

Science, Art, Trades & Other Topics Biographies

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Actress, Singer and Entertainment Industry Careers

Speaker: Blaney Barr

A graduate of Los Gatos High School and Santa Clara University, Blaney has been on stage from the age of 12. In high school, her dream was to work in Hollywood. As a SAG actor, she fulfilled her dream and worked successfully for 7 years in L.A. Her life, college and LA experience has exposed her to many careers in the Art and Entertainment Industry. She will talk about what she needed to do to accomplish what she did and about behind-the-scenes careers that she encountered while in Hollywood. She has worked on shows such as 8 Simple Rules. What I Like About You, Judging Amy, Bad News Bears, Bewitched and many more! Back in the Bay Area, Blaney is currently a representative for FIDM in SF and on weekends is singer with the Cheeseballs!

Architectural and Engineering Design Industry

Speaker: David Kaneda

David Kaneda is an architectural engineer who designs electrical systems for green buildings. He will speak to MV students regarding a career in the architectural and engineering design

industry. David's experience includes over three decades working in the building industry in North America and Europe. He has been the Electrical Engineering Principal for numerous LEED Platinum, AIACOTE Top 10 and Net Zero Energy Buildings. His break through IDeAs Z Squared Office, was the first net zero energy commercial office in the United States. He is a PE, a registered architect and a LEED AP. He has a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering from Penn State and an MBA from the London Business School. David's specialties include Net Zero Energy Building design, sustainable electrical engineering, lighting and daylighting design.

Careers in a School District: Business Operations, HR, Facilities, Maintenance plus teachers, counselors, administrators, etc.

Speaker: Tom Avvakumovitz

This speaker is Sessions 2 & 3 only. If you are not sure what you what to do after high school, consider working for a school district. There are professions requiring various education levels from high school graduate to PhDs.

Tom is Director of Human Resources (HR) at our very own school district (FUHSD) that employs 1000 people. Tom will cover the various professions that support the 5 high schools in our area: Cupertino HS, Fremont HS, Homestead HS, Lynbrook and Monta Vista. These include teachers, counselors, office personnel, plus many others in facilities, maintenance, operations, finance/accounting, business services, etc. If you would like to learn about a broad range of professions - educator, accountant, operations, school administration, food service/facilities/maintenance management and more come to this session. As HR Director, Tom will also share his own career path from his college days at UC Davis. This path includes being a teacher and school administrator.

Careers in Aviation

Speaker: Michael Laccabue

Michael Laccabue (MV '08) is a flight instructor and commercial pilot. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. degree in Aviation Human Factors in May 2012 and has since taught in San Diego and the Bay Area, flown high-resolution aerial mapping missions all over the United States and now flies CBS traffic reporters. He is preparing to join an airline this summer and will speak on careers in aviation and what it takes to become a pilot.

Clinical Dietician

Speaker: Mona Rutesh

Mona has been a Clinical Dietitian for 13 years. She works at Kaiser Permanente and specializes in Nutrition Support (artificial feeding) and Critical Care nutrition. In order to become a Registered Dietitian (RD), Mona completed a Master of Science degree in Food and Nutrition. Learn what Mona's typical week is like at work. Why does she like about being a clinical dietitian? What are the challenges?

Digital Audio technology

Speaker: Tim Duncan

For students who love music AND technology, Tim Duncan, Professor at Cogswell Polytechnical College and Director of Digital Audio Technology will talk about his journey since graduating from high school, which started with his completion of an undergraduate degree in voice performance and music composition. How did that bring him to what he does now? What is needed to be open to different possibilities? Tim will also share information about jobs and careers for those in the digital audio technology field.

Journalism, Newspaper publishing, Communications

Speaker: Chris Vongsarath

Do you enjoy writing? Keeping the community up-to-date with news and developments? Explore careers in Journalism and Communications (newspaper reporter, publishing, administration, management). Hear it directly from the Editor of Silicon Valley Community Newspapers' Cupertino Courier and Sunnyvale Sun, Chris Vongsarath. Chris will share his career path since graduating from high school and pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Communications. He will also cover other related roles within the newspaper/publishing industry and what it means for future careers as the world goes more digital.

Medical Doctor: Ophthalmologist

Speaker: Dr. Janet Tsui

Ophthalmology is the branch of medicine and surgery that deals with the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the eye. Do some of you remember dissecting a cow's eye in 3rd grade? Come and hear Dr. Janet Tsui, a Monta Vista graduate (Class 1997) share her experiences as an Ophthalmologist at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Santa Clara. Immediately after high school, Dr. Tsui moved to Southern California to pursue a degree in Biomedical/Biochemical Engineering at USC, and then proceeded to medical school at UCSF, and a residency at the University of Iowa.

Occupational Therapy

Speaker: Lisa Hanano

Lisa Hanano is an occupational therapist who has been in practice for 4 years. After graduating from San Jose State University with a Master of Science degree and passing the National Board of Occupational Therapy examination in 2010, she began work as an occupational therapist at Saint Mary's Hospital in San Francisco, California. Her resume includes experience working with people who have suffered traumatic, neurologic, orthopedic, and cognitive dysfunction; including employment at Stanford Hospital and Washington Hospital. Lisa currently works at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, California where she splits her time providing both inpatient and outpatient treatment. Lisa is an advocate for advancing the profession of occupational therapy and has recently been accepted to present her research to the World Federation of

Occupational Therapy Congress in Japan this year. She will speak today about her journey to become an occupational therapist and what her profession means to her.

Physical Therapist

Speaker: Hannah Chase

Hannah is a Physical Therapist at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View. She graduated from University of Hartford in Connecticut. Upon graduating from high school she began wanting to be P.E teacher. Hear about her journey to become a Physical Therapist...what she learned about life and what was important to her, and how she discovered a level of discipline that she didn't know she had within her. A Physical Therapist directly influences people's lives on a daily basis. It is a rewarding job. She will talk about what it means to be a Physical Therapist, the job setting, and all the different opportunities available.

Physical Therapist

Speaker: Margot Flaughter, PT, MPT

After a lifetime of dancing and sports and hearing my mom's stories about the wonderful world of medicine, I decided to go into physical therapy. I graduated from Cupertino High School, De Anza Community College, San Francisco State University (BS Kinesiology), and Cleveland State University (Master of PT), finally making it back home to work at El Camino Hospital. I have been practicing for 9 years, exclusively in the acute hospital setting. In addition, I have taught anatomy lab at SF State, worked for tech companies bringing new mobility products to market, and participated in research. Physical therapy is a great career with loads of options!

Software Engineering & Entrepreneurship

Speaker: David Wong

David Wong will describe how his path unfolded from initial interests in high school all the way to joining Survey Monkey and acquiring a company. After Monta Vista ('96), he attended UC Berkeley where he earned a BS in EECS (Electrical Engineering Computer Science), a BA in Business Administration and a MS in Computer Science.

Through research, David worked with the Department of State and several Fortune 500s and started a company with his professor. He is now a software engineer at Survey Monkey. His research interests include artificial intelligence, human computer interaction and visualization.