

Sgambati's Stadium

Junior's creative efforts secure first place in class competition

Soleil Guadalupe, Staff Reporter

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Filed under [Showcase](#), [Student Life](#)

Late night runs to Jo-Ann's seemed to become a daily routine for junior Britney Sgambati as she worked on her stadium project for Diane Wedig's marketing class.

Sgambati took on the challenge to construct a replica of a WWE Stadium.

"Me and my family have always been into wrestling, and it's something that we'll have a Sunday night and order pizza and wings and just sit down and watch the main event," Sgamabti said. "So whenever we were told that we had to do a stadium, I didn't want to do anything basic, I wanted to go all out."

Sgambati reflected her main idea by creating a stadium in which the viewer could look into, creating the illusion that one was entering the actual stadium and enjoying the featured event.

"My main thing was that I didn't want it to be a stadium where you were looking down on it, I wanted more of like you can look into it," Sgamabti said. "So instead, we decided to cut the stadium in half so that you can look in. Having the light displays really gave the effect as if you were sitting in the stadium," Sgambati said.

According to Sgamabati, the finished product took a total of 42 hours or work time to complete.

"There was a lot of actual measuring and a lot of 'we need more paper' and a lot of time at Jo-Ann's," Sgamabati said.

After the project's completion date and presentations were finished, sports marketing teacher, Diane Wedig announced Sgamabati as the winner of the stadium design contest for her design efforts.

"Her stadium is one of the best I've ever seen out of the ten years I've been teaching sports marketing," Wedig said. Wedig expected Sgambati to go above the bar. However, Sgambati was still surprised at her award.

"I thought that it turned out to be something successful," Sgamabati said. "I got the award on the Tuesday it was announced in the class. Everyone put a lot of work and effort so I wasn't expecting to win, but I knew I had a chance. My dad was really proud of me."



Prowler : No Debate About It

No Debate About It

Junior wheels past first impressions, challenges

Syeda Gilani, Staff Reporter

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Junior Sam Miller slowly enters the debate room. His opponent impatiently spins his pen, as the judge, just a few feet away, texts away on her phone. The two look up at the door, and their eyes suddenly grow wide. They weren't expecting someone in a wheelchair.

"It doesn't bug me if people judge me because I can still enjoy life," Miller said. "I don't let the condition get in the way of things I want to do. I think that I can be just as good as the next person."

Miller has a genetic disorder known as neurofibromatosis 1 (NF1), which causes the presence and growth of tumors anywhere in the nervous system. These tumors can become huge, causing a wide range of health effects, but Sam Miller hasn't let that get in the way of what he wants to do: learn how to debate.

"It's really fun," Miller said. "I'm making a lot of friends, [and] it's something outside of school that I really enjoy doing. I love to learn new things."

Sam learns from and competes with the debate team, despite the effects of NF1, which have caused him to use a wheelchair.

"I have a tumor that grows from the middle of my spine all the way down to my right knee," Miller said. "So, I use my wheelchair to limit the amount of pain from the tumor being in my leg, my back and my hip."



The condition has made it difficult for Miller to walk after a certain amount of time because of pain. However, he says that a limited range of motion is not his only problem. He has gone through studies, chemotherapy, and of course, surgery, in an attempt to get rid of the tumor.

“They tried to remove a portion of [the tumor], and it grew back,” Miller said. “They found it again at around 7-years-old. They tried chemotherapy for it, and it didn’t work. I was out of school a lot.”

That all changed when Miller finally came back to school from homebound this year.

“Pretty much from eighth grade through tenth grade, I was on homebound,” Miller said. “Now I’m back in school, a new school, and I’m doing pretty good. I decided to make some friends and socialize a little bit.”

It wasn’t just school that was new, though. Sam decided he wanted to join the debate team, not only to increase his knowledge of debate, but to help in his future and career aspirations of becoming a political activist.

“I thought of debate as a way to learn how to communicate to where it would better me for the future,” Miller said. “The fact that I’m in a wheelchair doesn’t really bug me at all with what I can accomplish, because I know other people who have accomplished things just as well, in even worse conditions than I am.”

Along with learning many argumentative skills, he has also made friends while on the team.

“He’s a good person, and a good addition to the team. [His condition] isn’t an issue,” varsity debater Rachitha Jadala said. “He better understands the structure and he’s more strategic now.”

Miller himself has also noticed his own growth, citing his motivation and willingness to learn from his mistakes.

“Debate has helped me with my comprehension and knowing how to communicate,” Miller said. “At first, I didn’t really know what I was doing, but I started writing down my mistakes, and I kind of just learned. It’s a challenge, and I like to conquer those challenges.”

Debate coach Richard Colling has also taken notice of Miller’s motivation.

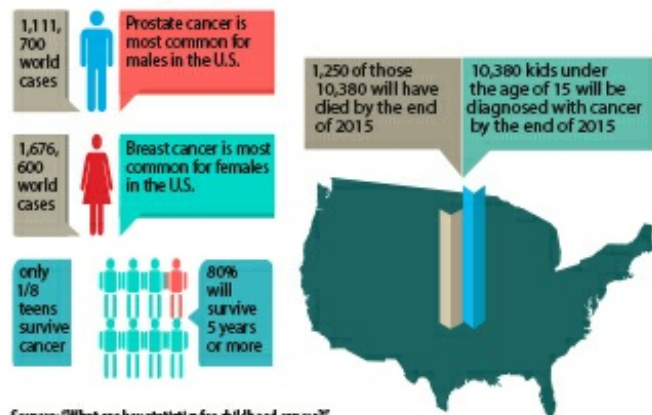
“He doesn’t let anything stop him as far as getting a chance to win,” Colling said. “He’s not discouraged.”

Through his efforts, Miller hopes to be able to help others like him. He sees debate as the first step on a long journey to his dream. Even though he’s in a wheelchair, it’s clear Sam Miller isn’t letting NF1 get the best of him.

“I want to help people who are struggling with certain disorders or might not necessarily have rights,” Miller said. “It makes me want to get out of bed every morning, because I feel like I can be better and do better. I’m not one that’s a quitter, so I’m going to keep doing it, even if I lose. I’d rather look past my condition and look up and make life worth living.”

Statistics Raise Awareness for Diseases, Nutritional, Physical Problems

Infographic by Stella Global



Sources: "What are key statistics for childhood cancer?" <http://www.cancer.org> "Childhood Cancer Deaths Per Year" <http://www.curesearch.org>

45 shootings, 1 year

Loose gun laws need tightened to assure safety

Justin Baham, Staff Reporter

January 5, 2016

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America's gun control problem has already spun out of control, and it's only getting worse. Loose gun laws allow normal, everyday citizens of the United States unrestricted access to hundreds of handguns. Therefore, the prevention of all kinds of gun-related crimes is next to impossible and public places, like schools, which were once deemed shelters from these types of crimes, are not as safe anymore.

Worry of a mass shooting at a college campus is now a rational fear after 45 United States schools had a shooter on campus in 2015.

On October 22, one student was killed and three others were injured at Tennessee State University. On October 1, eight students and one teacher were shot and killed at a community college in Oregon. To put it closer to home, a shooter killed 1 and injured 3 at Texas Southern University in Houston.

Despite the tragedies, new polls show that people oppose gun control even more now than before these shootings happened. This is the only country where school shootings happen this frequently. Yet, the American population wants even less to do with gun control.

In December 2012, a man named Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook elementary school and shot 20 children and six staff members. People called for gun control to be taken more seriously, but, in the following year, nothing was done. In 2013, 109 gun control laws were passed, 70 of which loosened gun control and seven of which were enacted in Texas. These laws included weakening firearm safety training and allowing enrolled students with a concealed-carry permits to store a gun in their car on their college campus.

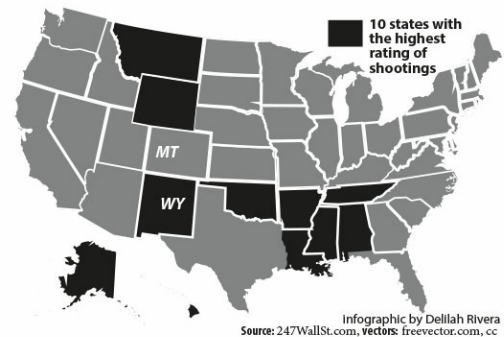
With all the soft regulations, it only makes it easier to bring guns to school and do harm.

In a recent poll by the Cable News Network (CNN), taken three weeks after the Oregon community college shooting, 52% of Americans opposed tighter gun control laws. It seems that even after a national tragedy, Americans are adamant about letting more people have guns. Yet, it's obvious as to what happens when guns end up in the wrong hands.

Shootings, both in and outside of school, could be prevented or reduced if Americans adopted a better gun control plan. This country's leaders should look to others to find different, preventive solutions to these types of crimes.

In America, gun-related crimes have become a normal part of life, just another news story on television. No other country has as big of a gun control problem as America does. In order for the country to become safer, something needs to be done.

It's up to the youth of America, those who have the potential to become the next target, to speak up about how guns are mishandled. If we don't address this issue, it can only get worse.



Prowler : Simple Success

Simple Success

Seeking college education not best avenue for all

Nayma Villalpando, staff reporter

January 6, 2016

Filed under [Opinion](#)

Contrary to popular belief, a college degree isn't necessary for a successful life. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 46 percent of recent college graduates are in jobs that don't even require a college degree.

With plenty of career options that don't require a college level education, college should be a personal choice, chosen by the ones who are mentally, emotionally and financially prepared for the experience.

Starting college can add mental stressors that some aren't ready to handle. Adjusting to a completely new lifestyle, that requires teens to stop sitting for 8 hours a day and start taking on jobs and adult responsibilities, can be a large adjustment. Adding costly classes where just a few tests can mean passing or failing can be a become a breaking point.

Attending college can also have emotional effects. If students are pressured into attending college when they are not ready, they may be set up for failure before their adult lives really start. According to the Huffington Post, if a person starts college and then drops out, they feel like total failures. Feeling like a failure can set off a lifelong cycle of depression and anxiety.

College can also be a financial burden. In fact, many 25-34 year olds who attended college are still paying their student loans.

All too often, the jobs college graduates or people with some college courses land don't pay enough to make the cost worthwhile. Graduates are often stuck juggling the costs of living alone and the payments of student loans against a low starting income.

The debt doesn't go away for students who drop out, either.

Having a college degree isn't always the key for a happy or successful life.

College is right for some, but the decision should be a personal choice. Don't pushing students to choose college, as the wrong timing can lead to negative consequences that can last for years.



Prowler : Super Powers

Super Powers

Senior signs with St. Edward's University

[Caleb Wiesenhutter](#), staff reporter

November 6, 2015

Filed under [Sports](#)

Sitting at home, senior Courtney Powers looks through her mail, wondering if that one thing she's been looking for is in the stack, a scholarship letter. She continues to thumb through it, and she finds it. A big envelope with her name written across the front, from St. Edward's University. A sudden sense of relief fills her as she thinks to herself, 'finally, this is what I've been waiting for.'

"I'm not a big crier, so I didn't do that," Powers said. "I was really happy about the opportunity, and I immediately started planning out my future. I told my family, and they were all extremely proud. They knew it was a big step in my life and a goal I had been waiting to accomplish."



Powers, a forward for the varsity soccer team received her letter in the fall.

"I was very relieved because I've been working really hard for a scholarship," Powers said. "It helped me meet a big part of my goals, but there's still more I want to do."

Powers has only been playing soccer since the summer before her freshman year. She says she didn't get into the sport until she went out to watch her brother's club soccer.

"I went and started to play with his team at their practices," Powers said. "That was my first opportunity to play the game, and it got me into the game, to where now I constantly want to surround myself with it. I'm always training and trying to improve in every area of the game."

During her years of playing, Powers says she had some coaches that didn't always help her out, but her dad has always pushed her to get better and make the most of her opportunities.

"He always supported my decision to start playing soccer," Powers said. "He's done nothing but help me improve through training and games. All the things he did for me made me only want to push myself harder and turn into the best player I could be. Because of him, I was able to accomplish a lot in a short time."

Powers not only wants improve her own play, but how people view her as a player. She says she has both confidence and high expectations for herself.

"I want to make a larger impact on the team," Powers said. "I want to make a bigger impression on the district. I want to earn some district awards, as well as some Stony Point awards, and I want to lead our team. I'm going to work hard to make this happen and to make our team better."