

Rising Star

American Go Honor Society

Holidays and Fun!



Hello! For our readers in the United States, Happy 4th of July. For our readers in Canada, I'd like to wish you a Happy Canada Day! For our international fans... thanks for supporting the American Go Honor Society

We are relaxing in our summer vacation. Is everyone having fun on vacation and playing lots and lots of go? What better way to get off of school, than to just study go—that's what I would do! The American Go Honor Society has some plans for summer break. We will be hosting a cou-

ple tournaments and events soon, so I hope everyone will come out and take part.

First up, we are going to have a test event for individuals. We will be having an individual competition with sweepstakes scoring versus a couple of rooms in KGS to promote our new recent ties.

Second, we are inducting our new officers soon. There will be a ceremony for commencement and induction to be held online in the KGS—American Go Honor Society room on **July 25th at 6pm PT / 9pm ET**. Everyone is invited to attend, and we hope that you will all come online to hear the words from our past officers and meet our new ones.

Next, we would like to formally announce the date of the Doubles Tournament. The competition will be held on two consecutive weekends.

August 16th and 17th will have rounds 1-4 (we're right after Go Congress, yay yay), August 23rd will be round 5-6, August 24th will be the outrounds for all the divisions.

We are creating an AGHS clan on KGS so that we can challenge rival rooms. Who wants to join? Space is limited to the first 50... oops, now 48 people who want to enter. E-mail our team leader at haruto_sakaki30@hotmail.com if you are interested.

We are also creating small-group lessons on KGS for people would like to get free teaching on how to get stronger at go! Groups should be 4-6 people, but more is great! You all should be about the same strength (within five ranks is preferred) and AGHS will arrange a time and sessions for you to learn on KGS! You do not have to be from the same club, so anyone can join lessons together. For more information, contact at eternalsnow@gmail.com.

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4 July 2009

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Elections Results! Wow! I Like Exclamation Points!

The American Go Honor Society secretariat released the winners of the election results at midnight on July 1st in a small post on the AGHS website (www.aghs.cc) that escaped the eyes of most of the members.

2009-10 Executive Board
President—Kris Taylor (TX)
VP—Tim McCaffery (NY)
Secretary—Albert Hwang (CO)
Treasurer- Diana Yang (CO)

2009-10 Legislative Board
Speaker—Dan Wentworth (NC)
Parliamentarian—Sean He (NJ)
Recorder—Nick Wentworth (NC)

These elections produced all sorts of new records.

Nick Wentworth is the youngest person EVER to be elected to national office, at 11 years old.

In the entire history of the AGHS, this is the first time that nobody from Clear Lake High School (TX), either past or present-is not elected to national office.





Interview @ AGHS-Brunei Friendship Cup

by Christopher Vu

Rising Star: Congratulations for participating. Did you have fun?

Mah Zhefan: yes , i had a lot of fun. It's been a while that i had so much fun.

RS: What did you think of the event?

MZ: I think this event was excellent . After this event, i tends to understand more about other country and players. I also took this opportunity to see how well am i going to do in real tournament.

RS: What tournaments are you preparing for?

MZ: I am preparing for the upcoming Asia Amateur Baduk Championship (AABC) at Korea 18th - 22nd Sept ,Changwon City

RS: Good luck. I hope you will achieve great results for yourself and for your country at that event. On a different note, what do you think of AGHS?

MZ: I think AGHS is a well organised and coordinate society which encourage alot of people playing GO and helps them improve. It also did a good job on maintaining relationship with other nation throughout playing GO. :)

RS: What should AGHS and Brunei do in the future? (Individually, and joint efforts)

MZ: mhmm, related to this question, i think its best if you ask xinwen (lol). In my opinion. In my opinion, Brunei should learn more from the AGHS. This way we could improve our player strength and become a more organized and coordinate society. As for AGHS, hosting more friendly tournament will keep pushing up the strength of the players from both country. At same time AGHS and Brunei will have stronger bonds

RS: We would like that.

MZ: Maybe, Brunei and AGHS can host some meeting once a while, to share what problem they are facing from both side. In this way, we could maybe try to help out and improve the society.

RS: Anything else you want to tell the AGHS readers?

MZ: To AGHS player, you guys are great, i hope to play with you guys again. And, if you feel free in KGS, please stop by and give me some teaching games. I will really appreciate it, cheers. And keep up the good work.



Mah Zhefan played first board for the Brunei team. KGS—elementary

AGHS Members “Protest” Election Results by Hwang Moo-Ryong

It was earlier reported that in this series of elections for national office, this is the first time in AGHS history that none of the officers elected are affiliated from Clear Lake HS, in Houston, TX. Party chair Christopher Vu demanded a recount of votes and trashed AGHS Central Offices before he realized that he was the head of the Elections Committee and authorized the results himself. Vu expressed sorrow at the results and took full

responsibility for his school's resounding defeat in the 2009 elections.

Vu: “It is very hard to take these recent losses into consideration. However, AGHS is a democratically run organization and it has become apparent that the time-honored traditions that Clear Lake has sought to uphold might be out-of-date. It is a shock to me and to all of us, and we will re-think our strategy for upcoming elections in the future. To all the other members of Clear Lake and to the AGHS, I sincerely apologize for our failure.”

Christopher Vu's speech came at a press conference organized in Houston, TX following his final days as vice-president.

Christopher Vu still holds a seat as a Director of AGHS and is rumored to be one of the members of the Judicial Court, but his future is unclear with the populace's demand for change against Vu's successionist style

Hwang Moo-Ryong has gone into hiding following this publication to avoid retaliation.

Quote of the Day:

“Just Do It.”

~ Nike, Inc.

No, really. People should “just do it.”

Talk is nice, but leaders take action.

Brunei Tournament Reports

TEAM STANDINGS

1	AGHS White		(3-2)	(3-2)	(6-4)	GOLD
2	AGHS Black	(2-3)		(3-2)	(5-5)	SILVER
3	Brunei I-Go Federation	(2-3)	(2-3)		(4-6)	BRONZE
American Go Honor Society (White)					(6-4)	GOLD
11	Yang Xu 4-dan		22W	BYE	(1-0)	
12	Sean He 2-dan	32W	21L	BYE	(1-1)	HONORS
13	Michael Fodera 1-dan	33L		BYE	(0-1)	
14	Julian Sirkin 5-kyu	34W	24W	BYE	(2-0)	HONORS
15	Brian Wu 7-kyu	35W	25W	BYE	(2-0)	HONORS
16	Christopher Vu 5-kyu	36L	23L	BYE	(0-2)	
American Go Honor Society (Black)					(5-5)	SILVER
21	Michael Huang 5-dan	BYE	12W	32W	(2-0)	HONORS
22	Jasmine Yan 4-dan	BYE	11L		(0-1)	
23	Diana Yang 8-kyu	BYE	16W	34L	(1-1)	RAFFLE
24	David Xu 13-kyu	BYE	14L	36W	(1-1)	
25	Udayan Vaidya 13-kyu	BYE	15L	35L	(0-2)	
26	Juuso Nyyssonen 5-dan	BYE		33W	(1-0)	
Brunei I-Go Federation					(4-6)	BRONZE
31	Chin Xin Wen 1-dan		BYE		(0-0)	
32	Mah Zhe Fan 1-dan	12L	BYE	21L	(0-2)	
33	Philip Cher 1-dan	13W	BYE	26L	(1-1)	
34	Lim Shi Hong 3-kyu	14L	BYE	23W	(1-1)	HONORS
35	Ahmad Hazim bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Murad 7-kyu	15L	BYE	25W	(1-1)	RAFFLE
36	Nurazidah Binti Hj Morsid 11-kyu	16W	BYE	24L	(1-1)	HONORS

Justin Teng 3-dan, Andrew Olders 9-kyu are honorary members of the AGHS team who were not able to fully complete the duties as a regular member, but are still recognized for their achievements.

FRIENDSHIP CUP CHAMPION

American Go Honor Society
(M Fodera, S He, J Sirkin, B Wu, C Vu, Y Xu)

PLAYER AWARDS

Board 1 - Michael Huang (AGHS Black)
 Board 2 - Sean He (AGHS White)
 Board 3 - Lim Shi Hong (Brunei)
 Board 4 - Julian Sirkin (AGHS White)
 Board 5 - Brian Wu (AGHS White)
 Board 5 - Nurazidah Binti Hj Morsid (Brunei)

RAFFLE WINNER

BRU - Ahmad Hazim bin Dao Paduka Haji Mohd Murad
 USA - Diana Yang



Fireside Chat

Our recently held elections concluded with my success to become the next president of the American Go Honor Society. To everyone who has voted for me, I would like to thank them for your support. For those who supported my candidate, I would like to take a note from President Obama's book by stating that I am your president also.

For the next few months, the newly-elected officers will sit alongside the previous officers, simultaneously. So right now, there are two presidents of the AGHS. We do this so that we can mentor our new leaders and show them all the processes that we go through. Then when the new school year starts, it is time for them to

by Kris Taylor and Matt Mallory

take flight. The AGHS will be very ambitious in the upcoming school year with many programs and activities to cater to the youth, and I hope everyone will look forward to what we have to offer everyone.

Matt Mallory served as the 4th president of AGHS, Kris Taylor is president-elect and will take the title of 5th president in September.

Go in the Real World

Efficiency is the valued quality of getting the most done with the least effort. In life, we try to be efficient. Two birds with one stone is good, and three birds even better. And, speaking of stones, efficiency in Go is a fundamental concept.

After playing a series of moves, look at your stones. Is there a stone that is wasted? Could you have achieved the same result (or one very similar) with fewer stones? Strong players always talk about the shape of the stones in situations where weaker players see no shape at all. Those strong players are talking about efficiency – “good shape” means using the fewest stones necessary in order to achieve a flexible and manageable position. A strong player tries to make every stone end up in a good place.

Indeed, it would not be too far off to say that efficiency is the most important principle in Go. The player who plays more efficiently usually wins. Almost every Go idea and proverb comes down to efficiency. Life and death, shape, strategy, tesuji, tewari, amashi, the correct direction of play, and the fuseki can all be analyzed from the point of view of efficiency.

Here are some examples of efficient moves in Go:

- making “good shape”
- a move that both attacks and defends
- a simultaneous pincer and extension
- a move that makes a base for your weak group and takes one away from your opponent
- a move that connects two weak groups

by Shai Simonson

Inefficient moves duplicate effect. For example,

- bad shape
- empty triangles
- narrow extensions
- strong walls without an effective framework
- using thickness to surround territory instead of to attack

Try an exercise in your next game. Forget what you think is the biggest move or the right strategy, and simply try to make your next move mesh as efficiently as possible with the moves you have already played. See if this exercise doesn't raise your play by 2-3 stones over night. And, watch this skill carry over to real life.

Shai is a columnist discussing go philosophy.

Did You Know That?

There are seven major titles you can obtain in the go world in Japan. Can you name them?

Congratulations to the 2009-10 AGHS National

2009-10 Inducting Class of American Go Honor Society - Go University

President	总理	Kris Taylor	Jasper HS (Plano, TX)
Vice-President	副总理	Taosu McCaffery	East Meadow HS (East Meadow, NY)
Secretary	秘书长	Albert Hwang	Highland Ranch GC (Highland Ranch, CO)
Treasurer	财务员	Diana Yang	Highland Ranch GC (Highland Ranch, CO)
Speaker of the House	总工会	Daniel Wentworth	Wake Forest-Rolesville GC (Wake Forest, NC)
Parliamentarian	副总工会	Sean He	Montville HS (Montville, NJ)
Recorder	书记	Nicholas Wentworth	Wake Forest-Rolesville GC (Wake Forest, NC)
Zhuangyuan	状元	Jasmine Yan	JP Stevens HS (Edison, NJ)
Bangyan	榜眼	Jingyang Ye	Bellaire HS (Houston, TX)
Tanhua	探花	Maher Gandil	Homer JHS (Homer Glen, IL)
Jinshi Jidi	进士及第	Ashley Allen	Allen HS (Allen, TX)
		Xinwen Chen	Brunei National (Bandar Seri Bagawan, BRU)
		Ken Dickson	Myers Park HS (Charlotte, NC)
		Jonathan Gaylor	Waynesboro HS (Waynesboro, VA)
		Anton Nguyen-Vu	Lakewood HS (Lakewood, CO)
		Andrew Olders	Royal West Academy (Quebec, QU)
		Tim Savoie	Clear Lake HS (Houston, TX)
		Cherry Shen	Orange County GC (South Pasadena, CA)
Jinshi Chushen	进士出身	Paul Biocci	AGHS At-Large (NC)
		Jordan Dere	Royal West Academy (Quebec, QU)
		Ken Iwase	Highland Ranch GC (Highland Ranch, CO)
		Brandon Keech	Aberdeen HS (Aberdeen, MD)
		Jon Kirkpatrick	Clear Lake HS (Houston, TX)
		Matthias LeBleu	Go Club C.G.B (Paris, FRA)
		Andrew Lepinskie	Go Club C.G.B (Paris, FRA)
		Taosu McCaffery	East Meadow HS (East Meadow, NY)
		Hazim Murad	Brunei National (Bandar Seri Bagawan, BRU)
		Levin Ng	Brooklyn Tech HS (New York, NY)
		Janis Rancourt	The Summit School (New York, NY)
		Dakota Parker	East Meadow HS (East Meadow, NY)
		Camille Pitts	Seton Hall University (South Orange, NJ)
		Andrew Thacker	Aberdeen HS (Aberdeen, MD)
		Dan Wentworth	Wake Forest-Rolesville GC (Wake Forest, NC)
		Ashley Wilson	Clear Lake HS (Houston, TX)
		Jie Er Yuen	Seton Hall University (South Orange, NJ)

Tuition, Books and Food! Oh My!

With the recent economic winds that have been blowing through our country, so many people find themselves distraught and concerned about their finances. College students are not excluded from this unfortunate time of unrest and worry. However, if you're a prospective college student and you find yourself reading this article between the joys of balancing your checkbook and taking extra coins found in seat cushions to the local Coinstar Machine, don't fret. By following these tips you can avoid the three biggest financial pitfalls that college students run into day after day. You might even end up with enough money in your pocket to pay for your late-night-studying Starbucks addiction.

1. Books, books, books...

Depending on your major, you may need to spend upwards of \$300 per semester just on text books (expect to pay a lot more if you're a science major). Chances are, your school's book store will try to convince you that you need to buy your text books at their conveniently located shop. However, before you make the plunge and dip deeply into your pockets, remember to shop around. Sites like amazon.com, ebay, textswap.com or even the Facebook Marketplace will most likely have the textbooks you want with prices far below what your school's book store can offer. Just make sure to compare all the prices and account for shipping and handling costs.

2. Entertainment and Fun

College is a time for intense studying, but as one might expect, it is also a time for new found freedom and fun. If your friends like to spend nights out, you may find your money dwindling quickly. Instead, try to save the expensive nights out for special occasions, the end of finals week, for instance, and opt for less expensive fun. Look for free student events on campus such as movie screenings or mixers. If you are the athletic type, you can even try getting several members of your dormitory floor together for a giant game of capture the flag or ultimate frisbee. Afterwards, you can always rent a movie with your friends and relax for your own movie night!

3. Plastic!

When it comes to credit cards and debit cards, things can seem to get incredibly complicated. If you're in love with your debit card (like yours truly) make sure to balance your checkbook regularly as spending can easily get out of hand. If you have a hard time remembering to balance your checkbook it may be easier to withdraw a pre-determined amount of cash at the beginning of the week. Of course this amount must be determined by your weekly budget. In your budget, make sure to leave room for any necessities you may need (toilet paper, soup, etc) as well as some money for fun. If you're itching to get a credit card, keep in mind that these seemingly convenient cards can cause quite a bit of trouble. If you already have a credit card, reserve the card for emergency situations. If you find yourself charging merchandise that you cannot pay for by the end of the month you could damage your financial future for years to come.

Camille is a staff reporter for the Rising Star, majoring in Broadcasting at Seton Hall University. Have questions? Ask Camille! At aghsregister@gmail.com

More Elections Coverage

In more records—Diana Yang and Albert Hwang (Highland Ranch, CO) as well as Daniel and Nick Wentworth (Wake Forest-Rolesville, NC) are the first pair of teammates to serve together since the AGHS National Board when Christopher Vu / Justin Chiang (Clear Lake HS, TX) and Wren Chan / Alex Pak (NY HS Go Alliance) in 2004.

Two candidates, Maher Qandil (Homer Glen, IL) and Ashley Wilson (Clear Lake, TX) tie for the youngest person ever to pass the FLIP Civil Service Examination at thirteen-years old, apiece.

This year's FLIP entry class is the largest in the history of AGHS (twenty-six passers), as well as from the largest number of people submitting entrants (seventy-four). I'm happy to see how many people are interested and I hope people will apply again in the future!

The Future Leadership Internship Program also accepted its first applicants outside of North American through the reciprocal alliance program—2 candidates from France and 2 candidates from Brunei will be joining the 2009 class.



Matt's looking for the next generation of officers.

Will you be the successor?

American Go Honor Society

Because we're awesome like that.

8181 Fannin , #1038
Houston, TX 77054

aghsregister@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

Www.aghs.cc

Mission Statement

A prediction once stated that it would take the Western nations one century to catch up to the strength of Asian countries. The American Go Honor Society was established to break this prediction and help the go players of the world rival the players from the Orient.

Brief History

In 2000, a manga scanlation team brought Hikaru no Go into the English-speaking world for the first time. It became such a hit, that the team created an online go club to play with each other. But in 2002, when the manga had been completed, the members dwindled. Three high school students from different parts of North America decided to create the Sea Otters Go club in order to promote go among youth. Their programs became so popular and the now-known American Go Honor Society was founded to help develop leadership abilities in the American youth to become the next leaders in go and the community.

The Empty Triangle (www.emptytriangle.com)

by **Chidori**



EDITORIAL STAFF

Senior Editor:

Christopher Vu

Junior Editor:

Kristofer Taylor

Staff Reporters:

Kristen Arce

Boris Berandsky

Camille Pitts

Matt Mallory

Shai Simonson

Here's a Light bulb!

Comments? Suggestions? We're always interested in hearing you out. Drop us a comment and line at aghsregister@gmail.com or leave us a suggestion at www.aghs.cc as to what you would like to see change.

PROPOSED FUTURE ENDEAVORS

International Competition vs. UK
College Go Festival
Go League / Teach Go

What else can we do for you?

The Rising Star Wants You

The first volume of the Rising Star is coming to an end, and it's time for new people to come aboard!
at aghsregister@gmail.com

We want you to be an editor or a reporter! If you're interested, let us know!

We are also looking for graphic designers, web-designers, and people who are interested in teaching go classes. American Go Honor Society wants you!

Have any comments or suggestions? Please let us know