



NATHAN WONG

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: NATHAN WONG

Lydia Zhong, State President

Nathan Wong, a graduate of Walnut High School in the Inland Section in Southern California, is currently a freshman at the University of California-Riverside (UCR). He is majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting, a choice that was largely influenced by his experiences as a four-year FBLA member. Nathan remembers being a very active member, having taken the initiative to run for and serve on the executive board for three years and ultimately serving his chapter as a Co-President in his senior year. In addition to his leadership experience, Nathan also completed the America Level of the nation-wide Business Achievement Awards, was recognized as the Inland Section Member of the Year in 2015, and won the L. Byram Bates Memorial Scholarship.

As an alum, Nathan recognized how large a role FBLA played in his development into a young adult. Both his written and oral communication skills improved in leaps and bounds over those four years, transforming him into a true business leader. Perhaps his greatest challenge was beginning a conversation,

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Members wait in anticipation during the closing session of the Bay Section Leadership Conference.

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Inland Section President Karen Sun speaks at the opening session at the Inland Section Conference.



SCOTT LEE

Members pose with awards following the Bay Section Leadership Conference.

SECTION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES RECAP

Karen Sun, State Vice President

On February 6, 2016, the seven sections of California FBLA held their section leadership conferences. At each conference, attendees were given the opportunity to compete in the over 60 available competitive events, elect their new section officer team, and network with enthusiastic members.

Said junior Cynthia Lu from Walnut High School, "The section leadership conference is always one of the highlights of the entire year. I think this year especially, because I was campaigning for a section position, I actively went out and introduced myself to a

lot of members. It's awesome to see everyone just laughing and having a good time after the stress of competing, or finally, the smile on their faces after winning an award and knowing that their hard work was worth it."

Senior Leo Siow from Wilson High School agreed. "The Mission Valley section conference was memorable because I was able to see the election of next year's section officers," Siow stated. "During the candidate Q&A session, it was great that we were able to have members across the section relay their suggestions on how to make Mission Valley better." •

COMING FULL CIRCLE: HOSTING A SECTION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Martin Cepeda, Central Section Vice President



John H. Pitman FBLA after the Central Section Leadership Conference.

MARTIN CEPEDA

There isn't a single defining aspect of FBLA. The organization promotes an immersive experience that can't be distilled into one event, one thing. However, to say that competing at leadership conferences has been a large part of many members' experiences would be an understatement. For

many FBLA members, competitions mean a chance to bond with new people, venture outside of their comfort zones, and have fun.

The Central Section Leadership Conference took place on Saturday, February 6, on the same day as the other sections' leadership conferences. This year, John H. Pitman High hosted the conference, marking the second year within the last four years that the chapter hosted a section conference. The first year was in 2012, so for a few seniors, the conference was a way to arrive full circle. When asked about their conference involvement and thoughts about hosting, Pitman members responded in the following:

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FAREWELL ADDRESS

Lydia Zhong, State President

It has been an honor to serve such an amazing organization created by the efforts of countless individuals. Being a witness to the standard of excellence at each and every leadership conference is truly an inspiration. Together, we have cried, laughed, and shared experiences that have shaped us into the people we are today as citizens of the community. While I am sad to say goodbye to California FBLA, I am also excited to see what the future has in store for this organization and its members. This year has been challenging, but such challenges have pushed us to grow. Farewell, California FBLA, and thank you for this opportunity. •

GARY PAGE, CDE REPRESENTATIVE

Christopher Lee, State Vice President

Career Technical Education (CTE) by definition is a program that provides students with a pathway to potential careers. CTE encompasses over fifteen different career clusters ranging from health science to manufacturing to finance and integrates an academically rigorous curriculum with involvement in Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) like Future Business Leaders of America to prepare students for a career in one of these clusters.

A recent addition to the California FBLA Management Team, Gary Page, was assigned to be the lead consultant at the California Department of Education (CDE) for the Business and Finance Sector and the Information and Communication Technologies Career Sector. Page also works with teachers throughout California to improve CTE courses. Page recently joined California FBLA as a member of the California FBLA Board of Directors and Management Team representing the CDE. Since Page is new to FBLA, he is searching for ways to contribute meaningfully to the organization.

On a daily basis, Page works with teachers throughout California to improve CTE courses. He led the team that developed the CTE standards and is currently helping



SLC PREVIEW

Naomi Jung, State Secretary-Treasurer

On April 14, thousands of high school students will travel to Ontario, California to attend the 66th annual California State Leadership Conference. At California FBLA's



Gary Page, California Department of Education Representative

teachers understand how these state policies impact classroom instruction. In addition to teachers, Page enjoys working with university and industry professionals and programs like Project Lead the Way, CISCO Networking Academies, Exploring Computer Science and C-STEM. He is currently working with a code.org initiative to develop a framework for the scope and sequence of K-12 computer science instruction.

Stated Page when asked why he thinks CTE is such an integral part of student education, "I think CTE is very important because it gives purpose to learning by applying academic principles to real work experiences and projects. All students need to develop leadership and soft skills to be successful whether they want to get a job right out of high school or college." •

largest and most anticipated event of the year, attendees will participate in over 50 different competitive events and have the chance to earn a spot to compete at the 2016 National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This four-day leadership conference provides many opportunities for networking, workshops led by business professionals, and more. Members will also have the opportunity to meet state officer candidates and elect the state leadership team for the 2016-2017 school year. We hope to see you there! *For more information, visit cafbla.org* •

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but FBLA prepared him with the skills to feel confident networking and meeting new people. Of Nathan's many FBLA memories, his favorite is, without a doubt, leading his chapter to win 3rd Place in Sweepstakes at the 2015 State Leadership Conference.

Today, he is involved in Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), the collegiate division of FBLA. In his specific chapter, there is a special focus on membership and professional development. As the Marketing Co-Committee Chair, Nathan leads ten individuals in weekly meetings to discover and discuss strategic ways to advertise to UCRPBL and the UCR campus. He is excited for what the next few years will bring and anticipates a future in business with his background from FBLA and now PBL. •

FULL CIRCLE *cont. from pg 1*

"For me, the section leadership conference is one of the competitions I most look forward to because I'm taking part in it firsthand and am able to experience something fun that also helps me academically." - Michelle Doo

"All the work put in before the event was pretty stressful: we had to contact judges and prepare activities for 500 competitors, but honestly, it was worth it after hearing how everyone enjoyed sections this year. [It was] difficult, but really satisfying." -Daphne Blas

"I competed here as a freshman and so it was really awesome that I got to do so again as a senior." -Elizabeth Nickerson

Now the next step for qualifying members is the highly anticipated State Leadership Conference. Serving as the gateway to the National Leadership Conference, the state conference takes competition, fun, and the FBLA experience to a whole new level. •



John H. Pitman FBLA members during the Central Section Leadership Conference.

MARTIN CEPEDA



MARTIN CEPEDA

John H. Pitman FBLA members pose with second place awards in Marketing.