Taking a Chance

By Susie Beyl

Last December, I applied for the Yale Young Global Scholars Program, which is a two-week long, intensive summer program held at Yale University with about two hundred other ambitious juniors and seniors from around the globe. Yes, the globe. Meaning, the world. Like, eight billion people, yes -- that world. I embarked on the long journey of recording short essays, academic records, proudest achievements, and describing my passions in two hundred words or less as I completed the application for the mid-February deadline.

I soon found out I was to join two hundred and five incredible teenagers from every corner of the world in the International Affairs and Security session of the Yale Young Global Scholars Program in mid-July.

Preparation for the program included extensive reading assignments, research projects, and online videos of speakers and lecturers. The program itself consisted of lectures and seminars led by Yale students, ambassadors, diplomats, and other prominent figures throughout America's foreign policy history.

In short, this program changed my life. Within fifteen minutes of arriving at Jonathan Edwards College (one of Yale's twelve residential colleges), I found myself at a table with at least one person from every continent, with the exception of Antarctica. In that moment, the world condensed. Suddenly, I was connected with Brazil, Morocco, and Germany by way of a picnic table.

Participating in the Yale Young Global Scholars Program inspired me inexplicably. As a participant in the program, I attended seminars, classes, and lectures. I took notes, studied, and researched. I read, wrote, collaborated, and presented. All of these components of typical academia, however, were not occurring under the urgency of obtaining a good grade.

At Yale Young Global Scholars, participants thrive academically without any level, GPA, score, or grade to earn or maintain. This lack of formal evaluation allows Scholars to work and think freely. There is no risk for stepping out of one's comfort zone, as there is no consequence for taking a chance that does not work out in full.

Though engaging in classes and lectures for hours during my summer break, I truly felt like I was on vacation. For the first time, I was able to work on issues I was passionate about under no pressure of evaluation. More often than not, I found myself at Blue State Coffee on York street with a group of my closest friends from Minnesota, France, Turkey, and Azerbaijan working on thesis papers during a break. No where else could I have ever done anything like that.

As a rising junior or senior, I encourage you with my whole heart to apply for the Yale Young Global Scholars Program. Coming out of this program, I can begin the process of becoming a global citizen and understanding the depths and breadth of the incredible world in which we all live.

This experience enabled me to become friends with a U.S. Ambassador on Facebook. More information about this life changing experience can be found at the Yale Young Global Scholars website:
http://globalscholars.yale.edu

The Secret of Success
Is Making Your Vocation
Your Vacation

Mark Twain

The Inside Scoop

• Tap Tap Me
• Summer Internship
• Senior Spotlight
• PACE
• Pep Rally & more
• Reviews and more reviews
• Lucky winners!
West Haven High school sophomore, Brett Gradoia, pictured on the right, with the assistance of Riyad Al-Bakri and Mrs. MacNeil published a Mobile App Game for all ages called “taptapme.” Brett created the game in the “Mobile Game Design I” class offered at West Haven High School as an elective in the Business Department for grades 9-12. The “taptapme” game is a free download at the App Store and Google Play.

2015's $100 Billion Question: What Drives The Mobile App Economy?

By Roslyn Layton

Mobile applications and services are overtaking the World Wide Web for the key activities that we do on the Internet. Mobile is an increasingly important part of any company’s marketing strategy, and developers think mobile first when they design new Internet applications. In 2015 the app economy, the revenue driven through mobile apps and related activities, is expected to reach as $100 billion. So what drives mobile innovation and adoption? Here’s a review of the key academic theories.

In his book *Innovator’s Dilemma* Clay Christiansen suggests that profits from established companies are a signal for upstart firms to find disruptive innovation. This would explain the success of WhatsApp, which disrupted a successful stream of SMS revenue by offering a free over the top messaging service. He notes that successful firms are so busy focusing on the valuable part of their business that they forget the opportunities at the low end of the market. Similarly Joseph Schumpeter’s *creative destruction* is predicated on the idea that necessity creates invention. Technology is an endless cycle of one paradigm toppling the next. Just as the telephone eclipsed the telegraph, the mobile phone eclipsed the landline phone.

Two other theories come from UC Berkeley professors David Teece and Henry Chesbrough. Teece’s theory of *complimentary assets* observe that an app by itself has no value. It needs to be embedded with the complementary assets that give it value. For example the digital personal assistant app Siri can’t be realized without an iPhone or a high speed mobile network. The fact that more than half of the world’s 4G connections are in North America enables a de factor digital market to many users with advanced devices on advanced national networks.

TO READ THE REST OF THE FORBES MAGAZINE ARTICLE:
The first question I got asked when I entered school was what did I do this summer. Some people expected the casual answer “went to the beach with friends” or “went on a vacation.” My experience and answer was much different. “I worked at city hall.” My peers asked how I was lucky enough to get this experience. How does a seventeen year old get to work in the most important building in town. I simply respond “I played my cards right.”

The most important thing a student can do in their summer is prepare for college. Many think that the first month of senior year is the time to get things done, when in fact, the summer is where marks are made. Many seniors take an opportunity to do programs that help prepare them for their future. As an example, my fellow Rostrum member Susannah Beyl took her summer in a program at Yale to prepare for a career in International Law. For me, a future political science major, I felt that surrounding myself in city government would be the best.

With guidance from my family and school councilor Mrs. Benedetti, I got the chance to work with the City Clerk under the supervision of Deborah Collins, the town’s City Clerk. As the City Clerk, her job (as well as the people who work in the office with her) is to make sure people have proper licenses (pet, marriage, etc...) and can make sure their homes and other property values are safe.

The city clerk also ensures that the town has a smooth and safe election. They made sure that the ballots (both actual and absentee ballots) were accounted for and the results were stored for record purposes. I assisted the people in the City Clerk’s office and made sure that all the ballots got mailed out, sent forms out, ran errands across the building and helped people who came into the office.

Working in city hall was an amazing experience and I highly encourage other students to try to
Raphaella James~ WHHS senior lands internship at Yale

Raphaella James applied for an internship at Yale communications and business offices last Spring, she thought she would only be considered for a summer position. She landed an internship with Yale Information Tech. Services. It turned into something much longer. She is now working four-hour days, twice a week. It began with teacher recommendations and support from the School Counseling Department and Career Center. During the summer, she worked for six full weeks as a paid intern. She assists with upcoming events, organizes database work and other important communication needs in her office. James initially did so well with her summer job and projects, she was asked to continue to work for them. Lesson learned: make important connections and network yourself. This will bring great opportunities and the experience gained is invaluable. James is an inspiring social worker and is currently pursuing college.
WHHS Pep Rally

By Jared Sandler

As WHHS’s juniors and seniors filled the gym bleachers, the noise and excitement level was raised with energy throughout the gymnasium. With an introduction led by the cheerleaders, the Blue Devils football team made their entrance to kick off the annual pep rally. Opening events such as the West Steppers, a tug-of-war competition and the teachers learning to dance hyped up the student sections. Unforgettable acts like the teachers getting pied in the face and the student against teacher obstacle
Let’s Have Fun and Escape From Reality for a Second

By Dellarule Tarpeh

Your Favorite Character Just Died...Or Left the Show

Lately it seems that death is a reoccurring theme in television shows. One day your favorite character is alive and thriving and you're rooting for them with every ounce of blood in your body, and then the next day they're dead. Just like that. And you're left with your mouth gaping open and your heart quenching in your chest.

Honestly, let's be real. Your favorite television character might as well be your nonexistent child. You yell at them, root for them, and most of all love them. And if you could you would hug them every minute of every day and just take care of them because honestly, you don't want them to ever know what pain or hurt feels like.

So what do you do when your favorite character dies and/or leaves a show?

The answer?: Cry. You cry and you try to get over the fact that a piece of your heart has been ripped out of your chest and you'll never be the same. They left taking a part of you with them that you'll never be able to get back.

However, just because your character's life/role has ended doesn't necessarily mean yours has as well. It's crucial that you take the time to mourn your loss but you also have to get back on your horse and start riding again!... Or in this case find a new television show. I know, I know, moving on is hard, but there's no better way to get over a loss than with a gain. Right?
"My Heart and Other Black Holes" by Jasmine Warga
Review by Librarian Sam, from the West Haven Public Library

Girl meets boy online.
Girl meets boy in real life.
Girl and boy talk.
Girl and boy make a serious commitment to each other.
April 7th, their lives will change.

"My Heart and Other Black Holes" by Jasmine Warga is a new book at WHPL. I ordered it thinking that the title had just the right kind of melodramatic humor that would hook teenage readers. I’ve seen plenty of people check out the book, amused and curious. But this book offers so much more. This book had me hopeful and aching for the main characters – Aysel and Roman. They each want to die, and they plan on dying together as suicide partners; encouraging each other and holding each other accountable to their chosen drop dead date. As the date approaches, they tie up loose ends, decide where to die and how to die – and they get to know each other. All the while I hoped that they wouldn’t go through with it. I wanted Aysel to reach out to her mother and talk about her depression. I wanted Roman to think about his sister’s wishes for him. Aysel and Roman found each other for all the wrong reasons, but maybe finding each other was the whole point. This book is not a light read,

Book Review by Mrs. Lynch. Library Media Specialist at West Haven High School

Punch Like a Girl by Karen Krossing

This book caught my eye. Not for me. For my daughter, a 7th grader. She needed to choose some books for Summer Reading. She really liked it. So, I thought I would read it too. I highly recommend it to students at WHHS too. The main character Tori suddenly becomes distant and mean to her friends. She even shaves her head one night. She is hiding the real reason why she is so angry. She is violently sexually assaulted by her boyfriend at a party. She even attacks someone she does not even know at a store in the mall. For this aggressive act, she has to perform community service at a local shelter for victims of domestic violence. Here, she meets a little girl named Casey and bonds with her. Tori is about to face a major event with her young friend. This leads Tori to meet face to face with her ex-boyfriend that sexually assaulted her. Only when this happens is Tori able to heal.

This book is an excellent choice for a high school student. It reminds me of the Bestseller Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson. It exposes the truth about abuse, in particular for teenagers.

Westies, come to LMC and check it out!! A really exciting read.
The WHHS Newspaper, The Rostrum, is always looking for writers and photographers. If interested, see Mrs. Lynch or Mrs. W. in the Library Media Center. Remember, writing is always an important item to put on your resume!!