from my experiences as an area rep this year to be an even better rep next year. If we were toasting I'd ask you to raise your glasses to a good farewell to this year and many more fun times to come but were not, so oh well, have a good summer everyone! Don't get sunburnt and get ready my fellow juniors for a great rest of 2007 and 2008.



Zuodi Liao

Area 8, look at what we've done! No photograph, speech, or embarrassing YouTube video could ever do it justice, but it does indeed live on within us. I thank you for being genuine. Thank you for letting me be me, and thank you for being yourselves.

I've heard horror stories from other schools regarding "Interact drama", but Area 8 has thankfully not seen the ugly side of it. Our experiences with club-related conflict have been constructive, rather than cannibalizing. We've had our disagreements, but look at how much our Area has grown this year! Haesue, I hope you're proud!

Thank you for letting me know what works and what doesn't. For sharing the pet peeves and anxious moments, and most of all the triumph. Area 8 is tight. Not DESPITE our differences, but BECAUSE of them. More than anything, I smile when I receive a complaint. The most powerful dose of hope comes when an Interactor tells me we as an Area, as a school, or as individuals, have the potential to do MUCH more. I'll be in Davis next year, a couple hours away from the Bay. Would I drive two hours to come watch "The 1st Annual Area 8...Sumo-Suit Wrestling Competition?" OF COURSE I WOULD. I'm excited. Part of my amazing supporting cast from this year doesn't have the privilege of graduating just yet.

We often say that every year of Interact is a "learning experience". What does that mean? We always wear out this expression but don't always grasp onto it. I'm familiar with the Area 8 of recent years, but not the Area 8 of prehistoric times. What if we are repeating the mistakes of predecessors we never knew?

No group is immune to failures, but I believe there is a "force" that surrounds the largest Areas. You know, the areas where schools have millions of Interact members logging millions of hours... and Key Clubbers are driven into hiding, holding secretive meetings in the parking lots of the local Taco Bell. The essence of Interact lives and breathes within these places, and momentum is preserved even as leadership fluctuates and changes. I see a future like this for Area 8 someday soon, and it is grown out of what is discovered, shared, and imparted each year.

I would like to thank all of my wonderful advisers for the long hours they've spent helping us this year. The respect they've shown for us teenagers has inspired me deeply. What I appreciate most is the way they will nudge us towards the right direction but leave us to find ourselves. They give us the flashlight instead of directing us to the light switch. Though they are wise beyond their years, they never tell us EXACTLY what to do. If only our parents were more like this!



Danielle Wang

I really cannot believe that this will be the last blurb that I write for DC 5170's newsletter. It always amazes me how quickly time passes by, but I guess it does when you're having the time of your life. Now even if some of the things I say are lame—so lame and cheesy that you have to cringe as you're reading it—I really do mean everything here! So let's get started...

You can't talk about Interact without mentioning the *interactions* that must come between Interactors at every event. Breaking the ice seems to be something that we're especially good at. From guessing the "shoe owner" at the first DC meeting to passing and popping balloons in awkward positions at the President's Retreat, it's hard to like a part of a the family once you're in this club. And the support that Rotary gives to Interact never ceases to amaze me; I'd like to take a moment and say: "Thank you Rotarians! We could not have done it without you. Your selflessness constantly demonstrates what "Service Above Self" truly means.

I could never have imagined what Interact is all about when I first joined in my sophomore year. Interact is all kinds of wonderful. It's the laugh-out-loud kind of wonderful. It's the satisfied-and-gratifying kind of wonderful. It's the you-are-free-to-be-the-dork-you-really-are-inside kind of wonderful. It's the <fill in the blank> kind of wonderful. Where else could you experience a week of RYLA, stroll on the beaches at Marine Headlands, eat dessert on a cruise, dance across the Bay Area, and play bizarre blind-folded samurai-themed games?

Shout-out to all the incredible Interactors in Area 11: you guys make my job so easy and enjoyable, I absolutely love you guys! I say let me see your starfish. What's that you say? I said, let me see your starfish...ooh, thank heavens for Area 11!



Stephanie Cai

WOW. The year is finally coming to end. It has been simply amazing! I have had wonderful experiences that I will treasure forever; I have met new people who have inspired me and who are so crazily involved; and I have become such a full well-rounded person because of my dedication, involvement, and experiences within Interact.

My varsity basketball coach always told me that "the destination may be important, but it is the journey--the experiences--that matter more." In essence, as Interact 2006-2007 and my high school years draw to an end, I have discovered the truth in what my coach

has been telling me all along. The struggles and experiences I have gone through, and the ones you will eventually face, have determined my character and shaped the cheerful, hard-working person I am.

Balancing APs with basketball, softball, leadership within my school and Interact District Council has been chaotic at times, and I have been stressed out a lot, but these things are the most defining moments of my life so far. I would live through high school again just to live through those experiences again. And, how does this pertain to Interact? Well, we have raised so much for ACF, our international project. And that amount is just that "final destination" I was referring to. The money is important, there is no doubt. However, that numeric value means more. It is a symbol of the self-discovery we paid for in our blood, sweat, and tears.

I would really like to thank AREA 12 for being so involved. International Night was a success once again! Every year, it seems to get better... And the Presidents have been so supportive in doing what needs to be done, as do the members. So, I guess it is our last time together, here at Spring Banquet. Wow. I am already feeling nostalgic for what I am leaving behind...take care Interactors!



Brandon Li
International

As the year comes to a close, Interactors from across District 5170 will be leaving this year with some amazing memories and will also be moving onto new adventures in the coming years. Some of us will be carrying on the Interact traditions in high schools across the Bay Area, while others will be going on even newer adventures in college and discover new ideas and have new experiences. As we begin to get closer to what our future has in store for us, let us all remember all of our accomplishments up to today.

At the beginning of the year we embarked on a journey similar to the ones that we will be embarking on in the future. We were introduced to a new challenge and a new organization: our goal to raise a minimum of 40,000 dollars for the Action Against Hunger's Campaign to End Starvation in the Congo. Since that day, we have all gone home on our own personal missions to contribute to achieving this goal. We have had coin drives, basketball tournaments, scavenger hunts, international nights, and many more creative and unique fundraising events; all of which had that singular purpose in mind. We have created something out of nothing. This didn't just happen through the work of just one of us; it was the work of all of us.

I commend all of you Interactors for your determination and the amount of energy that you have invested into this project. Thousands in the Congo will forever remember the great service you have done for them. All those hours of preparation and action are finally leading to the culmination of our contribution. When we look back at what we did, we can say that it was worth it (even though it may not have seemed so at the time).

So, once again, thank you for all the hard work you have put into Interact this year and good luck to all of you. Signing out, Brandon Li.



Yuanyu Chen
Webmaster

After not writing blurbs for what seems to be an excruciatingly long time, I seem to have forgotten what they are. Thankfully, our adorable Newsletter Coordinator comes to the rescue and saves District Council from this mind-numbing lull: Spring Banquet Newsletter whooo!

So I had written another 393-word blurb, but the Maestro demanded 400. To meet his demand of 7 more words, I have written another one, because my first one was just straight up weird. He probably proofed the hell out of it as well, so who knows what I really said. Oh, and this one is better.

So this year was just really weird for me. I hadn't really known what to expect from District - my club wasn't very active, District-wise. We do a lot of events, but I had never gone to an event with other clubs before. I still remember my first one - Rotary Day at the A's - being dorky cupcake girls with Nicole, walking to Jamba because we didn't have enough rides, and sitting at the bookstore because my dad's car broke down. Weird experience for me, but I loved it.

It's really cool to bump into random Interactors you know when you least expect it, especially at events when you didn't know there'd be other Interactors there. For me, it's a pleasant surprise and just brightens my day. The Interactors that I've met, both inside and outside of my club, are some of the coolest, nicest, dorkiest, and interesting-est people I've met, and I'm thankful to meet all of you. Seriously. Despite my current lack-of-life, I think I'd be even more lost without you guys.

In this sense, I'm looking forward to next year. I know that there will be a new wave of officers, and thus more District-participants. There will be new DC-ers I've never met who will rock my world. I will also be going to RYLA, so I think that'll just go without saying. I will be joining Rotaract and see a whole new level of Rotary.

And, to finish it off...a quote from the wonderful Michael Lee! "I HOPE TO MEET YOU ALL AND THAT WE BECOME JOLLY GOOD FRIENDS!"