

# The 28 Percent

Women make up only 28% of the STEM workforce. This newsletter aims to change that.

**ISSUE XXV // June 2023**

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**Art By Ruby Chew**

# love, loud & proud!

## *Pride Month Celebration*

**Saturday, June 24 | 6-9 p.m.**

**Pasadena City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave.**

Join us at the iconic Pasadena City Hall as we champion our diverse LGBTQ+ community.

- ♥ DRAG PERFORMANCES
- ♥ PHOTO OP AREA
- ♥ LOCAL LGBTQ+ ORGANIZATIONS
- ♥ MUSIC BY DJ KEELEZ
- ♥ FOOD TRUCKS
- ♥ DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME

This free event features food for purchase and promises fun for all ages. For more information, visit [CityOfPasadena.net/Parks-And-Rec](https://CityOfPasadena.net/Parks-And-Rec) or call (626) 744-7500.



**PASADENA  
PRIDE**

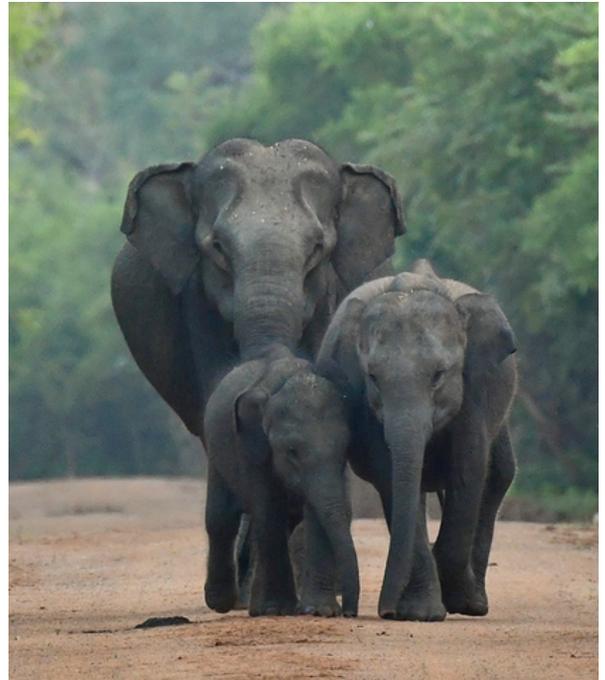
# Endangered Species Spotlight: The Asian Elephant

By: Kaley Simkins

The Asian elephant is the largest mammal on the Asian continent, weighing around 11,000 pounds. They are extremely sociable animals and tend to travel in groups of 6-7 individuals. The herd is led by a matriarch, the oldest female. They make sure to stay close to a source of fresh water because they drink up to 40, even 55 gallons a day. The elephants feed on nearby tree bark, roots, leaves, and grass. On special occasions, they enjoy nutrients from sugarcane, bananas, and rice. The Asian elephant is sacred to Hindus, as they represent one of their most crucial gods, Ganesha. This elephant-headed deity is considered a remover of obstacles and a god of beginnings.

Spanning South and Southeast Asia, around 40,000-50,000 individuals remain in the wild and in captivity. The biggest threats to the elephant population include habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and illegal killing. Asia stands as one of the most populated continents on the planet, meaning they are constantly in a state of development and economic growth. This has led to the mass encroachment of elephant habitats, pushing 70% of their population into unprotected areas. It has become more common for elephants and humans to interact, which causes conflict between the species. The confused mammals cause crop and property damage, injury, and even death to civilians, which gives rise to human retaliation.

In 1989, an international trade ban on ivory was put into place. There are still many locations where illegal trade continues to thrive.



Ivory is the most popular product but Asian elephants are also hunted for their skin, tail hair, and meat. Illegal capture of mammals to capitalize off of tourism is a grave issue as well, and capture of this nature has been banned in Vietnam, India, and Myanmar.

Committed to elephant protection starting in 2013, the Wildlife Conservation Society works in 9 of 13 Asian elephant range sites and oversees 40% of their total population. WCS has worked with government partners across the continent to enhance law enforcement at vital sites. Additionally, they promote community-based crop-guarding methods to reduce conflict between farmers and elephants. 90% of raids have been reduced as a result! WCS has been conducting population surveys in locations like Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Peninsular Malaysia to monitor the effectiveness of their management and track the impact of habitat loss and degradation. The organization is currently working on a WCS 2030 strategy to spread its vision and partner more closely with the global policy agenda.

# Body / Polytechnic vs. Altadena

By: Paulina Mcconnell

Stationed at the foot of the San Gabriel mountains in northern Altadena, Nuccio's Nursery has sold azalea and camellia flowers since 1935. In October, the Italian family business announced plans to retire - and hand over the property to Polytechnic High School, which proposed converting all thirteen acres into a sports complex. The project would take 3 years to complete and is currently in a design phase.

Poly hosted a community meeting in January, where blueprints for a joint football-soccer stadium, an additional baseball stadium, eight tennis courts, and night-light and amplified sound systems were revealed.

These details angered Altadena residents, who immediately banded together to protest the complex after January's meeting. Since then, just about every house on the adjacent Loma Alta Dr. has erected a sign in their front yard reading "Say NO to Polytechnic sports complex!"

Altadena Wild, the conservation group leading the protest, warns that the planned development area is within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). Building a sports center will bring about hundreds of people who are not Altadena residents to the area; these people would be unaccustomed to safe fire practices in an area which is already vulnerable to brush fire.

Traffic is another major bone of contention. As the sports center would be built in a residential area, the surrounding neighborhoods would be subject to traffic jams on tiny, windy roads which aren't built for such thoroughfare on game days. Beyond the onset of people and cars is the extensive noise and pollution which would ensue, especially in the construction phase of the project.

Because the proposed zone literally borders the Angeles National Forest, its development is problematic from an ecological perspective. The imposition would indeed threaten the forest's nearly two-hundred bird species, California mule deer, bobcats, mountain lions, black bears, California quail, and countless chaparral native plants. This is not to mention the endangered species of the area: Southern California walnuts, Matilija poppies, desert bluebells, more.

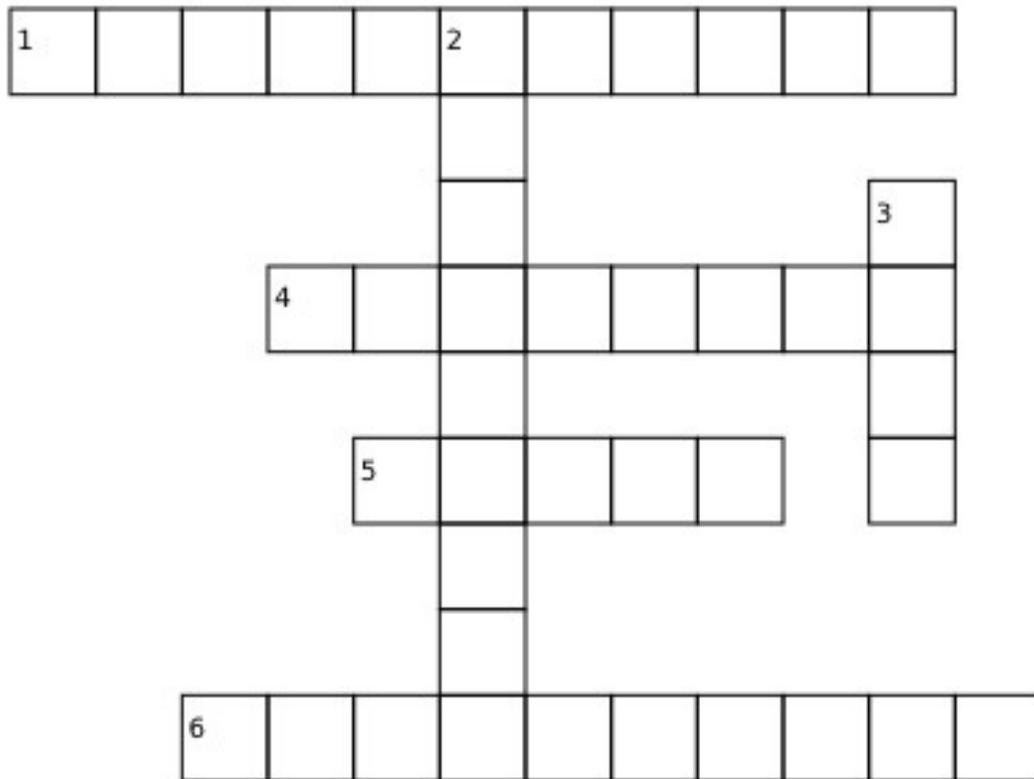
The very morning this article was written, I nearly stepped on a California racer snake while crossing Chaney Trail. I thought to myself that, if Poly's plans went through, it would surely have been crushed by an onset of cars.

"I think it's an unnecessary luxury that destroys a lot of the remaining nature and wildlife in our community," says Altadena-dwelling PHS student, Esme. "It's unwanted, and not needed."

Rivaling residents' grievances, however, is a genuine question: what would be a better use of the property? Many Altadena residents would likely also oppose alternatives, such as public housing projects.

Polytechnic promises to include the community with full transparency in the project. "We are dedicated to working closely with neighbors, the Nuccio family, and all stakeholders to develop an exceptional plan for the site that enhances the lives of our students as well as the broader Pasadena and Altadena communities," they pledged in October.

# June Crossword!



## Down:

- The first woman in space and the first acknowledged gay astronaut!
- There are forests of this underwater that help shelter many species from predators and other environmental aspects.

## Across:

- This flower, along with roses, reaches its peak in June and grows clusters of berries!
- Summer \_\_\_\_\_ is when the Sun appears at its highest elevation.
- June is also \_\_\_\_\_ month, celebrating the LGBTQIE+ community!
- This federal holiday celebrates African American heritage.

# *for another year*

written by ms orret



Another year of the 28% - it's crazy to think we are already finishing up year three!

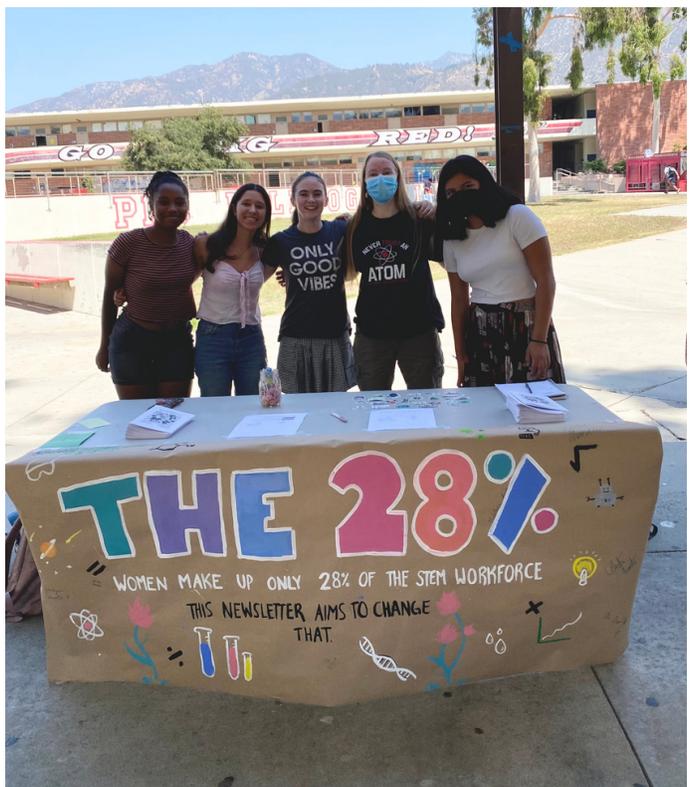
In this past year, we have published 10 newsletters, organized the winter festival, invited deep sea diver Dawn Wright to speak to our community, attended a women's empowerment conference, presented to other high schools, council members, and peers, and, most importantly, continued to feature so many amazing voices within the PHS community!

Next year, we hope to continue holding and expanding this space for women to keep creating and advocating. We hope to expand and work with other teams of girls, building chapters in other PUSD high schools. We hope to continue organizing events and programs, to grow and foster this community.

To the subscribers - thank you! Thank you for reading, for sharing, for responding, for subscribing, and for the endless support. We hope you stick around - there is so much to come!

To everyone on the 28% team - you inspire me! This newsletter would quite literally not be possible without all of you. It is a genuine honor to be your advisor. This team holds such a dear and permanent place in my heart. I am so grateful for these past three years and cannot wait for the next. Thank you thank you thank you!





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**Check out our website:**

**<https://msorret.wixsite.com/onlineclassroom/women-in-stem-newsletter>**

**HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**  
**WANT TO BE FEATURED IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER?**

**Email Ms. Orret!**

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