

## Nearly 30 Years of Fun at 'Shakespeare for Kids'

Submitted by Grace Tyler



Visiting Cal Shakes for tour/stage coaching and picnic

The Shakespeare for Kids program celebrated 29 years of fun and frolic with a purpose at an authentic Tudor Faire, feast and performance of dramatic scenes from 10 of Shakespeare's plays July 20 in Lafayette. The summer camp, which is part of the "Shakespeare in America" program for children ages 6-14, was founded in 1983 by Carol Upshaw as a fun way to include her own children in her love of all things Shakespeare. Camp activities include juggling, jousting, sachet making, clay potting, fight choreography, dancing, gardening, cooking, costuming, heraldry, make-up and acting, and culminate in a performance for friends and family. "It has been a joy to see hundreds of children come through our program and enter the world with genuine interest in The Bard (Shakespeare)," said Upshaw. "Many [students] achieved higher academic and doctoral degrees, live around the world...and still keep in touch with our home base." For more information about Shakespeare for Kids, visit [www.shakespeareforkids.us](http://www.shakespeareforkids.us).



Singing "Here's Good Luck to Will Shakespeare! Good luck to the 'Barley Mow!'" Photos Grace Tyler

## Best in Show



Joan Edelson with her ribbon that reads, "California State Fair Best in Show - 2012," with jams displayed in the window made by her, her daughter Ashleigh and other show participants. Photo provided

Joan Edelson, a Moraga lawyer who loves good food, continued to collect ribbons at the Sacramento State Fair. She won best in show for her jams two years ago and went back this year with her whole family. "I won Best in Show for my blackberry BBQ sauce and Ashleigh (her older daughter) won Best in Division for her strawberry jam, and I won Best in Class for my strawberry-blueberry jam," says Edelson. Daughter, Ashleigh, also won four first-place awards for her cookies: Apricot-Craisin Pistachio Biscotti, Lemon-Pepper Shortbread Cookies, Persimmon Cookies with Lemon Frosting and Fudge Oatmeal Bars, while her mother won first place for her Anise Scented Fig & Date Swirl Cookies. —S. Braccini

## Local Student Wins Top Latin Prize in the Nation

Submitted by Elena Pang



Miramonte student Clark Pang Photo Provided

While most students are working on their tans and travel logs during the summer months, 16-year-old Clark Pang, a rising senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda, spent his summer competing at the National Junior Classical League (NJCL) national competition.

Every year, the nation's top Latin students convene for one week at a major university to compete at the NJCL Convention. This year, students from the top high schools and middle

schools competed head-on in the most grueling competition for Latin-Classics students from July 26-31 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Out of more than 1,600 students who competed, Pang won the most coveted prize in the nation for Latin student scholars: First Place in Overall Academics.

Pang participated in 13 individual contests out of the 16 categories offered. He won First Place in Classical Art, Greek Derivatives, Greek Life and Literature, Hellenic History, Motos, Quotations, and Abbreviations, Roman Life, and Latin Derivatives. The final champion is based on the cumulative scores achieved from all the tests. The one achieving the highest score is awarded the top prize.

In addition to winning the top Overall Academic prize, Pang won individual first place medals for achieving the highest score in Classical Art, Greek Derivatives, Greek Life & Literature, Hellenic History, Motos Quotations & Abbreviations and Roman Life. He accumulated the most points to become the top cham-

pion amongst fierce powerhouse competitors (past and previous) from Massachusetts and Virginia, typically known for producing champions. Thirty-eight states were represented. Pang represented the state of California and the Bay Area.

This achievement was a culmination of three years of studying since he fell in love with Latin and the Classics during his freshman year at Miramonte, due in large part to the inspirational teaching of Magister Matt Davis.

For the past 3 years, Pang has been the perennial top Northern California Latin student in the regional competition (Ludi Octobres) as well as the California state champion at the California Junior Classical League (CAJCL) convention.

Pang is also an award-winning cellist and the youngest musician to record the complete Bach Unaccompanied Suites for cello. He founded *Music Prisonations* at age 12, a concert series bringing hope to inmates through music, and was awarded by the Davidson Institute for his contribution to society.

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## Lafayette's College Advisor

## We Are Losing Our Minds: A Mass Exodus of California Students

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Once upon a time, California public schools ranked nationally as among the best. In the 1960s the state was able to offer each student that qualified a seat in a University of California freshman class. Many graduated within four years with a high quality education, and no debt. Now the state pays only 11 percent of UC tuition costs, and in-state student tuition has tripled over the last 20 years. Average tuition is approximately \$13,000, and that does not include room and board, travel, books and supplies. Total cost of attendance at a UC campus hovers around \$32,000. Our broken public system has weathered drastic budget cuts—\$1.6 billion in 10 years; these cuts have led to tuition hikes, enrollment caps, increasingly competitive admissions, cut courses, fewer teaching assistants and assignments (because there are fewer TAs to help professors grade them). Few can dispute an overall demise in quality of education.

California students, fed up with tuition increases and frustrated by packed California universities, are making a mass exodus. And out-of-state colleges are reaping the rewards. For example, enrollment at Boise State (Idaho) rose tenfold in the past decade and Arizona State doubled its enrollment of freshman from California. University of Oregon has quadrupled its admissions with freshman numbers growing from 280 in 2000 to more than 1,000 in 2010. The Vice Provost at the University of Oregon is thrilled by the "remarkable growth, predominantly out of Northern California." Roger Thompson, vice provost of enrollment management, calls it a "boon for the school." Universities nationwide regularly

employ not so subtle recruitment strategies to woo California high schoolers away from our broken public system. A Maryland recruiter at a recent high school college fair told students to come to his college, where they will graduate within four years, and many schools unabashedly offer thousands of dollars to attract our brightest students. Maryville University, a private school in St. Louis, touts an automatic \$5,000 scholarship to Californians. Another recruiter from Dallas-based Southern Methodist University tells students there are options 'beyond the golden fence.' Frankly, these schools have nothing to lose and everything to gain. By enrolling Californians, not only do they get non-resident tuition, they benefit from increased diversity on their campuses too. In turn, this attracts even more Californians at the next admissions cycle, enticed by the fact that colleges can point to a student body with increasing numbers who represent the "Golden State."

Tit for Tat

In much the same way, out-of-state students, who pay three times the tuition as in-state applicants, are becoming much more attractive to UC admissions departments. This year more than 23 percent of all incoming freshmen will be out-of-state and international students. That figure is a big jump from last fall, when 18 percent of all UC admissions were from out-of-state. And it's nearly double the percentage of foreign and non-California residents who were admitted in 2009. Our California students are openly wondering if the University of California's public system with its nine UC campuses and 23 CSU campuses really wants them. With a

3.9 GPA and solid test scores, Joe Williams was recently denied admission at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is attending a university in Arizona that "really wants me and is paying me to come." Our public system's push to attract more non-residents is fueling resentment among California students and families who have strived for years to gain admission to one of the country's top public university systems. "It seems like a breach of the state's promise to its residents," his parents said.

If, as most experts believe, access to high quality higher education and an educated workforce are linked to vibrant economic growth, then California is surely headed in the wrong direction. And we are losing our best minds to other colleges across the nation that can provide that education to our youth.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is a Lafayette college advisor. Dr. LaScala draws on 22 years of higher education experience to help guide and support the college admissions process for students and their families. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC and HECA. She can be contacted at (925) 891-4491 or [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com). Visit [www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com) for more information about her services.

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