



**Brian Clark, Psy.D.**  
*licensed clinical psychologist*  
 PSY 25198  
 ADOLESCENTS  
 ADULTS · FAMILIES

*specializing in:*  
 Achievement Pressure  
 AD/HD  
 Parenting Support  
 Anxiety  
 School Stress  
 Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette  
 (925) 385-8050  
 www.brianclarkpsyd.com

## Writing College Essays? Need help?



Writing coach Cynthia Brian helps college applicants write compelling essays.

*"Rachel powered through her essay and application after her session with you. Working with you was the right focus, right person, right time. We can't thank you enough! You are amazing!" Mother*

Call 925-377-STAR or email [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com)

Hourly fees. Book your writing session today. Cynthia cares.

## New Horizons for Upcoming SMC Graduates

By Amanda Kuehn



Image provided

You work and explore and learn and grow, and at the end of four years of hard work what do you have? For eight senior students at Saint Mary's College of California the answer is "plenty." Though not all undergraduates can take their hard-earned insights to the stage, for students majoring in dance, performance is essential.

The choreography of seniors Ally DeBoer, Britney Edens, Jenny Glosser, Joseph Klink, Melissa Miller, Christina Nelson, Kelsey Peterson and MarthaClaire Pile will be front and center on the stage of Le Fevre Theatre Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 5-7.

"I'm extremely impressed with what our seniors have done," said Catherine Davalos, artistic director of the Davalos Dance Company and professor at Saint Mary's College. "Horizons," the name the students have chosen for the production, is a unique concert of movement. "The image of the horizon reflects the vastness of the world, as well as the vast-

ness of humanity, and reminds us where we have been and where we are going," the students stated in a press release. "No two people have ever, or will ever live the same life, but ultimately we are all looking at the same sky."

From the lighting and costumes to the promotional materials, including the poster, the performance is completely student-run and will include a variety of dance styles, from modern to tap to dance theater. "I'm really pleased with their work," said Davalos. "I find it fascinating." The dances explore such themes as love, magic, faith, innocence, sacrifice and competition.

Most of the pieces deal with struggle in one form or another. "I see it a lot in their generation," said Davalos. "They're more connected to their personal struggles and to struggles on a global level as well." Pieces by Pile and Klink will address a need to endure. Glosser's "Tap That" puts forth a more friendly form of competition, while DeBoer's "First Thing, Last Thing" depicts a struggle between

love and loss. The struggle in Edens' "Buried Chains" is one of hiding emotional turmoil from the rest of the world. In Miller's "Nine and Three Quarters" we see the age-old struggle between good and evil. Peterson's "From the Dust" focuses on the struggle of finding faith in dark times, and Nelson's performance explores the tension between childlike and adult behavior.

In addition to its senior stars, "Horizons" will also feature a solo by Saint Mary's junior Felicia Cazares and a group dance by faculty member Jia Wu. The 12 senior dance students (eight of whom are choreographing) will be joined by a cast of two dozen underclassmen. "They're a particularly strong and artistic group," noted Davalos.

Each show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are free for Saint Mary's students and \$5 for general admission. For information and reservations please contact (925) 631-4670. Tickets are also available on [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).

## TEEN SCENE

### Behind the Wheel

By Caie Kelley

Although I have a hunch that my mother would disagree, I was an immensely talented driver the moment I sat down behind the wheel. During my first try, I repeatedly mixed up the turn signals, shifted gears to neutral when trying to drive in rear, and stepped on the accelerator when I meant to hit the break. Needless to say, it was a relief when I passed my driver's license test (the first time, shockingly!) after many bumper scratches and stressed-out squeals from the passenger seat. To my excitement, this summer my own little sister repeated the experience and began learning to drive. In light of my own joyous memories of the test, and her nervous anticipation, I thought I would find out: How did other teens do when they took hold of the wheel for the first time?

"It was horrible," explained a friend who wished to remain anonymous. "I grew up watching my mom and dad drive, so I was pretty confident. But it's a very different view from the back seat!"

Sammi K., who took her driver's test over the summer, echoed that sentiment when she said, "Learning to drive has been a big challenge. I assumed that it would be a breeze, and I used to laugh at my Korean immigrant grandma's stories with the dreaded DMV some 30 years ago when she passed on her fourth try. After my first lesson, the story was not funny anymore - my driving instructor even told me that I fit both stereo-

types of the Asian driver and reckless teenager."

Even after passing the test, many Lamorinda teens have stories about the rookie mistakes they made after getting their licenses. Gabi D. shared, "I have dented my car more than five times from hitting the front curb when I park. I have hit my friends' cars multiple times, too. I swear though, I am a responsible driver!"

Fortunately, there seem to be at least a few safe new drivers on the road. Stephany H. said, "I learned to drive in a parking lot, and it was pretty easy. I always pay attention to the road, because I want to defy the teenage-driver label."

So while new drivers can certainly be something to fear when cruising around windy Lamorinda roads, hopefully most 16-year-olds will seize Stephany's approach when taking the wheel for the first time.



Caie Kelley is a junior in high school and the Pop Culture reporter on the teen show, *Express Yourself*. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, teaching piano, and volunteering.

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

#### Music Lessons

**Piano/guitar w/ Robbie Dunbar**  
 All levels welcome!  
 I travel to your home.  
 M. A. Music Composition  
*Piano tuning as well!*  
 925-323-9706  
[robbiednbr@gmail.com](mailto:robbiednbr@gmail.com)

#### Balance Class

**Balance Class Lafayette**  
 Dance and Movement Center,  
 1018 Almanor Lane Weds: 1-2pm;  
 \$20 per class. Fun movements  
 designed to improve your balance.  
 Simple choreography (no dance  
 experience necessary) plus exer-  
 cises for balance, coordination,  
 strength and flexibility. Must be  
 able to walk without assistance  
 and to get down and up from  
 the floor. To confirm space:  
[estherwetzal@yahoo.com](mailto:estherwetzal@yahoo.com) or  
 (925)262-3155.

#### Insurance

**Totalintegrityinsurance.com**  
 20+yr Lamorinda resident.  
 My independent insurance  
 brokerage is here to serve you.  
 Over 100 top carriers = great  
 pricing and coverage for Biz  
 Gen Liab, W Comp, Homes, Auto,  
 Life. (925) 247-4356 0E90108

#### Writing Help

**College Application Essay**  
**Do you need some HELP?**  
 Fearless, Certified College Advisor  
 available to read your essays and  
 give you the editing advice you need  
 to improve these very important  
 statements. Reasonably priced  
 Moraga mom with fast turn-around  
 time. Don't procrastinate!  
 Email: [jari94556@comcast.net](mailto:jari94556@comcast.net)

#### Computer Service

**COMPUTERS' BEST FRIEND**  
*Home & Office Computer Service*  
 • ONSITE REPAIRS • VIRUS REMOVAL  
 • WINDOWS TUTORING  
 • HARDWARE UPGRADES  
 • NETWORK SETUP AND SUPPORT  
 • REMOTE DESKTOP/TELEPHONE SUPPORT  
[www.computersbestfriend.com](http://www.computersbestfriend.com)  
**925-682-3408 • 510-938-1881**

#### Plumbing

**WE HOP TO IT!**  
**(925) 377-6600**  
[LeapFrogPlumbing.com](http://LeapFrogPlumbing.com)

#### Office For Rent



**Premium office space**  
 in Moraga available immediately.  
 Beautiful mission style bldg faces  
 Rheem shop Ctr, near restaurants,  
 theatre & plenty of parking.  
 866 SF \$1500+ CAM per month.  
 Beautifully landscaped.  
 (510) 727-1800 x313 Kate

\$8 per 1/2" classified ad  
 height Email to:  
[classified@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:classified@lamorindaweekly.com)

reach 60,000+ with your ad

#### House Cleaning

**www.totalclean.biz**  
 Serving Lamorinda since 1985.  
 Insured and bonded 376-1004.

**Monica's Cleaning**  
 Residential & Commercial Janitorial Services  
 Lic. Free Estimates **(925) 348-3761**

#### Handyman

**Rusty Nails Handy Man Service**  
 Repair • Restore • Revamp  
 Call Rusty- (925) 825-6997

#### Painting Contractor

Interior, Exterior & Repairs  
 Professional & Reliable  
 Call Terry 925-788-1663 Lic. # 851058

#### Windows & Gutters

**Reliable Window Cleaning**  
 Friendliness & remarkable results.  
 Windows, Gutters, Pressure  
 Washing. **(925) 254-7622**  
[ReliableWindowService.com](http://ReliableWindowService.com)

#### Tile Setting

Baths, Showers, Floors, Walls,  
 Counters  
 Cliff 510-697-1125

#### Tree Service

**East Bay Tree Service.**  
 377-8733. Fine pruning, large  
 tree removal, stump grinding  
 License #805794

**Tree & brush removal.**  
 Poison Oak removal. 376-1995,  
 Licensed, insured & bonded

#### Construction

**Concept Builders**  
 Remodeling, Home Repair &  
 New Construction  
 Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563  
 (925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

Jacob Spilsbury - General Contractor  
*American owned and operated*  
 Renovation • Remodeling • Home Repair  
 Big & Small Jobs • Bonded & Insured  
 Lic # 898775 **925-825-5201**