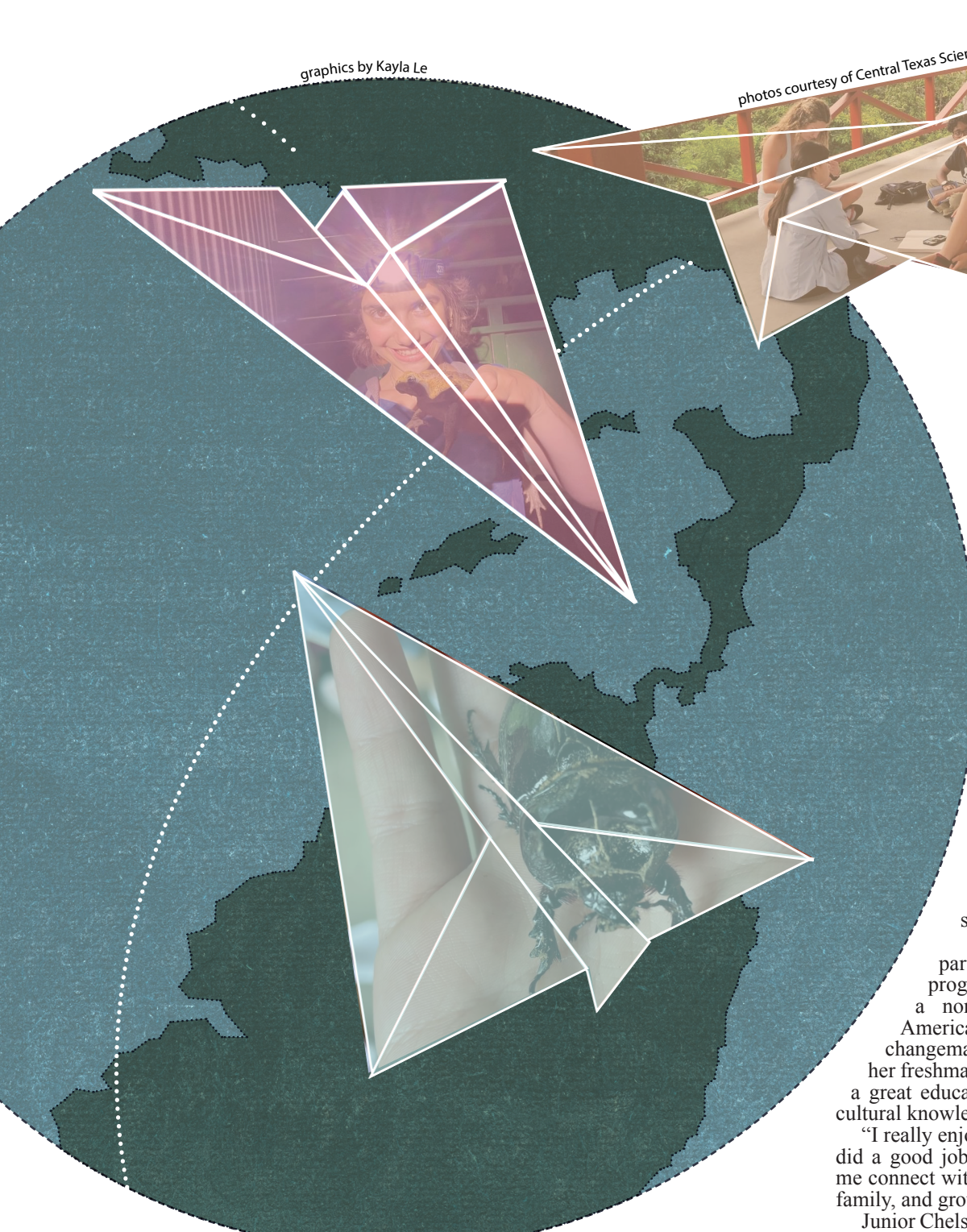


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graphics by Kayla Le

Travel Abroad Takes Off

Students Spend their Summers Abroad

SADIE CRAVOTTA
LASYA SANGANA | student life editors

This summer, multiple LASA students had the chance to travel internationally to participate in various study abroad programs, such as the volunteer abroad program with Amigos de las Americas in Costa Rica and a student exchange program in Berlin, Germany. These programs served as an opportunity for students to connect with other cultures and improve their language skills.

Sophomore Beatriz Lara participated in the volunteer program with Amigos de las Americas, a nonprofit that offers programs in Latin America that combines cultural immersion with changemaking. Lara took AP Spanish IV at LASA her freshman year and said traveling to Costa Rica was a great educational experience for her to build on her cultural knowledge.

"I really enjoyed it," Lara said. "I feel like the program did a good job of furthering my Spanish skills, helping me connect with people from other cultures, like my host family, and growing close to my fellow students."

Junior Chelsey also participated in Amigos de las Americas this summer, and like Lara, she stayed in Costa

Rica. She lived with her host family for six weeks all while learning more about the culture and language there.

"It was really amazing," Pence said. "It was eye-opening to see another culture and it didn't really feel like a vacation... It felt like living in their life and having the privilege of experiencing everything about how they live there."

A large part of Pence's time in Los Santos, Costa Rica, was centered around volunteer work and food justice. Pence learned a lot about communication and advocacy through this experience.

"I lived in a family with a coffee farm and I just got to learn a lot about food justice through that," Pence said. "I got to work in the community and do a project. We ended up painting the police station and setting up a mini fundraiser for the [community] school."

Pence hopes to continue working with Amigos de las Americas as a training supervisor to make a lasting impact. She said that her experience in Costa Rica taught her the importance of understanding multiple perspectives.

"I learned how to communicate with people, even difficult people, and how to be patient with people in the community," Pence said. "I realized I have to make sure that I'm [considering] the community's needs first instead of what we think would be best for the community."



graphic by Amelia Coleman

see **TRAVEL ABROAD** page 3



graphic by Amelia Coleman

KATIE BUSBY
MEGAN GEROLD | entertainment editors

In the hot and humid summer months of Austin, Blues on the Green, the ACL radio concert series, is nestled among the trees of Zilker Park. The concert series—an Austin staple hosted across multiple days in the summer—took place on July 18th and 19th, and featured performances from

Devon Gilfillian, Phillip Phillips, Paul Val, Wild Child, Thebrosfresh, and Zach Carney.

Zach Carney, a performer at Blues on the Green this year, is an Austin-based musician that dabbles in pop, soft rock, jazz, and R&B. He said his love for music came from his experiences as a kid growing up around instruments, writing, and experiencing the impact music has on people.

"I wrote my first song when I was 19, and the person that it was for cried," Carney said. "And I was like, 'Oh, you can touch people with this, and you could do something positive with it.'"

Alexa Khanbabaee, a junior at Austin High, was an audience member at Blues on the Green. She finds live music events to be uplifting.

"I could be tired, it could be a long day, but when I'm surrounded by all these people, it's just so lively," Khanbabaee said. "The music, the scene...you just soak it all up. It gives you energy."

Carney agreed that the energy of the crowd was really inspiring. Carney describes the scene in Austin as a melting pot of genres—a

melting pot that Austinites love.

"They were awesome," Carney said. "Everyone is gathered there to listen to music and hear something they've never heard before, or come because they have heard somebody. So when people are gathered under the same ideal, it tends to be pretty magical. That's why festivals work. They [the audience] were so kind to me, and it was a really lovely experience."

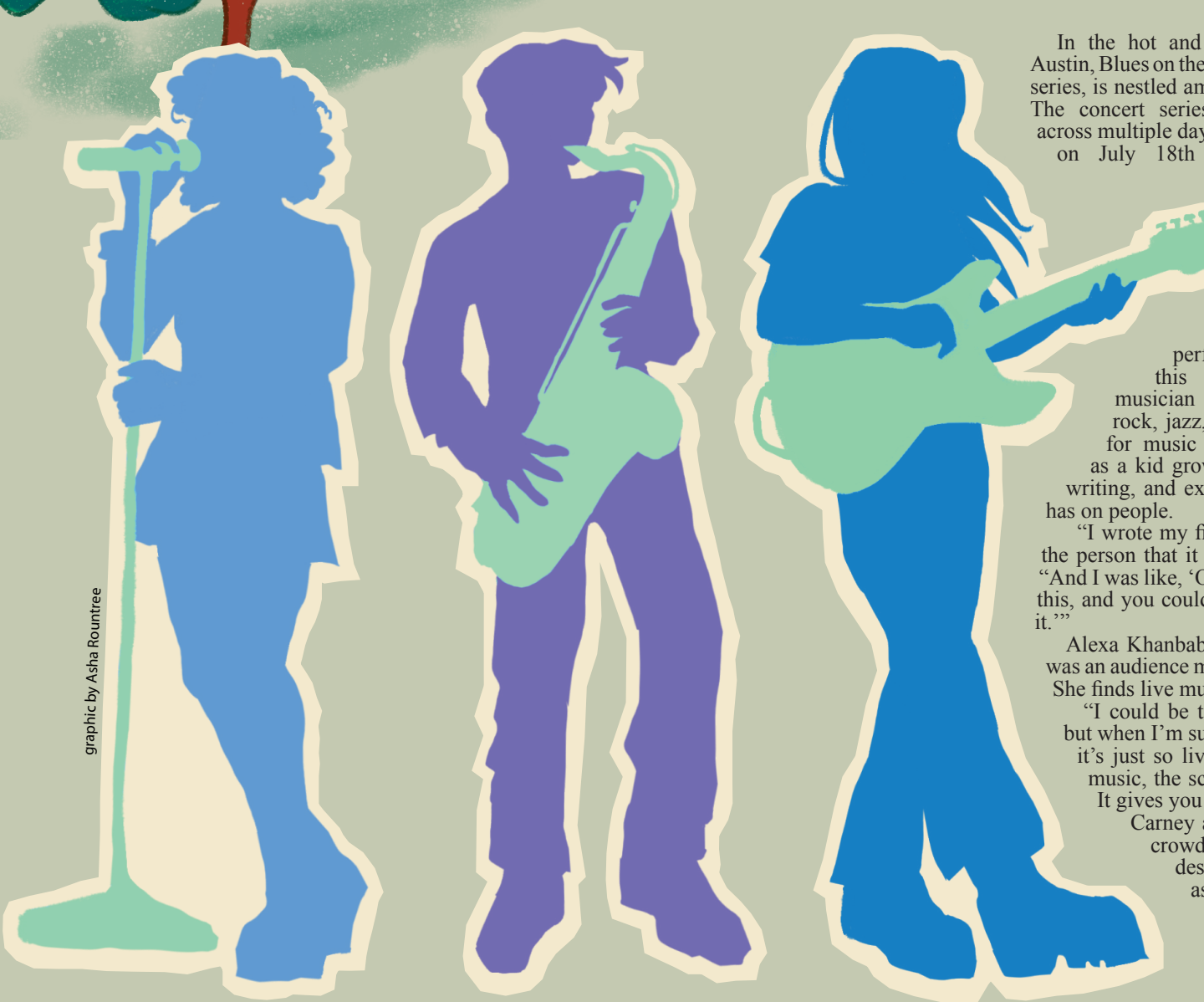
LASA sophomore Tara Shenoy also attended Blues on the Green this year. She appreciated immersing herself in live music with her friends and family scattered on blankets across the park.

"It was a fun experience; it's super nice that Austin has these different events that everyone can go enjoy," Shenoy said. "It was definitely very busy, the crowd was covering most of Zilker. Everyone just seemed to be having a good time and relaxing."

Blues on the Green is free to attend and is an Austin summer tradition that attracts thousands of people every year. The concert exposes smaller, and often local artists, to possible new fans. Carney said that shows like these can offer many people a shot at recognition they might not get otherwise.

"At big concert series, everyone who comes all get to meet up and go, 'Oh, I came here for this person, okay, I'll be sure to listen to that person,'" Carney said. "So it's a pretty great thing. I'm glad they do that a lot and I hope to get to be part of more."

see **BLUES** page 3



graphic by Asha Rountree