

*Students Go for Baroque*

## AP ART HISTORY: EXHIBITING FAST GROWTH

AP Art History has become one of the most successful new AP classes in M-A history. With support from the Foundation for the Future, the course's popularity keeps growing. The Counseling Department estimates that as many as three sections will be planned next year. AP Art History, which requires expensive color texts and other materials, heavily relies on Foundation funding.

On her class's recent field trip to a San Francisco art museum, instructor Liane Strub said she could see months of instruction coming together. "The kids were saying

'that's Baroque,' and 'that's Neoclassical,' and trying to make sense of what they saw. This course has been very gratifying."

As for the course's popularity, Strub said the AP class has broad appeal. Kids can absorb much of the course-work in class, reducing the heavy homework load typical of most AP classes. Students who have substantial reading in other AP subjects find they can still take and enjoy Art History. For other students

,the class provides the opportunity to challenge themselves in their first AP level class.



## SUPPORTING EVERY ASPECT OF CAMPUS LIFE

Year after year, M-A's Foundation helps pay key campus salaries, maintaining positions and sustaining programs throughout the school. In 2005-2006, donations played a bigger role than ever, supporting everything from foreign-language instruction to counseling.

"M-A exploits all available public funding sources, but in autumn, 2005, this wasn't enough," said Instructional Vice Principal Steve Lippi. "Fortunately, the Foundation more than doubled its usual grant for salaries. The \$300,000 donation proved essential to maintaining a quality program at M-A."

This year, Foundation funds provided administrative support for campus-wide testing, a community outreach coordinator, and readers for English, Social Studies, and languages. The grants brought badly needed clerical help for the College and Career Center. Donations also funded an English teaching aid, plus instructor salaries for German, summer AP Calculus and SAT prep. M-A's Counseling Department, the Connections orientation classes and the Compass Program for entering freshmen also counted on Foundation monies for key positions.

"This year, we have important new classes in English, math and other subjects that give kids the boost they need to get up to grade level," said Lippi. "For students to develop,

and for M-A to grow as a school, we wanted to keep these classes at a certain size. With Foundation help, we were able to do that."

A Foundation grant enabled administrators to sustain the programs they had intended, including AP Art, Algebra Support, English Support, and other key courses. According to Lippi, Foundation funding not only ensured a quality curriculum, but went a long way toward maintaining morale at the campus.

"It's hard enough grading papers each day for five classes of, let's say, 20 students," he said. "Imagine five classes with 35 students each. The Foundation helped us give kids the education, and the attention, they deserve."

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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear M-A Students, Parents and Supporters,

I have been at M-A long enough to share my first personal lesson: our diversity is our strength. This campus certainly offers academic rigor, but it also provides the broad educational experiences of a fine, comprehensive high school. M-A is a smart place. Here, students daily show their wide range of talents. They build award-winning robots, compose original music and help the greater community in ways that set an example for us all. M-A kids learn to accept individuals as individuals. They learn that they don't have to be like everyone else. In this diverse academic community, young people can grow into their true potential.

Most important, we do this together. Parent support, direct involvement and generosity make all the difference at M-A. The Foundation for the Future supports campus life on every level. Its funding makes key parts of our curriculum possible. The Foundation, and the parents and community members behind it, help keep the school evolving. Change is what M-A is all about. This campus must keep pace with an evolving economy, workforce and technologies. We will continue to address these challenges and opportunities, with help from the many people who care about M-A.

Thank you for your continuing support for the Foundation for the Future.

Sincerely,

Denise Plante, Principal

**For More Information:**

Cindy Folker, Director of Development  
Email: cfolker@seq.org  
Tel: (650) 322-5311 x 5206

[www.m-afoundation.org](http://www.m-afoundation.org)

The Foundation for the Future at Menlo-Atherton High School thanks our talented photographers: M-A parent, John Boyle, and community volunteer Clint McClintick

Design by AplinUnoCreative.

*We are still short of our goal for this year!*



## WILL YOU HELP US SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AT M-A?

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## MAKING AFRICAN DRUMMING A HIT

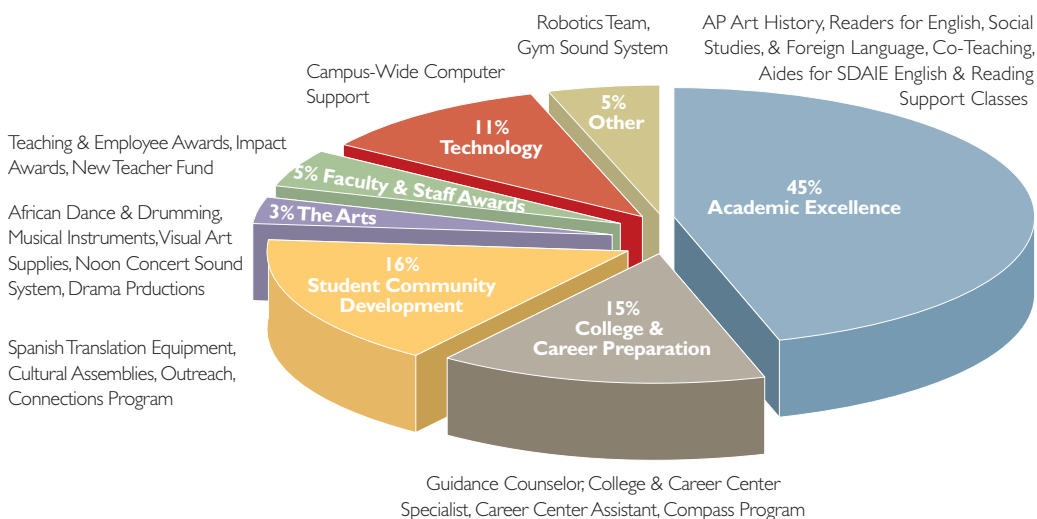
The liveliest, certainly the loudest, class at M-A is also one of the most diverse, according to music instructor Sarah Cane. In African Drumming, a course that has grown steadily in seven years, students of all backgrounds and attainments bond in a passion for rhythm. The class's 30 drums, originally purchased with Foundation funds, support an ensemble with a unique role in campus life. M-A's African Drummers have played at pep rallies, lunchtime concerts, the RISE (Realizing Intellect through Self-Empowerment) program's annual Kwanzaa celebration and other events. Thanks to a small Foundation grant, the drummers recently spent three weeks accompanying a freshman Physical Education course in African dance.

"Learning dance with live drummers was exciting for everyone," said Cane. "There's something infectious about it, and kids bond through this experience. The music is accessible to everyone. Students who never see each other, let alone work together, get involved in drumming, and the barriers fall away."

A grant for a professional instructor made it possible for M-A's drummers to accompany the three-week African dance unit in freshman Physical Education. According to Cane, the live sound and live dancers produced high energy and high spirits. She said that drumming has worked especially well for M-A. It has proven easy to harness the percussive energy of drumming. Cane has had several outside instructors teach new rhythms to her class, including Dr. David Piper, from RISE. In the future, she would like to expose students to even more drum artists.

Meanwhile, Cane's class in African Drumming has no problems with either motivation or enthusiasm. In a recent session involving drums and percussive sticks, one of her biggest challenges seemed to lie in teaching the kids to play more quietly.

### Critical Dollars for Campus-Wide Needs (2005–2006)—Total Projects Funded \$500,000



Last year, The Foundation for the Future raised \$500,000—and those dollars made a big difference in supporting the talented teachers who maintain high-quality education at M-A. This year, expanding academic programs, along with new campus arts facilities and IT capabilities, make increased Foundation support crucial.

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As we continue to work towards our goal of raising \$500,000 this year, we gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors who have already joined us to support excellence in education at M-A. Gifts were received from September 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

\*Note: final 2005-06 donor list to be published in 2005-06 annual report.

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