

# IB

A NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL  
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

SOUTH BEND INDIANA USA

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# INTELLECT



## BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

*Adams IB students are experiencing new opportunities beyond the classroom while also preparing for spring IB exams. Many students have completed their oral examinations in Spanish, French, and English classes. IB Visual Arts students will exhibit their work this month, to be evaluated by an external IB examiner. Written exams take place in May—and we are grateful to IUSB for providing space for testing.*

*This issue of the **IB Intellect** brings much good news about the exciting accomplishments of our students. We hope that you enjoy celebrating their success with us.*

## CANADA, EH?

### Sophomores travel north over spring break

*by Emily Dunham, Class of 2014*

Early on the first day of spring break, I was among twelve sophomore students wrapped up with blankets and pillows in a 15-passenger van preparing to go to Canada for the week. Our chaperones were Dr. Mika and his wife, Grace Roinila. By the end of the week, we'd become a giant family—even calling them Mom and Dad. Apart from new friendships and bonds, we also had a unique opportunity to explore the legislature, education, and nature of Canada.

On Sunday morning, many of us experienced crossing a border for the first time. After arriving in Toronto, we explored the NHL Hockey Hall of Fame. We used the Toronto subway system, which was extremely fast, clean, and efficient. Over the next few days, we packed in tons of sightseeing and tours. Highlights included the Ontario Legislature building, where we observed a debate over a budget law. We rode to the top of the CN Tower, one of the world's tallest buildings, and stood on a glass floor thousands of feet above the ground. After this, we took a tour of the University of Toronto. Once we found out about the low cost of attending college in Canada AND that the school is partially modeled after Hogwarts, we all wanted to attend. We also travelled to the top of Skylon Tower in Niagara Falls. We viewed the Falls at every time of day, including late at night, when they were lit up in a rainbow of colors! After our final day in Canada, we (sadly) crossed back over the border, then went indoor rock climbing, cheering on 'BroMika' as he conquered one of the more difficult walls. Our trip to Canada was a great adventure. We encountered doppelgangers of friends back home, created a new family, learned about a new country, and most importantly discovered Tim Hortons, the Canadian McDonalds! We can't wait for the next student trip with our 'BroMika' and 'Homie G'!

*Adams sophomores Grace O'Connor, Rachael Foulks, Patrick Sweeney, Crescent Wigfall, Tom Eleff, Noah Leapman, Heidi Kwok, Ashley Strzelecki, Kelsey Weber, Emily Dunham, Alyse Crimmins, and Lauren Strzelecki in front of Toronto's City Hall.*





## LIFE AFTER ADAMS

The *IB Intellect* welcomes updates from our IB graduates. This month we hear from Kelly Yuen, an IB Diploma student who graduated in 2008 and is a senior at the University of Notre Dame.

*I cannot believe that I will be graduating from Notre Dame in a few months. Four years ago, I was one of the first students to graduate from Adams with an IB diploma. Being an IB student was one of the best choices I made. By the time you finish freshman year of college, you will understand that IB gives you more than college credit. Here are 3 important lessons that IB taught me:*

*One: organization is key. Keeping a daily schedule and to-do list is crucial. Learning to organize your time is the best thing that you can do for IB and to get ready for college.*

*Two: you have to make sacrifices. I took AP/IB classes, did extra-curricular activities, and worked a part-time job. Sometimes you have to make a choice between hanging out with friends or studying for a test. And in college, these trade-offs get harder as you must make choices and accept all the positive and negative consequences that come with them. IB teaches you this early on.*

*Three: not getting an A is not the end of the world. Strive for the A and accept nothing but the best, but remember that not getting the 100% will not ruin your life.*

-Kelly Yuen, January 2012

## Adventures during a gap year in Guatemala

by Toby Stoner, Class of 2011

Crammed behind the seats in the cab of an old pickup, bumping down a rutted dirt road in the back country of Alta Verapaz in northern Guatemala, I did not expect one of the best compliments of my life. I was talking with the driver in front of me, discussing the road, the possibility of rain, and the drinking habits of our tour guide when I mentioned something about coming back home to the states.

For a moment, the ride got even bumpier as he turned around incredulously. He had thought I was chapín, Guatemalan. This moment of satisfaction came during the last week of the three months I spent living in Guatemala this fall, growing the knowledge and love of the region's language, culture and history that I developed at Adams.

I spent eight weeks in the capital, Guatemala City, three in the Mayan town of Santiago Atitlán, and one traveling the country. In Guatemala City, I successfully navigated the crowded busses, survived minor earthquakes and torrential rains, witnessed crushing poverty—hundreds of people living from the spoils of the municipal dump, and became a big brother to 30 malnourished young children at a nutritional center as well as taking daily language classes. In Santiago, I taught elementary school kids Spanish and math, and lost decisively to them in soccer; I worked with disabled people making handicrafts out of old newspaper; and I climbed the nearly 12,000-ft. Volcán Atitlán—my only cold experience in Guatemala. Traveling, I climbed Mayan ruins and swam in Semuc Champey—paradise at the heart of Guatemala's rainforests, caught thousands of tiny fish with two small-scale fishermen on the Caribbean coast, found a hotel room for \$3.80, and briefly befriended a group of men in Flores, Peten, who helped me find a public bathroom. Many of these experiences would not have been possible without the good basis in Spanish that I gained at Adams, and they certainly would not have gone as smoothly or taught me as much without my basis of knowledge of Latin American history and culture from my IB Spanish and history classes.

This spring, I'm living just outside the small town of Comer, Georgia, at Jubilee Partners, a community dedicated to helping refugees who have recently arrived in the states. I look forward to a great spring as I continue, outside the classroom, to pursue the goal of a global perspective promoted by the IB program.



*Toby Stoner stands atop a temple at Tikal National Park in Guatemala.*

## IB students participate in Model UN conference

by Kerry Cotter, History teacher

In February, John Adams Model UN club participated in the University of Chicago's Model UN conference at the Palmer Hilton. Model UN, or Model United Nations, is a worldwide program where high school and college students simulate UN sessions by role-playing different countries or historical events. Model UN helps to develop research and public speaking skills. Eleven Adams students represented two countries: Trinidad & Tobago and Luxembourg.

The conference began with delegate training and opening events attended by thousands of high school students from around the country. Students then attended conferences dealing with issues ranging from population growth and cocaine trafficking to banking crises and a special historical committee: proposals to assassinate Adolf Hitler in 1924.

After spending over 15 hours in committees over three days, the students enjoyed a delegate dance at the Hilton. It was an intense and rewarding experience for everyone. Special thanks goes to the students and parents who staffed a concession stand at Notre Dame football games to raise funds for the students' registration fees, and to parents and family members who chaperoned the event and donated meals during the conference.

## Science research takes IB senior to Washington, DC

IB Certificate senior Eric Fein was selected as one of 40 finalists nationwide to present his scientific research at the Intel Science Talent Search (ISTS). The ISTS, a program of Society for Science & the Public, is America's oldest and most prestigious high school science competition with more than 1800 high school seniors competing each year. A panel of judges evaluates all of the applications and selects the top 40 investigators to be named as finalists.

Eric described his prize-winning project: "Nanotechnology is one of the fastest growing and most exciting new fields of science. However, recently, studies have shown that nanoparticles can be toxic to living organisms. This is a problem because large amounts of them are entering the environment. In my research, I tested factors that affect how nanoparticles move in groundwater. The results from those experiments gave me an idea that I used to develop a strategy to remove nanoparticles from contaminated groundwater. I tested my strategy and demonstrated that it would be a practical and effective way to clean up nanoparticle contamination."

Eric, as a finalist, was invited to Washington, DC for the weeklong national competition. Finalists are evaluated during substantive interviews and at a poster session. During the week, Eric also had the opportunity to meet and talk to leading scientists including a Nobel laureate and Intel Fellows, to compete in a scavenger hunt on the national mall, and to spend time with the other finalists, an amazing group of kids. This year, the finalists were invited to the White House and met President Barack Obama. The President spoke to the finalists about the importance of science to our nation, posed for a picture with them, and then shook each of their hands. Eric says this was a highlight of the week which culminated in a black-tie awards gala.



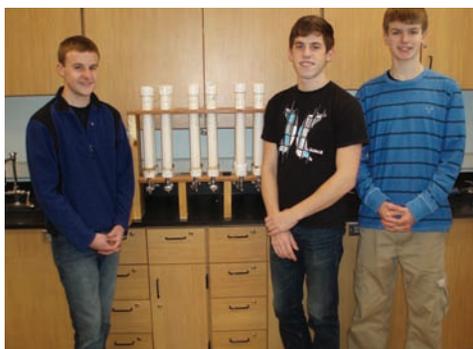
*Eric Fein (center) at the medaling ceremony with Elizabeth Marincola, President of the Society for Science & the Public, and Paul Otellini, CEO of the Intel Corporation.*

## Three IB students garner science grants through AAAS

*by Nevin Longenecker, Science teacher*

Three Adams IB students recently learned that the American Association for the Advancement of Science awarded their grant proposals for science research. These students have their investigations well underway and will submit a final research report containing their findings at the end of the academic year.

IB Diploma senior Kyle Rice's research involves groundwater pollution. His investigation seeks to determine how nitrogen, phosphorus and oxygen affect the efficiency of bioremediation, the process in which microorganisms oxidize pollutants, removing them from groundwater. He uses DNA sequencing to identify bacteria on the biofilm.



*Kyle Rice, Sam Presnal, and Andrew Henderson in the Science Research Lab.*

IB Certificate senior Sam Presnal is working to identify a more efficient technology for solar panels by retrofitting solar cells with carbon nanoparticles. This approach increases amperage output, solar panel efficiency, and makes them less expensive. Sophomore Andrew Henderson examines direct methanol fuel cells, a fuel source that is an alternative to fossil fuels. His investigation retrofits fuel cells with carbon nanofibers instead of carbon cloth electrodes for a greater electrical output.



*Members of JAVA participate in the St. Margaret's House Winter Walk in February.*

## ANSWERS TO IB QUESTIONS What is the "S" in CAS?

IB Diploma students are required to complete the components of the core of the Diploma Program, including the Extended Essay, the Theory of Knowledge course, and CAS: Creativity, Action, and Service.

According to IBO, **Service** is defined as an unpaid and voluntary activity that has a learning benefit for the student. This collaborative exchange benefits both the recipient and the IB student. A student might serve as a tutor or mentor inside or outside school, work with local youth groups or service organizations, or help plan local community events.

Diploma candidates record this volunteer service during their junior and senior years, along with hours for **Creativity** and **Action** for a total of 150 hours. Students should plan to average three CAS hours per week with a variety of activities such as sports, drama, volunteering, etc. In addition, Diploma students need to complete a longer-term project (three months or more) involving a combination of CAS hours in two of the three categories. An example would be leading arts & crafts classes at a retirement home.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, April 17, 5:30–7:30pm**  
**Annual IB Art Exhibition**

Celebrate the work of our IB Visual Artists. Includes a performance by a string ensemble from the Adams Orchestra at 7pm. In Gym A.

**Tuesday, April 17, 6–7pm**  
**John Adams Parent Group**

SBCSC Superintendent Dr. Carole Schmidt will be speaking with parents at Adams about her plans for our schools. In the Auditorium.

**Wednesday, April 18, 3pm**  
**Adams Travel Club, LGI**

**May 2–22**  
**Adams IB Exams, held at IUSB**

**May 3–6**  
**Mock Trial Nationals**  
**Albuquerque, NM**

**Wednesday, May 16, 3pm**  
**Adams Travel Club, LGI**

Presentations include Rotary Youth Exchange and Sinikka Roinila, Cox Scholar at IU-Bloomington, who spent her senior year of high school (2010–11) in Jakarta, Indonesia.



## JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

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## Travel to Rome and Athens with Adams IB Program!

Travel with us on a nine-day journey to Europe on June 24–July 2, 2013. This exciting excursion will take us to Rome and Athens, with several points in between. The IB program promotes international understanding, and this trip will provide new insights into history, art, music, languages, anthropology, philosophy, and other courses studied in the IB program. In addition, international travel can help to open doors for future educational and career opportunities.



*The Parthenon at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. iStock photo*



*The Colosseum in Rome, Italy. iStock photo*

Check out the website for information on our tour, led by EF Travel (Education First): [www.efours.com/1192935](http://www.efours.com/1192935). The total cost per student is \$3136, with details noted in this website. With advance planning and fundraising activities, we hope to make this trip affordable for students. Enrollment forms and answers to your questions are available through Dr. Mika Roinila. All Adams students are welcome.

## Spring brings success for Adams students

**Mock Trial:** Adams defended their state championship as one of our senior teams, Whüp Swag, heads to the Mock Trial national championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Whüp Swag members include Jeremy Doyle, Stephanie Eggyd, Moshe Friedland, Grace Lidinsky-Smith, Emily Migliore, Cassie Taylor, and Kevin Tidmarsh. Adams students receiving awards at the state competition for Most Effective Witness were: Haleigh Henderson, Michael Wilson, Grace Landry, and Emily Migliore; and for Most Effective Attorney: Jeremy Doyle, Georgia Williams, Becca Neal, and Nick Hall. IB senior Kate Johnson won the Mock Trial Art Contest for the third year in a row (see photo). Good luck, Legal Eagles!

**Basketball:** Our varsity Boys Basketball team beat Penn for the sectional crown, then defeated Lake Central in the regional semifinals before falling in a close game to Elkhart Memorial in the regional finals.

**Science Olympiad:** Adams returned to Science Olympiad competition placing fifth overall with Raymond Han, Lukas Hostetler, and Nick Lykoudis receiving first place awards. Other students placing included: Michael Dang, Heidi Kwok, Gabe Meyer-Lee, and Joseph Yeh.



*Kate Johnson's winning photograph features Kevin Tidmarsh, Stephanie Eggyd, and Moshe Friedland talking prior to a trial.*

## Be a part of the *IB Intellect*

If you have time to write and submit a small story to the *IB Intellect*, please do so. Don't shy away from contributing to create YOUR newsletter. The *IB Intellect* focuses on stories, events, and news related to the International Baccalaureate Program at Adams High School. Please send your ideas and submissions to the *IB Intellect*, via Dr. Mika (see contact info at left). The *IB Intellect* comes out every other month. The deadline for the next issue will be Monday, May 14.