

A 2020 design Maria Prosperi ('21) models one TSA team's fashion creation bravely in front of the judges. "It was fun to be able to stand up there and help my friends out with their project," said Prosperi. "It was a memorable and learning experience." This was Prosperi's first year in TSA, meaning next year, she will come back with experience in her tool belt to help her beat the competition.



Close calls In fashion design, this group took home the first place trophy despite some serious setbacks. Elizabeth Phillips ('24) said that "right before we went on stage, the shoes broke so we had to do the best we could to repair them." At the moment, there wasn't much they could do other than face the music, but, "Somehow our model, Mady, pulled it off."



Taken aback Giant Jenga is an exciting competition that allowed Connor Sparks ('21) to get to know kids from other schools. Sparks' favorite part of Giant Jenga was "getting to meet with people from other schools and see that the world is full of kind people." Although he didn't win, the gratification from hanging with great people made the competition worthwhile.

CUT FROM A DIFFERENT CLOTH

At state TSA, competitors prove that technology is the future of fashion.

by Leah Kovarik

When you think of technology, fashion design is probably not the first thing that comes to your mind. At state TSA (Technology Student Association), many designers set out to forge a stronger connection between tech and fashion. Ashley Stafford ('21), Valarie Brega ('21), Zach Conrad ('21), and Bryce Abel ('21) were among those designers. They worked for months on end to create a design to wow the judges. The stunning creation was modeled on the pollution of the planet and the advancement of technology. For the competition, Maria Prosperi ('21) volunteered to model the design on behalf of the team.

Prosperi may not have been the creator, but she knew the dress that she modeled very well. "I think the most unique part about it was the technological applications and symbolism that it had," said Prosperi. "For example, I think the skirt represented the sky and the pollution that filled it and the purple scarf was an air purity detector. The arm band was

essentially a bluetooth speaker or command template I think. A lot of people did light effects as well as other locomotive operations, whereas the functions of our garments were more applicable to daily use and could be applied for a specific and useful task."

It's one thing to design a piece and put it all together, but it's quite another to wear it in front of judges and an audience. "I was confident to be up there but I was nervous because I didn't fully understand how to walk the runway," said Prosperi. "I had a hard time moving because I was kind of petrified and my heart pounded. But I thought it was fun to be able to stand up there and help my friends out with their project."

Even though the design was a perfect blend of symbolical and practical, the team did not place at state TSA. Throughout the weekend, many other Spartans placed in their various competitions, whether it was their first year in TSA or their last. STEM will continue to compete and win at state TSA in years to come.

Birds of a feather Daniel Blackburn ('26) is celebrating the first STEM middle-school victory in Giant Jenga. Blackburn was actually about to not compete because no one else in his group had shown up, but, "one kind kid named James from Silver Hills helped me." Blackburn considered this "a metaphor for TSA," as it exemplifies the kindness from those at TSA.



A helping hand Mr. Les Stern and Gavin Hamann ('24) discuss a new band-saw Hamann recently got. Hamann described how important it is to have teachers like Mr. Stern, saying, "he helps people get started so that they understand what they are going to be doing in the project." Help like that is part of what made TSA state so great as they prepared students to compete and have fun.