

# THE FINAL HURRAH

Seniors express their passions through art

Quietly tucked away in her own corner of the Wright Technical Center welding room, **Lila Hoover '18** forged a metal skeleton and talons to build a three dimensional robotic raptor.

Hoover's idea for her capstone and love for metal work began with a single spark back in middle school.

"I got into metal artwork in eighth grade," Hoover said. "I wanted to give [Jeana] Menzemer and [Dawn] Agre something so I asked my dad if he could teach me how to use his plasma cutter and his welder. It kind of grew from there."

After four years in the Arts Magnets Program, Hoover set out to create something bigger and better than she had ever created before.

"I'm creating a three dimensional metal robotic raptor, it's going to be a little bit less than eight feet," Hoover said. "I'm taking four windshield wipers and putting two of them in the tail so it can move how the tail would have. In the head, I plan on putting two more windshield wipers so the head can move left and right and then a pulley system so the head can move up and down. I'm taking sheet metal and cutting out each scale, so it will have a realistic look."

While seniors like Hoover chose to create something physical for their senior capstone, others such as **Brandon Otten '18** chose to go a more theatrical route by co-writing and co-directing a play called *A Strange Day* in July.

"Being a director is nerve wracking," Otten said. "Getting to see who comes to auditions and hoping that enough people come. There's excitement on seeing people actually show up, and then there is fear knowing there is a possibility that this won't work."

From the kitchen to the wheel, **Abigail Pohl '18** took a risk combining her two passions together.

"I like to cook," Pohl said. "I'm taking lots of cooking classes this year. I also like pottery, so now I have a chance to do both."

After four years of high school, many arts magnet seniors see the project as the next step into the future.

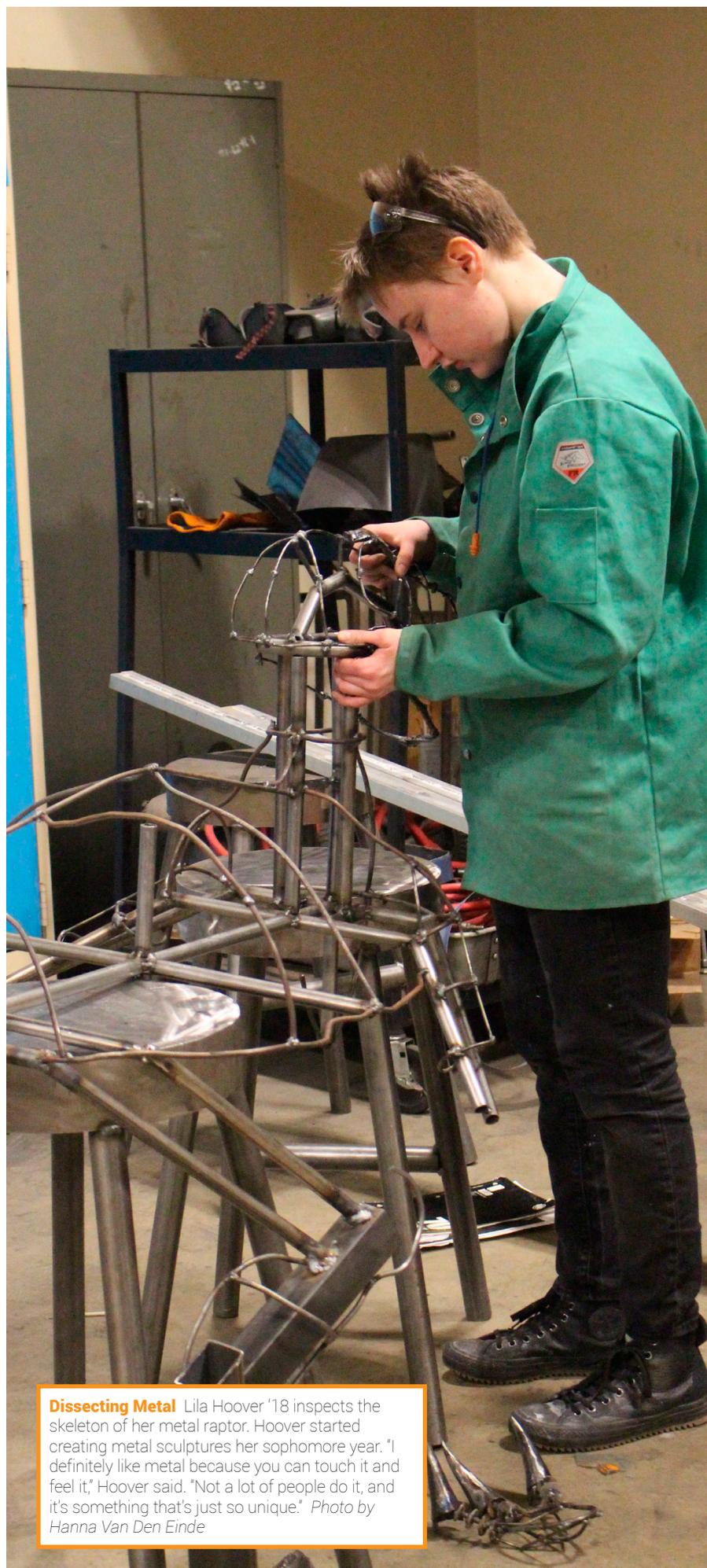
"Your capstone is where you choose what art field you want to go into. It's like a big hurrah," Hoover said. "You're trying to express the four years you've grown, and you really want to challenge yourself as an artist as well."

-Carter Barton & Hanna Van Den Einde

**Lasting Tradition** Brandon Otten '18 and Kora Dalchow '18 co-direct the student written play *A Strange Day in July*. Otten based the play on a short story he wrote in fifth grade. "Last year, a few of the seniors wrote *Saw: The Musical*," Otten said. "We decided to keep that tradition going." Photo by Aydin Scherber



**Laying the Foundation** Throwing on the wheel, Abigail Pohl '18 smooths out her piece. Pohl brought together her two passions for her capstone project. "My plan is to make a cake and then have a mask for theater, a paint brush for art, music notes and then big ceramic plates." Photo by James Oistad



**Dissecting Metal** Lila Hoover '18 inspects the skeleton of her metal raptor. Hoover started creating metal sculptures her sophomore year. "I definitely like metal because you can touch it and feel it," Hoover said. "Not a lot of people do it, and it's something that's just so unique." Photo by Hanna Van Den Einde