

FROM INSTRUCTION TO PRODUCTION

Starting out in the beginner A/V class her junior year, senior Jacqueline Briddell found that she had a passion for all things media tech. She decided to apply to be the president of the club and earned the position. Now, she dreams of working in the television and radio industry.

Q: What began your interest in audio and video?
 A: "I started out in (Arnulfo) Miranda's beginner class last year, not expecting much out of it. I really enjoyed it, so Miranda told me to apply to be an officer and be in the advanced class."
Q: How has audio and video helped you as a person?
 A: "I want to go into journalism. Audio and video helped me build journalistic skills. It has also helped me not be afraid of going up to people with the camera. Apart from that, I got certified in Adobe Premiere Pro, learned how to operate cameras and how to correct audio."
Q: Do you plan on doing anything that you learned from audio and video in the future?
 A: "I have always been unsure whether I wanted to do print journalism or broadcast. After audio and video, I have decided I want to go digital and work behind the scenes to create and pave the way for the show."



Daniel Nuñez

AZTECS PAVE WAY FOR UNDEAD WITH ZOMBIE FILM FEST EVERY FRAME COUNTS

Lights, camera, zombies? What seemingly started out as a school project, quickly spread through the school district, leaving media tech students excited for a night with the undead.

"It was initially brought up for funding purposes," media tech teacher Arnulfo Miranda said. "So we began to think, what could we do? With Halloween coming up, the students decided zombies was a good idea."

Within a matter of weeks, *Zombie Fest* was underway—bringing together all the schools in the district for a competition to create the best

student-created zombie short film.

The student-submitted film from El Dorado won second place at the inaugural competition. The audio/video students wouldn't stop there though, and kept busy preparing for a live news cast in under two hours for Skills USA competition and creating original videos for multiple school groups and promotional projects.

"I think that (participating in) audio and video (club) has made this the best year of my life, because I don't think I have ever been this involved," Audio/Video Club President Jacqueline Briddell said. "I've never had so many connections to my peers and fellow

officers. Audio and video has taught me how to be a better team player."

Heading into the Skills USA competition at El Paso Community College, senior Daniel Hurtado De Mendoza felt he was at a disadvantage from the start.

"Seemingly, we had not known we could bring two laptops to write the story and do research, so other teams had that advantage," Mendoza said. "What we ended up doing was just pushing through it and working harder by speeding up the process and each putting in our two cents."

Even though the news broadcast team fell short of placing in the

**"I'VE NEVER HAD HAD SO MANY CONNECTIONS TO MY PEERS AND FELLOW OFFICERS."
 - JACQUELINE BRIDDELL, 12**

state competition in Corpus Christi, Texas, seniors Eric Dominguez and Jacqueline Briddell brought home a second place finish under the Audio/Radio Production category.

By Alex Delgado

See page 284 for group photo



Danielle Miller

RECORDING THE UNDEAD. Focusing the camera, senior Elijah Villasana and junior Sarah Mollinar record the festivities of the *Zombie Fest* short film event. Their own movie has received over 100 views on the El Dorado RTF YouTube channel. "It was a lot of effort not only on our part, but DECA, and theater. Hopefully next year it can be bigger and take first place," Villasana said.



Mia Drake

SQUEEZING IN THE MIC. Catching a sample of their batter mixing, senior Eric Dominguez records EPCC culinary students in the midst of their baking session. He was recording for his SkillsUSA competition under the radio production category. "I was recording sound to use it for our broadcast. It felt like I was distracting them from getting their job done when I asked them if I could record them," Dominguez said.



Danielle Miller



Danielle Miller

EYES ON THE PRIZE. Tenatively watching, juniors Anthony Torres-Mafnas and Isabelle Casillas partake in the TV Commercial Production category of the SkillsUSA competition. Their requirements for the video included creating a one-minute long commercial spot promoting EPCC's Culinary Arts program. "I was more filled with stress and anxiety than anything. During the actual competition, our biggest enemy was time," Torres said.



Danielle Miller



SMILE FOR THE CAMERA. Keeping a steady hand on the camera, junior Isabelle Casillas records the football game against Midland at the SAC under the Friday night lights. The team lost but Casillas came out smiling because this photo was featured in the front office. "I'm just naturally a happy person," she said. "There were a couple of eighth graders who came to me during one of their tours and told me, 'Hey, aren't you that girl from the office?' That made me happy."

FINISHING TOUCH. Tightening up their presentation, senior Omar Diaz and junior Santana Hurley work on their video project for the SkillsUSA competition. Looking back at the Television Production division, Diaz believes they could have used their time better. "I got good experience. We made mistakes and ended up not winning," he said. "We did not lose though, instead we gained knowledge for next time."
CAMERA JITTERS. Staying composed under pressure, seniors Daniel Hurtado De Mendoza and Sarah Molinar compete in the broadcast category for the SkillsUSA competition. The duo was live in the studio and streamed to the judges on the big screen. "When they hit record, my heart stopped and I almost forgot my opening line, but I pushed through it," Hurtado said.



"It slowed our momentum, making it difficult jumping from story to story. Instead we had to work sort of in repetition, doing research then story over and over."
 - Daniel Hurtado De Mendoza, 12



"I don't think it affected us too much. My mentality was to not think of it so much as a competition and instead think that I have to do my best. Maybe if we had two computers it would of been a fair competition, but overall we had a good run."
 - Yaell Canales, 12



"I did not feel like it affected the quality of our work, but we were forced to work around a fixed schedule, so it did make the process more time consuming, forcing us to work to the last minute."
 - Elijah Villasana, 12

LOOKING THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

After a second-place finish in the district SkillsUSA competition, students share how a lack of a second computer affected the outcome of their project in the broadcast category.