



Ms. Parker displays her pair of shoes. (Camille Ring)

## Ms. Parker's snazzy sneakers

By Nusheen Goshtasbi and Camille Ring

Ms. Parker reveals the secret of her mysterious shoes.

Ever wondered where those shoes hanging above history teacher Ms. Kristen Parker's desk came from? "It was a gift from an old student of mine, Ra-

chel Kaplan, from when I taught at Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut," Parker said.

Parker had Rachel as a student for two years as a sophomore in regular U.S. History and as a junior in AP U.S. History. After much time together after school, Ms. Parker and Rachel formed a friendship.

"She was a good student and fun to have in class," Parker said.

Two years after Parker left Staples and came to Laguna Beach High School, Kaplan came to visit her. At the time a freshman in college, Kaplan flew out to Los Angeles to visit her brother at UCLA and spent the day with Parker in San Diego. She then presented her with a pair of white Converse high tops with self-created hand-drawn designs.

"One shoe represents the 13 original colonies while the other shoe represents New York City," Parker said.

There's a lighthouse drawn on one shoe, and on the other a skyline missing the Twin Towers of New York City.

"Whenever I look up at them I think of her," Parker said.

Parker has not seen Rachel since and has never worn the unique shoes, although Kaplan had bought them in her size so that she could wear them.

"I don't want to ruin the shoes," Parker said.

So if you ever want to give an unforgettable gift to a teacher, try thinking outside the box, like Rachel Kaplan did. The next time you are in the history wing stop by Parker's room to check out her snazzy sneakers.

## Nick Shopoff

By Devin Pappas Business Manager

Nick Shopoff, '08 LBHS alumnus, returned to campus from Chapman University to teach three classes full of excited dancers.

On Nov. 3 and 4, Nick taught Dance 1, Dance 1 Advanced and Dance 2. He showed an interest in teaching at LBHS and Lisa Jay, dance director, thought it was a great idea.

Nick was a fantastic teacher and choreographer. I had a lot of fun in his class. I hope he can be a guest choreographer for the spring show," Page Armondo, sophomore, said.

Many of the students thoroughly enjoyed Nick's style of teaching and look forward to his help in future shows and his teaching of future classes.

"I would definitely consider Nick a guest choreographer for future shows," Jay said.

Nick graduated last year and is now attending Chapman University. He plans on majoring in dance and is considering a double major with creative writing. He wants to attend graduate school and then teach dance, preferably at a university.

"My ultimate dream would be to open my own dance studio or even school."

"I am definitely open to teaching anywhere. I would consider teaching at LBHS as one of my options," Shopoff said.

Shopoff's early experiences in dance and teaching inspire his future aspirations.

"My ultimate dream would be to open my own dance studio or even school," Shopoff said.

Send all of your questions, comments and suggestions to [thebrushandpalette@yahoo.com](mailto:thebrushandpalette@yahoo.com)!

## Winter dance program: Synchronicity

Dance lovers should mark their calendars to see the Laguna Beach Dance Department's winter dance program Synchronicity, coming in early December. Escape the pressures of holiday planning and come to this beautiful event in the early twilight of a winter evening.

Synchronicity means a "coincidence of events that seem to be meaningfully related" and describes well the creative medley of 12 different dances choreographed by Laguna Beach High School's new department head, Lisa Jay, her colleague Danielle Pigneri and guest choreographers Tracey Bonner and Jaclyn Butterfield.

Lisa Jay, coming to Laguna Beach High School from Hawaii, has been teaching dance since 1985. Her professional career spans stage, television and the world of live entertainment.

"I am all about dance... pure dance... I love having the freedom to just create and not be bound by anything," Jay said.

Laguna Beach High School is among the 14% of public secondary schools nationally who have dance as part of their daily curriculum. This commitment on the part of our district produces dancers who have the technique and stamina to go on to dance in college or the professional world. In fact, many of Laguna's students have gone on to dance careers.

So treat yourself and your fellow aspiring dancers to an enchanting evening. Synchronicity will be staged Dec. 11, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Artists' Theatre.

Tickets are \$8 Student/Senior, \$12 Adult and \$15 Reserved.

Box Office (after Nov. 24): (949) 497-7769

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