

THE SUMMER TIMES

SUMMER TIMES STAFF REPORTERS

A Format:	B Format:
Mayu Alten	Tiya Bhatia
Nicole Chang	Justin Burks
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Emma Donnelly	Melissa Chang
Jessie Liu	Katherine Fernandez
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Ellen Wu	Diane Sarkis

SUMMER TIMES LAYOUT EDITORS

Maria Heeter
Lucas Schroeder

FACULTY ADVISOR RALPH BLUMENTHAL

The Summer Times is written and edited by Mr. Blumenthal's A and B format Journalism classes and contributing writers throughout Exeter Summer. It is produced by Maria Heeter, PEA '18, and Lucas Schroeder, PEA '18. The Summer Times welcomes Letters to the Editor, which can be sent via email to thesummertimes18@gmail.com. The editors reserve the right to print Letters to the Editor in a timely fashion and to edit them for content and clarity.

The Summer Times appreciates the outpouring of commentaries submitted by so many students. We regret the space constraints that prevent us from publishing them all in the print edition. But as many as possible will be posted online at www.peasummertimes.com.

Exeter At 100

HISTORY, continued from page 2

group of students, consisting of 65 boys from the 13 states and Mexico. The initial intention of the summer program was to keep the school "alive" during the dormant summer months as it used the facilities it would in the regular school year.

Additionally, students were given the opportunity to get ahead of their classmates and continue to exercise their learning as it was common for them to forget their material, vacationing away at an exotic island or the labyrinth of streets in Europe. The program lasted for the entire summer, unlike the 5-week program it is now.

At first, the program only accepted regular-session students but eventually opened its doors to students from other schools -- those with a burning passion to expand their learning. Writer John Knowles says, "It was that summer that I realized I had fallen in love with Exeter." Knowles revealed that his summer spent at Exeter in 1943 was what inspired him to pursue his love for literature and write the well-known book, *A Separate Peace*.

With the assistance of Don Dunbar, the director of the Exeter Summer program from 1966 to 1969, an outreach program was established in hopes of recruiting 50 students and 10 teachers from the major cities of the U.S. Mr. Dunbar's leadership "broke the mold" of traditional teaching, as the program started to offer more diverse courses, such as the arts.

Through his recruitment program, the Exeter summer program student body doubled in size. The courses offered at the Exeter summer program evolved from basic and compulsory courses taught during the regular school year to innovative and diverse programs. Many courses taught during the summer program at Exeter were classes that weren't available during the school year, such as the in-depth study of Hitler and the

dark sides of leadership.

Another significance of the Exeter summer program was its availability to girls. The Exeter summer program admitted girls in 1961, nearly a decade before the regular program did. The current Director, Elena Gosalvez-Blanco, praises the summer program as "a kind of academic incubator for the Academy", as it pioneered innovative courses such as design and challenged the norm of education.

Through the academic studies at Exeter, students experience the student-facilitated learning style called Harkness. This learning method helps students better activate their thinking as they engage in discussions that allow for different perspectives. Not only did the summer program allow a better platform for students to learn, but also the students are exposed to varied cultures and have the opportunity to interact with people of different background.

In 1920, there were 152 boys from 22 states, the Dominican Republic, and Canada, and just last year there were 762 students enrolled, from 41 states and 53 countries. The wide diversity allows for students to experience different cultures and traditions. Families like the Cigarroas of Laredo have been attending the Exeter summer program for almost 50 years, as they appreciate the culture and knowledge enrichment they gain from this program. More than two dozen family members have attended since Patricia Cigarroa came east in the early 1970s.

100 years later, Exeter Summer is still a program with the hope of educating students and assisting them to strive better in their academic life. As the program continues to grow, Ms. Gosalvez says, "the program has done a good job of adapting to what the teenagers want and we hope to keep doing that in the future."

On September 17, 2018 we found out, by the announcement made by the governor of Puerto Rico, that the direct hit by Hurricane Maria was imminent. My family prepared for the worst, as everyone was told. We bought as much water as we could, 3 gallons per person, and secured the house as best as we could. We also loaded up on microwavable meals or food cans. We live a block from the beach and knew that anything could happen. We were ready and my excitement kept increasing. I was looking forward to missing a few days of school and taking a break from all the studying. But I soon realized the truth in "be careful what you wish for." It turned out to be the most terrifying but at the same time the most interesting and challenging experience of my life.

By 2:00 am, September 20, my mom decided the best place for all of us to hunker down and wait out the storm was the walk-in closet in her room. My brother, Francisco, and I took our pillows and our dog, Simba, and went into the closet for the longest night ever. When the storm started, there were 5 of us in my mom's closet -- Francisco, Simba, my parents and me.

I slept through as much as I could. When I woke up 4 hours later, everyone was in the same cramped positions they were in when we first came in. For the next two hours we watched what we had downloaded of an old TV episode and tried connecting to any other person or radio station to learn what was happening outside and where the storm was at this point. We were not expecting any good news from the outside world since from the closet we could hear the wild winds and banging -- it seemed as if we were inside a washing machine.

We were also consistently hearing a slamming on our roof, which we were happy about because it was our A/C units. And we were happy to know they hadn't blown off. Another two hours passed and we had no signal, wifi or connection to any sort of radio station. We were all

Solidarity in Catastrophe: Aftermath of Puerto Rico

By KATHERINE FERNANDEZ
Summer Times Staff Writer

really hot, sweating and famished. I couldn't decide which one was the worst. We could tell Simba was pretty hot too.

Hours kept passing, and each one felt even longer than the other. By the sixth hour Simba started to feel a little sick and started gagging next to my dad. My dad wasn't too pleased and wanted to let him out of the tiny closet to feel better. Of course I didn't let him because if I can't go out, why should he? Eventually his gagging stopped and Simba fell asleep. Two more hours passed and we were all ready to leave, but decided to hold on a little longer for safety issues. By the 9th hour, we were out!

Now it was time to face reality. The first thing we heard when we stepped out of the closet was a waterfall coming from our third floor down to the first. After my dad and brother stopped the waterfall that was pouring into the house down the stairway from the roof, we then started to bucket and squeegee the water out of the first floor. After that, nervously, we opened the garage doors and took our first look outside.

It was a devastating sight. I didn't recognize my own street. It was covered in sand, and filled with leaves, branches and rocks. Trees were knocked down and because of that sidewalks were lifted up and cracked. Our solar panels were smashed and scattered up to 3 blocks from our house. Pieces of iron fences were on every corner, along with car pieces and wood panels. Windows in our house were cracked, and in many other houses they were missing.

Some trees had been lifted up and thrown and the destruction looked to us like that of a tornado or an earthquake. Without a single leaf left to be seen it looked like the aftermath of a nuclear bomb, but it was the destruction of a category 5 hurricane! Our neighbor showed up that same afternoon with coffee he had made on his barbecue. We all drank "cafe con leche" and there was something so comforting about it. The weather was

still dismal so we really didn't begin any outside work until the next day.

The next morning we began our tasks. The goal was to clear the streets so we shoveled sand out of the garage and then off the streets. We picked up branches and raked leaves that were blocking our way through the streets. Some neighbors even brought out gas-powered saws to cut up trees and move them however possible to help open streets.

Besides the dreadful cleaning, a happier moment was when we saw some hummingbirds and we began to put out plates of sugar water for them almost every day. It was a task I actually enjoyed doing because it reminded me of how things were before the hurricane. The next few days were filled with manual labor. There was no electricity and no running water so we were in survival mode. We were living with the bare necessities. After a couple of days she heat returned and the mosquitoes did too. We took 2 minute showers each night and covered ourselves with Off.

One positive thing that came out of this catastrophe was the solidarity between people, and communities around the island. We all spent a lot of time cleaning the streets so we had the opportunity to meet new neighbors. Everyone helped each other out by sharing their provisions such as food, water or batteries. Neighbors also pitched in to help with anything that needed fixing.

We all waited in long hot lines to get into the supermarkets and then came back to share whatever we had with others. Later on when some people managed to get power generators, they threw cables to next door neighbors to share some of their energy. People joined together and connected like never before and we changed into an even more giving and loving community. Now, after the catastrophe I have a greater empathy for people around the world suffering through a natural disaster. Despite the damage, now I have a life-changing story of mine to share and tell with everyone.

A Fighter For Her Island

By DIANE SARKIS
Summer Times Staff Writer

Last Monday, as Exonians rushed into the Assembly Hall, they had the pleasant surprise of being greeted by a rather extraordinary visitor. Indeed, they had the opportunity to hear Sandra Guzman speak about Puerto Rico. She is not your average reporter: born in Puerto Rico, she feels very strongly about the injustices Puerto Ricans suffer and about their drastic standard of living following the hurricanes.

She has gone there to bring help (giving out non-GMO seeds to help farmers grow food, for example) and, as a journalist, makes sure to spread awareness about what is happening in Puerto Rico, such as floods, lack of electricity (one third of the population did not have access to

it) and food, contaminated waters and thousands of deaths all caused by the category 4 and category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria. Not to mention Puerto Ricans's lack of political power despite being citizens of the United States: they are treated as second class citizens and do not possess the same voting rights.

Ms. Guzman is working hard to criticize and combat these injustices as a journalist by getting people to talk about them and leading protests via several media platforms (magazines, television, books, newspapers). However, her perseverance does not stop there: she is an author, speaker and activist as well (you probably



Sandra Guzman gives a speech at Assembly on the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

got a taste of her passion during Assembly).

Her strong commitment has earned her several awards, and she is currently working on a very important documentary.

Watch Your Wallets

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believed to be last seen at Elm Street Dining Hall or at the Grill. The wallet was looked for, but was not found.

To combat the thefts in the dining hall, there is now a member of the kitchen staff checking lanyards so that nobody who is not supposed to be there gets inside the dining hall. Campus Safety has also increased safety patrols at Elm Street. If you are afraid that your valuables will be taken from your bag in the dining hall, you may keep it with you. However, Mr. Gravel asks that it be kept out of the way so no one trips over it. Since Exeter is also an open campus, always be aware of your surroundings.

At the Boat House this week, students reported a suspicious person in the area. Campus Safety was notified as well as Exeter Police. Mr. Gravel applauded the students for reporting the incidents. Nothing bad happened. However, if you ever see a person who looks suspicious, you are encouraged to report that to Campus Safety immediately.

There are precautions all the students at Exeter Summer can take to avoid situations such like these. The first is to always travel in groups or with at least another person. If you are going to walk alone, make sure at least one other person knows where

you are going. Another way to take precautions is "if you see something, say something." You can't get in trouble for reporting a situation in which you feel unsafe. "Exeter is a pretty safe town," Mr. Gravel said, "just have common sense." Make sure you always know where your belongings are and try not to leave your backpack unguarded anywhere.

The message Mr. Gravel wants to leave with students is to be "aware of your surroundings" and do not go places where you feel uncomfortable. "Take the extra time" to check your dorm locks and your personal belongings.



Exeter's first Summer Session began July 8th, 1919. of The Exeter Bulletin.