Student Achievement

Academic-Minded Siblings Kept their Competitive Chops Sharp at Home, Too

By Meg Thornton, PAGE One Editor

Triplet Vanessa, Adrian and Anthony Correa kept their competitive chops sharp while attending Wayne County High in the Southeast Georgia city of Jesup. The vults of the three 2020 graduates read like a roadmap for future leaders: BETA (Vanessa and Anthony); student council (all three); mock trial (Adrian and Anthony); FBLA (Adrian and Vanessa). But nowhere did their competitive spirit shine more brightly than at home.

“All throughout our schooling we have always competed with each other. Once we entered high school, the competition grew fierce,” they told PAGE One. “We would compete with each other not only in terms of grades and testing, but (also) in terms of general knowledge through board games, quizzing apps and everyday conversation. Our main competition throughout the past four years was class rank. Anthony was ranked first in our class from freshman to junior year … Finally, during our senior year, Vanessa pulled ahead.”

And so it went. Now, each have scholarships to top colleges. Vanessa, class valedictorian, is Harvard University-bound; Anthony, salutatorian and Wayne County’s 2020 PAGE STAR student, is off to the University of Pennsylvania; and Adrian is entering the University of Virginia.

Vanessa says the three share interests, such as movies and board games - “which makes us really close with one another” — but they have unique interests as well: Adrian likes analyzing sports; Anthony can’t get enough news (“He is constantly reviewing government policies and political matters,” says Vanessa); and Vanessa likes to paint and read.

The students are bilingual, as well. “Being that we are of Cuban/Hispanic heritage everyone in the house is bilingual,” says their father, Enrique Correa, who, like his wife Rosa, came to the U.S. as infants.

Even though COVID-19 is upending the triplets’ ideal visions of college, they are excited. Harvard first-term classes will be online, but Vanessa is “beyond grateful” that she will reside on campus. Ditto for Adrian and Anthony. “Like my siblings, I am just excited to be on campus this fall,” says Anthony, who will have both online and in-person classes.

As what they each will study looks like they will be putting all that BETA-FBLA-Mock Trial experience to good use: Law, most likely.

Although they are starting bold new chapters in life, the Correa triplets are eternally grateful for their Wayne County High School education. Anthony credits his teachers for helping him discover his passion and for “pushing me to reach my goals.” Vanessa gives a special shout out to her math teachers, who helped her apply concepts to economics and business.

Wayne County High teachers are grateful for the experience, as well. “Teaching is easy with students like you three,” Alabuga II and BETA Advisor Erica Smith told the trio.

The Correa parents could not be prouder. “Both my wife, Rosa, and I both did not obtain any formal education after high school. That’s what makes my children pursuing higher education at these prestigious universities so special,” said Correa.

The close-knit quartet, which Joseph calls “a team,” are especially keen on the military: Kyltn and Brittany were Junior ROTC leaders (Brittany is eyeing the National Guard), while Joseph plans to be a military chaplain.

Athletics has factored prominently, too, whether it was basketball (Joseph), cheerleading and drill team (Kyltn and Brittany) or golf team management (Chloes). Academics, of course, were a focus, too. Kyltn, who plans to study forensic science at Columbus State University, is a National Honor Society member, and Chloe, who plans to study cosmeticsology, was a member of the schools’ math team, which placed third at the Georgia Southwestern State University Mathematics Tournament.

“All four brought different gifts,” said Dr. Kristie Brooks, district superintendent. “Their spirit and impact made a significant, positive contribution to our school and community.”

As of press time, it was undetermined whether the immediate future studies of the quadruplets would take place in classes or online. “But when classes actually start, I am sure there will be a lot of adjustments beyond what is normal,” says Kyltn. “A couple of us were already comfortable with online classes.” A bigger adjustment might be separation from each other. “It’s kind of difficult because we have done everything together basically, and we also have older siblings,” says Brittany. “We’ve always had another half to us to do everything with, so it’s going to be kind of different going off on our own.”

The End of an Era in Cusseta

Across the state, just outside Columbus in the city of Cusseta, a unique student-body characteristic of Chattahoochee High ended this spring with the graduation of quadruplets Kyltn, Chloe, Brittany and Joseph Brackin. However, one member of the Brackin family is staying put: Their father, Michael Brackin, is a long-time math teacher at the school.

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