

Miramonte students open discussion about distracted and drunk driving

By Jennifer Wake



From left: Jennifer Giron and Gracie Guidotti Photo provided

Inspired by the Every 15 Minutes organization that creates drunk driving simulations at schools, Miramonte High School juniors Jennifer Giron and Gracie Guidotti presented a video about distracted and drunk driving to the entire school during a breakout session April 27 at Miramonte.

"We used videos created by other organizations (cited at the end of the film) due to time and budget constraints," Guidotti said. "I edited the videos and combined them in order to incorporate both

distracted and drunk driving in the seminar. We included some statistics as well to add more information."

After watching the video, students and teachers participated in a short discussion and completed an anonymous survey.

Of the 569 survey respondents, 15 percent of students stated they have driven under the influence of alcohol and 75 percent have engaged in distracted driving, according to Guidotti. "Some responses as to why students drove distracted

included, 'To pick up a call, answer a text or a Snapchat, or put directions in on maps,' or 'I get nervous when I see that I have received a text. I feel the need to respond to it immediately.' In terms of why students drive drunk some quotes were that 'They need to bring their cars home so their parents aren't mad or suspicious' and 'I don't want to get in trouble by my parents or I just want to get home,'" Guidotti said. "The main reason for driving drunk was to avoid parental suspicion. However, 81 percent of students reported that this video and discussion would prevent them from driving distracted or under the influence."

Guidotti and Giron asked students what more Miramonte and the community can do to prevent drunk or distracted driving.

"The most common responses were that the school should raise even more awareness about these issues," Guidotti said, "and that parents need to set better examples in terms of distracted driving, and that parents need to be more understanding and willing to help out their children when they are under the influence." Guidotti said a key problem is that students do not want to call their parents for a ride because of fear of punishment.

The two juniors say they hope to continue this effort and make the video viewing and discussion part of an annual event so that students can be as informed as possible about the risks of drunk and distracted driving. To watch the YouTube video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1ymZNeBnvY>.

Eight SMC choreographers featured in 'Unearthed' concerts

Submitted by Aurelia Moulin

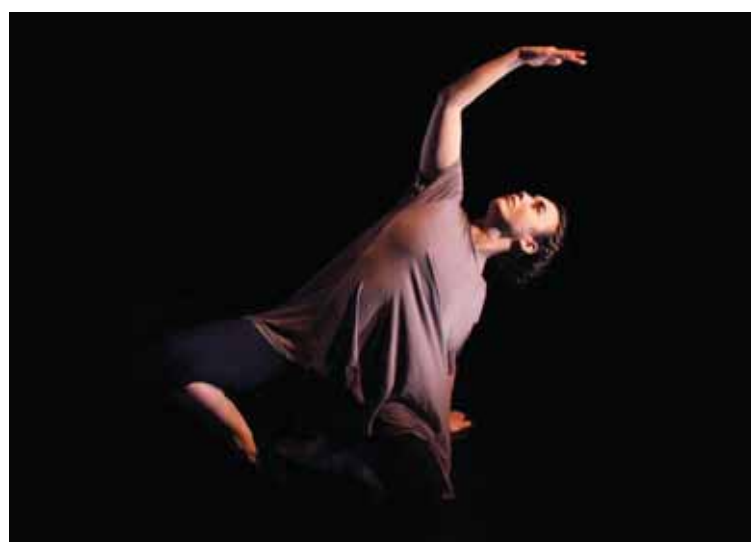


Photo provided

This year's dance thesis candidates will be presenting "Unearthed," a series of two concerts featuring work by eight choreographers – the culminating work of Saint Mary's College of California Class of 2018 MFA in Dance students that includes themes of healing, belonging, and transformation. The concerts will be performed at 3 p.m. (Concert 1) and 7 p.m. (Concert 2) on June 15 and 16 at LeFevre Theatre – and nearby locations for some site-specific works – on the Saint Mary's campus.

Concert 1 features works choreographed by Stephanie Brumer, Emily Denham, Summer Logan, and Ashley Mott. Within Concert 1, choreographer Brumer investigates dance as language; she examines how our healing inner voice can bridge the connection between emotion, language, and movement to allow healing strength and wisdom.

Denham's work explores the concept of "home" through a somatic lens; it is a homecoming to self, in hopes of cultivating a sense of belonging through movement. Logan's piece explores the intersectionality of gender, poverty and politics through the lived female experience in Appalachia. Mott's work examines the embodiment of trauma and is a somatic investigation into where and how our traumatic memories – especially those pertaining to grief and loss – are stored and processed in our bodies.

Concert 2 includes works cho-

reographed by Surabhi Bhargava, KJ Dahlaw, Laura Nataro, and Hilary Snider. In Concert 2, Bhargava's work interprets the voice of Devadasi women, who bequeathed the traditional Indian dance to future generations, and it hopes to open a dialogue about the betterment of their unfortunate condition today. Dahlaw is creating an installation work that lives in the intersections of queer theory, incarnational queer theology, and sacrament. Nataro's piece explores the transient and undefinable experience of the embodied American identity and how it is expressed by diverse bodies. Finally, Snider is exploring the experiences of an acrobat, an angel, and an artist of the trapeze through a blend of yoga and qigong.

The MFA in Dance program at Saint Mary's College of California offers two distinct tracks of study: the MFA in Dance: Creative Practice, and the MFA in Dance: Design and Production, which is the first program of its kind in the nation. Students in the MFA program span multiple generations and come from all over the world to study in the San Francisco Bay Area, home of one of the largest dance communities in the United States.

Tickets are \$15 for one concert or \$25 for both concerts; children 12 and under are free. Tickets are available online at <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/unearthed>.

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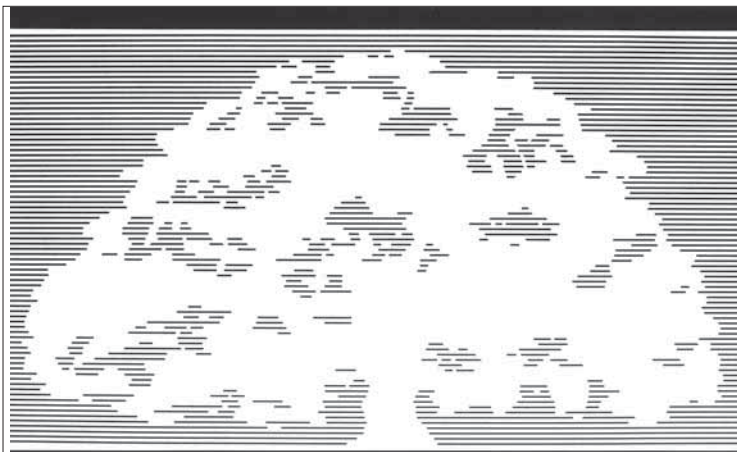


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