



**LA JOLLA**  
**COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**  
Inspiring Greatness for a Better World

## Cum Laude Society 2019

### **Class of 2019 Inductees**

#### **Paulina Achar**

Paulina is an impressive thespian and Shakespeare scholar whose performance as Hamlet in January showed flawless commitment, deep knowledge of Shakespeare's language and a thorough physical transformation into the character. She has also written and directed her own plays that many of the LJCDS community have enjoyed or performed in. This multilingual scholar is a member of both the Spanish and French Honor Societies and used her language skills on the Dominican Republic trip two years ago. Paulina is also a four-year varsity letter winner in tennis and the founder of our school's Mental Health Awareness Club.

#### **Sofia Islas**

Already fluent in Spanish, Sofia developed her Mandarin fluency as the first LJCDS student to participate in the exchange with Beijing Keystone International School. She has served as a leader with the Hands for Peace program, facilitating dialog between Palestinian and Israeli teens and has inspired five other LJCDS students to participate in the program. She has worked for two members of Congress and has been an integral member of a Torrey Mock Trial team that was undefeated at counties in her three years. She is the only member of Torrey Mock Trial to ever earn a top-5 ranking at the NorCal tournament.

#### **Ryan Lamkin**

You are likely to find Ryan in the band room, in the pool, in a math or science classroom or at his church. An outstanding clarinet and saxophone player, he often performs as a volunteer with Musicians with a Purpose. He is the consummate team player in everything he does and has earned five coach's awards in swimming and water polo, which are awarded to hard-working team-centered individuals. He is an active volunteer at his church as an altar server and at the annual rummage sale and is a leader of vacation bible school. Many say Ryan is the hardest-working member of the Spanish Honor Society.

#### **Ruhi Parikh**

Ruhi seems to be involved with everything at La Jolla Country Day School. She is a peer leader, co-captain of the academic league team and a member of the drumline, and she plays steel drum, Taiko drum, piano and guitar. She is on student council and the Community Service Board where she organizes Coffee for a Cause and works with Banding Together to help provide music education to people with developmental disabilities. She volunteers at a summer camp teaching children with autism how to ride horses and also went to Nicaragua to

teach English. Ruhi is also the co-editor of Pegasus and a member of our Spanish Honor society.

### **Natalie Pellette**

Natalie participated in the Summer in the City Program at Barnard College in New York where her professor described her as “a born cultural anthropologist” and one of the most thoughtful and impressive students that he had ever instructed at that level. As a member of the Community Service Board, she attends nearly every event and has been instrumental with Philanthropy Partners. She has been described as having a genuine enthusiasm for life and enjoys mentoring others as a peer tutor and peer leader. She also is a talented artist that recently earned a Silver Key in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for one of her drawings.

### **Rachel Ruggera**

You might find Rachel carrying her cello in one hand and épée for fencing in the other. She has mentored young students at LJCDS in music, French and sign language. Rachel loves to use her music to bring joy to others' lives, and she performs with the San Diego Youth Orchestra and with Musicians with a Purpose. She is a steadfast editor and the voice of The Palette for covering the arts. She worked with Connect Med as an intern where she helped design their annual gala website. She is also a member of the French Honor Society.

### **Susannah Schleimer**

Music and volunteer work seem to define Susannah. She is a Tri-M Music Honor Society Member who plays the flute and guitar and was a member in the LJCDS cast of *Les Misérables*. She has traveled to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Australia to volunteer. Every weekend, she volunteers with No Wagging Tail Left Behind. Driven to excel in all that she does, Susannah is a member of the Spanish Honor Society and spent this past summer at UCLA studying college-level psychology.

### **Madison Twomey**

Madison spent the summer doing research in the Nanoscale Microscopy lab at UCLA. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society who brings humor and relevance to The Palette with her wit and trademark “real talk.” She volunteers as a peer tutor at LJCDS and has also spent time volunteering in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. She loves to cook and camp, and any who have seen the “Rhythm and Blue” concert can attest to her exceptional skill as a percussionist.

### **Thomas Wiener**

Thomas is a fantastic new addition to the LJCDS community this year. In his brief time here, he has proven himself to be a serious intellectual who is passionate about learning, an outstanding critical thinker and quite worldly in his views. As a 9-year-old, Thomas taught himself all the countries of the world based on a map his mother gave him. He is a member of the French Honor Society who studies the highest level of French literature offered in high

school. He is teaching himself multivariable calculus and would like to study economics in college.