*The Talon* Staff's Most Memorable Moments of 2014

By *The Talon* Staff; memories collected by Ailinh Nguyen

"My most memorable moment is when I swam the 400 free at the Junior Olympics. Before my race, I felt nervous because a competitive boy was swimming next to me. He was beating me most of the race until the last 50 meters. I sprinted and beat him 0.03 of a second. To conclude, hard work pays off."

- Yousef Hassen, Layout

"My most memorable moment is all the time spent with my late puppy, Oreo. She was energetic, playful, and one of the best miracles God could offer. Oreo was an attestation of unconditional love. To this day, she still brings tears to my eyes, but her death was a rejuvenation of hope and teaches how precious life can be."

- Ailinh Nguyen, Editor-in-Chief

"My most memorable moment of 2014 was hands down the One Direction and 5 Seconds of Summer concert. It's my most memorable moment because I got to spend it with the best people, watch the best band, and it was my first concert. It was one experience I'll never forget!"

- Kylee Hammond, Distribution

"My favorite moment this year was spending Thanksgiving with my family. We had a delicious meal (with traditional foods such as mashed potatoes, turkey, stuffing, and green bean casserole) and the tables were home to laughter and holiday cheer."

- Hazel Naftzger, Layout and Copy Editor

"One of my most memorable events was when my tennis team reached sectionals. All of my teammates had a great amount of pressure on the last game of the season. Luckily, with close scores, we pulled it off and advanced to sectionals at San Diego."

- Nidhi Kejriwal, Distribution

"My favorite memory from 2014 was when I went to the Horses Head to Hoof event in Temecula. It was such a blast to see all of the different horse breeds and presentations. My favorites were the Friesians, a black draft horse with a “feathery” mane, and the dressage presentations both traditional and freestyle."

- Grace Wells, Publicity

"Pali was my most memorable moment of 2014. I went in April, when I was still just a 6th grader. We did so many fun activities such as rope climbing, archery, and of course, Gaga ball. And, let me tell you, the food was outstanding! Pali was the best, and I hope to go again soon."

- Kira Hollowed, Photography and Publicity

"My most memorable moment of 2014 was my trip to Spain this summer. When I went, I visited family members. Also, I went sightseeing to places like old castles, medieval towns, and many historical land marks. My favorite part of my trip was the delicious food. 2014 was a good year."

- Matthew Thompson, Layout and Photography

"My most memorable moment was when I went to the Grand Canyon. I was right against the barrier from the chasm. The day was foggy and it was impossible to see through the fog. Then, the clouds parted and I could see straight down; the fog rising like a dream. Because of the few people that day, it was silent. The fog closed up again."

- Sarthak Raval, Copy Editor

"In November, my family, friends, and I went on a road trip to Zion and Bryce National Park in Utah. After a six-hour drive, we finally reached our destination. Because of our group of eleven people, we had to rent a colossal van. After 4 days of fun, we reached home… it really felt amazing!"

- Srijan Satpathy, Layout Editor-in-Chief

"It was the third of July and the Emirates plane just landed at JFK airport. At around 9 PM, the Baroi family finally escaped the chaos of the airport. Stepping out into American air gave them hope. Therefore, the day that I moved to America was the best day of my life. I knew somehow that I would meet new people and lead a whole new life."

- Gloria Baroi, Copy Editor

"My most memorable moment is when I was playing baseball and we were down by two. I went up to bat and hit the ball near 1st base; the pitcher picked it up with his glove and flung it over the first basemen’s head. I made it home and we won the game!"

- Scott Simon, Layout

"My most memorable moment this year is when I went to Korea this summer. I visited relatives, met up with old friends, shopped for K-POP goods (a $200 worth), went to theme parks, and had so much good food!”

- Heidi Hong, TA

"One of my most memorable events of 2014 would probably have to be going to Italy for several reasons. Firstly, we spent the vacation with some close family friends. Additionally, we got to visit beautiful places and eat delicious food. Overall, it was a wonderful get-away with some of my favorite people!"

- Sophie Aubry, Layout Editor-in-Chief

"My most memorable moment of 2014 was when I flew in a plane to Texas by myself to stay with my aunt and uncle as well as their three kids under the age of 6. I went to hang out with my family. It was a life changing experience for me."

- Robyn Mortensen, Layout

"My most memorable moment is when I went to my cousin’s welcome home party. Since my cousin is in the military, he had been out of the country for almost a year and my family and I had been awaiting his return ever since. When he finally returned, we had a welcome back party for him."

- Emma Schultz, Photography and Website

"My most memorable moment is getting my flip into the chair off the teeterboard. It was so exciting! In the beginning, my coach said I wouldn’t be able to because it was too dangerous. But, I was able to do it!"

- Kaylan Pry, Website