



New York City media festival

Animation on family problems drawn by hand

ALFONSO GUTIERREZ JR.
STAFF WRITER

Senior Vicktoria Eller Castillo thought her trip to New York City was an amazing and great experience.

"The festival was a wonderful and awesome experience, and it was fun to go on this trip," Castillo said.

She created an animated video that was featured in the All American High School Film Festival 2018, in Times Square, New York City. With Castillo was fellow senior Teresa Gutierrez and Digital Media Instructor Jamin Teran.

"The film was about a boy and his parents that argued all the time and he would get sad, so he would use his imagination as a form of coping with the situation," Castillo said.

"The high point of my video was probably when the world of the kid changes into this world of adventure, and he can see dinosaurs. Every time he blinks there is something new for him to observe. You can see the wonder and happiness in his eyes," Castillo said.

The video was animated; she drew it by hand and ended up with 936 pages of drawings that lasts 1 minute, 18 seconds. She based the idea on her younger days when her parents would argue a lot.

She said she was surprised and excited that her film was chosen. She said her family and friends were proud, happy and excited because her film made it to the festival.

"I thought that when compared to other people's work it wouldn't hold up," Castillo said.

She explained one of the challenges she faced in completing her animation.

"A challenge was mostly time because it was frame by frame, and I stayed up very late at night just working on it," Castillo said.

She overcame this challenge by going with her brother while he was studying for a TAMIU final exam. She said she worked about two to three nights to finish her work. Castillo said her brother, who also stayed up all night, helped her by motivating her to finish



Photo courtesy of Jamin Teran
Seniors Vicktoria Eller Castillo, left, Teresa Gutierrez, right, and digital media instructor Jamin Teran take a selfie in New York City at the All-American High School Film Festival.

ish and to not give up.

"The All American High School Film Festival 2018 was very professional, almost like the red carpet, and very impressive. I saw a lot of good films," Castillo said.

She said she could feel her heart beating, and also felt stress and excitement because her film was going to be shown to people from around the world who were at the festival.

"I could see flaws in my work, and I felt very inspired by everybody's skills and artistry," Castillo said.

She said the audience liked the film. Castillo remembers one member of the audience that was excited to see her animation because he wanted to compare it to some of the live action films.

She said some benefits that will help her in the future are shot composition and ideas from live action films she could incorporate for the future.

"After all, the All American High School Film Festival 2018 was an amazing and fun experience to go on this trip and get to see other films," Castillo said.

Eating disorder progress shown on video

EMILY GARZA
STAFF WRITER

"I was extremely surprised! It's a national contest, so I submitted and didn't think much of it afterward until I got an email, definitely shocked and grateful," Teresa Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez really didn't expect the result she got from her media piece. The piece she submitted was a Public Service Announcement (PSA) about an eating disorder developing over time.

The eating disorder was about "starting off eating as what we could say is fairly normal but later progressed to smaller portions of food with an emphasis on calorie counting," Gutierrez explained.

Gutierrez, a senior, got the opportunity along with fellow senior and classmate Victoria Eller Castillo to see their work at the All American High School Film Festival in New York City, from Oct. 5-7, accompanied by their instructor, Digital Media Instructor Jamin Teran.

"Seeing my own work on a big screen was just

absolutely surreal," Gutierrez said.

Not only did Gutierrez get to see her media piece but she got to see different cultures. The film festival shows media pieces of different categories for animations, PSAs, and photography, among others.

"Our experience at the All American High School Film Festival was incredible. From meeting with other students and professionals from different cities, states, even countries to languages, such diverse works in multiple categories and languages as well," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez explained what they were able to do during the trip.

"We were able to elaborate on techniques and approaches in creating our future projects," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said she learned a lot from this trip to put into her works in the making.

"We definitely came back with great tips and ideas to help better projects and our own mechanics when it comes to video production. We were even able to explore

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'Cruz,' 'O'Rourke,' rock their debate

ERIK GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

LISD seniors learned the importance of voting and how the voting process is like in the real world at a Nov. 1 event at V.M.T.

V.M.T.'s AP government instructor Sean Gaynor explained the purpose of Rock the Vote.

"The Rock the Vote event was a group effort where multiple teachers, office staff, and paired professionals helped put this event together in different ways. Mrs. (Angelita) Rubio and Mrs. (Aemie) Martinez helped set up the ballot for the online voting process, Dr. (Martha) Villarreal helped ring in the guest speaker, and I mainly helped out with the student moderators and with the two students debating as Ted Cruz and Beto O'Rourke," Gaynor, who organized the event, said afterward.



Left: Senior Mark Rodriguez (Beto O'Rourke) makes a point during the Rock the Vote mock debate. Right: Senior Angie Bravo (Ted Cruz) speaks at Rock the Vote in the auditorium.

VMT director Dr. Martha E. Villarreal spoke to the seniors in the auditorium about the purpose of the "Rock the Vote" event to explain how everything is going to go down and what she expects from this presentation.

She later explained her thoughts about the event.

"We had our 10th annual Rock the Vote event which was very successful and I was proud of the students that came out



Online
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and debated. It is something that I believe should be done at every high school because students need to understand the importance of voting. It's not just about voting, it's about paying back the many

we have today so we can continue to prosper as our country grows," Villarreal said afterward.

At the event, guest speaker Judge Beckie Palomo of the

lives that were sacrificed in the past for our nation, so we can have what

341st District Court explained to seniors her reason to attend despite being busy with court responsibilities.

"I was excited in participating in Rock the Vote because I wanted to encourage and inspire the students to exercise their right to vote and to emphasize the importance of voting," Palomo said, who said she would vote for O'Rourke.

The event featured two se
See VOTE page 11A



MT photos by Analiz Robledo

School receives Texas Medal of Arts

For more photos go to The Magnet Tribune online at magnettribune.org/?p=18212



MT photos by Mark Webber

The Texas Cultural Trust has chosen VMT for a 2019 Texas Medal of Arts. The award will be presented in Austin on Feb. 26-27, 2019. Left picture: Shown in the VMT auditorium are members of the Vidal M. Treviño family, Texas Cultural Trust, school board members, and VMT administrator. Right photo: Heidi Marquez Smith, executive director of the Texas Cultural Trust, speaks at VMT's recognition ceremony.