

Graduation for the  
*Class of*  
**2017**

VALLEY CHRISTIAN



*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another  
above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your  
spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

Romans 12:10 -11

Saturday, May 27, 2017 | 3:00 PM  
Alameda County Fairgrounds  
Pleasanton, California

# A Note from our Advisors

Dear Class of 2017:

This is such a bittersweet moment for us. It has been an amazing blessing to be a part of your high school experience, and now that time is coming to an end. We have shared so many memorable moments over the past four years – end of year barbecues, wall nights, skits, camping at the beach, and most recently, the Every 15 Minutes program. As you graduate, we take comfort in knowing that God has amazing plans for each and every one of you. It's in His character to lead His people. Like Joshua, David, Ruth, and Esther of the Bible, we are confident God will lead your footsteps. It has been our pleasure to witness how He has begun to work out those plans in each of your lives.

Although God has plans for your lives, He has also given you each the freedom to make your own choices. As we witnessed so poignantly during the Every 15 Minutes program, the choices that you make do not just affect you, they affect everyone who cares about you. As you step out beyond the Hill and into the adult world, you will have to make many choices that will define the person you will ultimately become. We pray that in all circumstances you will seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and make wise choices. Leave this place knowing - not just in your heads, but deeply in your hearts – that YOU ARE LOVED by your class sponsors, by your friends and family, and most importantly you are loved deeply, completely and unconditionally by your Heavenly Father.

We hope this isn't good-bye. We hope that you will keep in touch with us. We can't wait to hear about all the amazing things that God is doing in your lives!

God bless and keep you always,  
Miss Caspersen and Mrs. Masamori



# Commencement

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation | William Kizanis, Senior Class President

Pledges | Anna Lu, Co-Salutatorian

Welcoming Remarks | Lead Pastor and Dr. Roger Valci, Chairman of  
the Board of Deacons at Valley Christian Center

Recognition of Salutatorians and Valedictorian | Dr. Michael Chen, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Angela Bruggeman, Dean of Academics

Superintendent Remarks | Dr. Michael Chen, Superintendent of Schools

Graduate Address | Madeline Benhamou, Co-Salutatorian  
Gary Zhuge, Valedictorian

Introduction of Commencement Speaker | Mrs. Chelsie Anderson, Dean of Students

Commencement Speech | Mr. Toni Oloko, Entrepreneur, TED Speaker,  
CEO of Practice Gig

Presentation of the Diplomas | Lead Pastor and Dr. Roger Valci, Chairman of  
the Board of Deacons  
Dr. Michael Chen, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Debbie Masamori and Casey Caspersen  
Class Advisors

Declaration of Graduation | Dr. Michael Chen, Superintendent of Schools

Benediction Prayer | Mr. Don Dickinson, Dean of Students



# 2017 Senior Class

## VALEDICTORIAN

GARY ZHUGE

## SALUTATORIANS

MADELINE ROSE BENHAMOU

ANNA LU

**VAROON ADCHARIYAVANICH** | Attending Las Positas College

**SABINA-ANDREA RAMIREZ ALLEN** | † | Community Service Award; Canyon Christian Schools Consortium Scholarship; Deans Scholarship; Attending Grand Canyon University

**MADELINE ROSE BENHAMOU** | ♦ ★† | Academic Honors; AP Scholar; Community Service Award; Azusa Pacific Presidents Scholarship; Attending Azusa Pacific University

**CONRAD B. BORNEMAN** | Attending The Citadel Military College of South Carolina

**ANDY L. CHEN** | ♦ ★† | High Academic Honors; AP Scholar with Distinction; Community Service Award; Attending University College London, England

**SEAN P. COLLINS** | Attending Concordia University

**ARIANA MARIE DE VRIES** | Attending Las Positas College

**CAMERON A. DICKSON** | Attending Las Positas College

**NICKLAUS JOHN DOTSON** | Attending Sonoma State University

**JORDAN PAUL ESLING** | California Lutheran University Oaks Scholarship, Recognition of Achievement; Attending California Lutheran University

**NICHOLAS A. FRAGUS** | VCHS Sportsman of the year; Attending Azusa Pacific University

**HANNAH RENEE FRIESEN** | ♠ ♦ ★† | NHS; High Academic Honors; Community Service Award; Canyon Christian Schools Consortium Scholarship; NCS Foundation Scholarship; Attending Grand Canyon University

**GUO SIQI** | ♦ † | High Academic Honors; Community Service Award; Attending University of California, Davis

**JIANG SHU** | Attending University of California, San Diego

**BRETT MICHAEL JOHNSON** | † | Community Service Award; Attending Las Positas College

**WILLIAM JAMES KIZANIS** | † | Community Service Award; Attending San Jose State University

**MIKAYLA M. LAPP** | ✨ | Attending University of Arizona

**LI PENGFEI** | ✨ | Attending University of California, Davis

**ANNA LU** | ♠ ♦ ★ | NHS; High Academic Honors; AP Scholar with Distinction; University of Chicago National Merit Scholarship; Attending University of Chicago

♠ **NHS - National Honors Society (white)**

♦ **High Academic Honors - GPA 4.0 and above (blue)**

✨ **Academic Honors - GPA 3.75 - 3.99 (red)**

★ **AP Scholars - College Board National Recognition (purple)**

† **Community Service - 200+ Service Hours (gold)**

# 2017 Senior Class

**MA SHUKUN** | Attending University of Washington, Seattle

**MITCHELL W. MACKENZIE** | Attending Las Positas College

**BRYCE R. MCKEE** | † | Community Service Award; Attending Biola University

**ELIJAH J. MERRELL** | † | Community Service Award; Attending Foothill College

**CHRISTINA KIMI NAKAO** | ♠ ♦ † | NHS; High Academic Honors; Community Service Award, VCHS Sportsman of the Year; Attending Azusa Pacific University

**SAMUEL I. POSTON** | † | Community Service Award; Attending Las Positas College

**CHARLES ALEXANDER RIGL** | ☀ | Academic Honors; Chapman University Dean's Scholarship; Attending Chapman University

**VASILIOS CHARLES ROY** | ♠ ☀ † | NHS; Academic Honors; Community Service Award; Canyon Christian Schools Consortium Scholarship; Provost Academic Scholarship; Attending Grand Canyon University

**KAREENA J. SONDKAR** | Attending University of California, Santa Cruz

**ADELAIDE H. ST. JOHN** | † | Community Service Award; Attending Otterbein University of Ohio

**SUN HAOLIN** | ♦ ★ † | High Academic Honors; AP Scholar; Community Service Award; Attending California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

**HANNAH L. WADDEL** | Azusa Pacific Academic Scholarship - Director's Scholarship; Attending Azusa Pacific University

**SEAN C. WHITEHEAD** | Attending Northwest University

**KYLE M. WIBBING** | Attending Las Positas College

**CASSANDRA MARIE YORK** | ☀ ♠ † | Academic Honors; NHS, Community Service Award; Attending Texas Christian University

**GARY ZHUGE** | ♦ ★ † | High Academic Honors; AP Scholar with Distinction; Community Service Award; Attending Cornell University

- ♠ NHS - National Honors Society (white)
- ♦ High Academic Honors - GPA 4.0 and above (blue)
- ☀ Academic Honors - GPA 3.75 - 3.99 (red)
- ★ AP Scholars - College Board National Recognition (purple)
- † Community Service - 200+ Service Hours (gold)

**Congratulations to our Graduates!**

# 2017 College Placements

Azusa Pacific University  
Biola University  
California Lutheran University  
California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo  
California State University, Monterey Bay  
Chapman University  
Concordia University  
Cornell University  
Foothill College  
Grand Canyon University  
Las Positas College  
Northwest University  
Otterbein University  
San Jose State University  
Sonoma State University  
Texas Christian University  
The Citadel Military College  
University College London, England  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
University of Chicago  
University of Washington, Seattle

# Our Mission

To develop courageous, thoughtful,  
and creative young leaders  
through excellent interdisciplinary, holistic,  
and rigorous Christian education.

# Our Vision

To transform the world for Christ through education.

# Portrait of a Graduate

- To strive for intellectual rigor
- To exhibit self-awareness
- To exercise creativity
- To display courage
- To show compassion
- To demonstrate service
- To be community-minded
- To be globally-minded



# Step Aside

By: Emily O'Neil

We are so fixated on...OURSELVES,  
And the world encourages this obsession.  
Preoccupied with the singular pronoun "ME" and our entitlements...  
Do what you please.  
Put yourself first.  
You have the starring role!  
Step aside for no one!  
Take what you want – Indulge every desire – Feed every impulse  
Compliment, spoil, and satiate yourself. – YOU deserve it!  
You think you know all the answers, have all the plans  
You are the center of the universe.  
Strength comes from brand names, trophies, and cash  
We are so infatuated with ourselves  
Yet we are starved for affirmation, confirmation, congratulation  
But what do pride, selfishness, egotism bring?  
Only emptiness, discontent, and ugliness.

*Perhaps we should rethink our priorities and what defines us...*

## STEP ASIDE

And in the spirit of humility  
Put God first  
Put yourself last, be unassuming  
Refrain from the droning chorus of "Me, Me, Me"  
Ask for forgiveness  
Increase your faith  
Seek silence and peace  
This is what the Lord asks of you.

## STEP ASIDE

And in the spirit of meekness  
Be grateful and content nestled in the downy softness of God's wings  
Be willing and eager to listen to Him  
Show strength by being vulnerable  
Be courageous and spirited in yielding to His will  
Be patient and confident in His judgment, not your own  
Being a leader means being willing to put God at the helm  
Independence means reliance on God  
This is what the Lord asks of you.

## STEP ASIDE

And in the spirit of celebration  
Nobly acknowledge your fellow man  
Bless others with the sweet sound of encouragement  
Help them to sparkle  
Give hope and inspiration  
Acknowledge others' potential and grandeur  
This is what the Lord asks of you.

Simplify your life  
and

## STEP ASIDE

Trust in Him  
and

## STEP ASIDE

Share generously  
and

## STEP ASIDE

...

## STEP ASIDE

**This is what the Lord asks of you.**



# Valley Christian School Board

Dr. Roger Valci, Lead Pastor  
Dr. Michael Chen, Superintendent  
Nancy Adams  
Doug Anderson  
Eddie Inamdar  
Sharon Lao  
Rekha Williams  
Sandra Zorinich

# Valley Christian Administration

Dr. Michael Chen, Superintendent  
Angela Bruggeman, Dean of Academics  
Michelle Fitch, Elementary Principal  
Don Dickinson, Dean of Students  
Chelsie Anderson, Dean of Students  
Larry Lopez, Athletic Director  
Jeff Gadd, Assistant Athletic Director  
Joyce Ting, Performing Arts Director  
Daly Johnson, Director of Admission  
Meghan Barnett, Admission Coordinator  
Carolyn Mariot, College Counselor  
RoseMary Tuuri, Academic Counselor  
Debbie Masamori, Student Activities  
Holly Johnson, Director of Logistics  
Kris Rodrigues, Facilities Coordinator  
Geigy Boek, Office Administration

# Valley Christian Teaching Staff

Cynthia Allen	Karline Fischer	Rebecca Lee	Cheri Romero
Linda Awwad	Marc Fox	Justin Lowell	Emily Shively
Raquel Biesecker	Jackie Honea	Debbie Masamori	Joyce Ting
Casey Caspersen	Patrick Iseke	Chris Montgomery	Janae Valci
Katherine Castrence	Ida Johnson	Emily O'Neil	Ken Walker
Saul Drevitch	Magdalena Kazberuk	Tim Parks	Alicia Weber
Sally Fischel	Thomas Lee	Nichole Ponce	Samantha Whitley

# Pledges

## THE AMERICAN FLAG PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | 1892

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

## THE CHRISTIAN FLAG PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | 1908

“I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.”

## VALLEY CHRISTIAN



7500 Inspiration Drive | Dublin, California  
[www.ValleyChristianSchools.org](http://www.ValleyChristianSchools.org)