



Seniors Ricky Zacharias and Hallie Bianco played Wayne and Mona in the senior play.

D. Shtrakhman (VI)

Senior Drama Class Performs 'Amateurs'

By JENNY GORELICK (IV)

On April 24, 25, and 26, the senior drama class put on "Amateurs," by American playwright Tom Griffin. Director Mr. Al Romano described the piece as a "comedy with an emphasis on character relationships."

The play revolves around the events at a party celebrating the opening night of a New England theater troupe's production. Dorothy, played by Jenna Devine (VI), is the hostess of the celebration and must contend with the shenanigans of her crazy husband Charlie, played by Kris Mazara (VI). Some of his antics include bringing additional chairs to their living room space throughout the show. In total, about 40 chairs were used in the production.

The show is further complicated by the love triangle between Wayne, the pretentious lead, played by Ricky Zacharias (VI), his leading lady, Jennifer, played by Maureen Brady (VI), and his very young ex-girlfriend, Mona, played by Hallie Bi-

anco (VI).

Other quirky attendees of the party include the awkward ventriloquist, Nathan, played by Rocquan Lucas (IV), the comedic relief, Ernie, played by Louis Riccardi (VI), and his wife, Irene, played by Shadorah Howard (VI). Finally, Paul, the distinguished theater critic who further complicates the situation, is played by Scotty Eckenthal (VI).

Zacharias also added, "Having worked in the drama department's large plays and musicals, most of us felt very refreshed to be in such a small cast."

The play was more than just comedic interactions between the eccentric characters. "There are some broad comic elements, but there is also a core human story of loss and resilience," said Mr. Romano. "It's a comedy, but it has heart, too. The opening scenes are hilarious, but you slowly realize there's a lot more going on under the surface. The ending is beautiful and heartbreaking at the same time," Devine added.

The show was performed in the Attic Theater with a living room set designed by Mrs. Jane Asch with help from Mr. Tom Varnes.

Melinda Zoepfel (VI) and Darina Shtrakhman (VI) also assisted in making the production a success by running the light board and stage-managing, respectively. "We chose to go home to the Attic Theater where all Drama IV productions were staged before the Macrae Theater existed. While the seating is very limited, the connection between actors and audience in such an intimate space is really wonderful," said Mr. Romano.

The location also led to a full-circle effect for many of the seniors. "My first performance at Pingry was in the Attic Theater in seventh grade (we did "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day"), and my last performance was there, as well," said Devine.

The senior drama class was involved in every part of the process. "It was a very fun bonding experience," Bianco said. "We learned about every aspect of theater. We built the set, chose our own costumes, and were even involved in selecting the show."

For Zacharias it was "a great opportunity to have a great time on stage with a set of actors I truly respect and adore. We also have a director whom we've gotten to know over the last four years, and it was a pleasure to get one last opportunity to work under him." Devine agreed. "It is so great to work with Mr. Romano one last time," she said. "It's kind of amazing to look back at my first experience working with him in my freshman year and seeing how far I've come now. I owe all that to him."

After all of their effort, all three performances were well-received by exuberant audiences. "It was really funny and the actors worked well together onstage," said Louis Schermerhorn (V).

Overall, the seniors are ending their Pingry drama careers with a sense of accomplishment, but also sadness. "I have such mixed feelings about this being my last

show," Devine said. "On one hand, I am so sad that this is my final Pingry show - drama has been one of the biggest parts of my life at Pingry, and that's coming to an end. On the other hand, I could not imagine a better show to go out on. Not only do I love our play, but I truly love and respect all the cast members. We've been through four years together (we were a class of 25 and now we're a class of 9), and there's a lot of pride in knowing that we've stuck it out together" she said.

Mr. Fayen, Rescoe Receive Stifel Award

By KATE DREYFUSS (IV)

On Tuesday, April 8, the school gathered for the presentation of the Stifel Award. Given annually in honor of Henry G. Stifel III, a member of Pingry's class of 1983, who became paralyzed as a result of an automobile accident during his junior year of high school, the award is given to a member of the Pingry community who "exemplifies the characteristics exhibited by Henry in the years since his accident: courage, optimism, compassion, and spirit."

This year's award had two recipients: longtime faculty member Mr. Fred Fayen and senior Nick Rescoe.

The assembly opened with a speech from counselor and teacher, Mrs. Patricia A. Lionetti, who introduced Mr. Stifel and explained the award. She described the Pingry graduate as a mischievous student, whose name "regularly came up at faculty meetings." After his accident on March 12, 1982, he endured nine months of physical therapy and tutoring so he "could realize his dream of graduating with his class and attending college."

He accomplished his goals by living by his personal philosophy: "Don't ever accept life for what it offers, but work out what

you need - you have to work for happiness in this world."

Next, Dr. Michael Richardson spoke about Mr. Fayen, an extremely respected teacher and college counselor. Mr. Fayen suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, and in recent years, his condition has progressed to such a point that even the simplest tasks such as turning a doorknob cause intense pain. Despite these circumstances, Mr. Fayen has continued to do what he loves day after day.

Despite his physical battle, living with arthritis hasn't changed Mr. Fayen as a person. He "has always been an optimist," and believes that "equanimity is important in handling the good and the bad."

However, as a self-proclaimed independent, it was difficult for him at first to adapt to his condition in a physical sense. "You need to be able to appreciate help and understand that it's okay to accept it," he said.

After Mr. Fayen accepted his award, Miss Wolfson spoke about senior Nick Rescoe, whose mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis many years ago. Ever since 5th grade, Rescoe has served as his mom's primary caregiver. Commenting

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Students, Faculty, and Alumni Celebrate Hostetter Anniversary

By NEHA SRIVASTAVA (IV)

On Saturday, April 5, the Hostetter Arts Center hosted its 5th Anniversary Celebration. Sponsored by the PSPA and organized by the art, music, and drama departments, the event took place from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.. Featuring many of

Pingry's art students, it consisted of crafts and drama activities for younger children, as well as performances, dances, skits, and movies that showcased the talent of the student body.

Many events were scheduled at half-hour increments for visitors, from parents to young kids, to partake in. The multi-purpose

room allowed children to create their own art, including mural-painting. Taraja Arnold, a future sixth grader, said, "My favorite class is art, so it's really cool how Pingry has so many art classes."

The Arts Center also taught kids how to make pots in a pottery seminary. Diane Giangreco (V), who helped instruct pottery, remarked, "I visited the Arts Center when it first opened, and my sister was a Balladeer. It's interesting how much it has evolved and changed."

Also at the anniversary were the madrigal singers, traveling singers composed of the older Buttendowns and Balladeers.

The drama performances were put on by middle school and high school students. The seniors performed excerpts from the senior play, "Amateurs." Freshmen Lakshmi Davey, Taylor Smith, and Ashley Feng performed a clever play that only had three words. Drama II actors Remy Teicher (IV) and Amy Gopinathan (IV) performed a humorous skit on the relationship between a girl and her grandmother taking place in a bathroom.

Other Drama II performers of bathroom scenes included Jenny Gorelick (IV), Erin James (IV), Sam Baron (IV), William Evenson (IV), Katie Ogden (IV), Sofi Barrionuevo (IV), Michael Doliner (V), and Max DeChiara (IV).

"The Hostetter Arts Cen-

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R. Hamm-Conard (V)

Inside The Record



Courtesy of Tommie S. Hata

SMART team members hold the protein models they presented at the ASBMB conference in San Diego P. 4.

How to Save a Life

Sophomore Sam Baron reflects on the day he performed CPR right after getting his certification. P. 2.

Faculty Display Art

Several faculty members show off their artistic skills in a variety of mediums. P. 6.

Pingry Travels Far and Wide

Students and faculty visited France, China, and California in the past two months. P. 4-5.

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EDITORIAL

The College Process: You Will Survive

Having just finished the college process, I was asked by a friend's parent what it would take to get me to do it over again. My answer: a fortune. It was difficult and stressful in all the ways that we expected...and then some. I would not wish it upon anybody.

Even after three years of watching my older friends go through the ups and downs of the application season – which, by the way, does not end in December but rather stretches into February thanks to interviews and likely letters – I thought I understood. I thought that, if nothing else, I knew what was coming, even if I was unsure of how to face it.

Suffice it to say that I was incorrect. It's like in Nick Hornby's novel "A Long Way Down," when the main character says, "See, I didn't know anything about anything then. I thought I knew things, but I didn't."

My advice to underclassmen is this: succumb to the fact that you don't know what lies ahead. Regardless of how many outside college counselors you have, how many times you've perused the U.S. News Ranking, and how many people your parents have spoken to about "the process," you cannot predict it.

Moreover, do not waste too much time trying to figure it out. You take the SATs, write the best essays you possibly can, proofread your application, and send it off with high hopes. After that, you must, must, must let it go. From the minute you press those "send" buttons in December (except for those lucky few who will have gotten accepted Early Decision), you have to make yourself stop thinking about it. Time spent stalking "College Confidential" or comparing college lists on the senior couches is time wasted. It hardly makes you feel any better, and dwelling on the matter just makes you realize how much further away the end of March really is. Try to make yourself embrace the uncertainty; it really will wreck the better part of your senior year if you don't.

The best advice I can give is that in the middle of your senior year, sit down and realize what is present here at Pingry. There are college counselors making calls, faculty members writing supplementary recommendations, and over 120 peers going through the same things you are. You have so many people working with you and alongside you that there is no reason to panic about your situation.

I hate to make the college process sound like a trip through hell (though a few of my classmates might say that it is). Please realize that year after year, kids survive this. You very well may not end up at your first choice, and you have to accept that from the start. The colleges where Pingry students matriculate are the absolute best in the nation, and you have to find confidence in that statement. It's a reminder that in the end, you will be rewarded.

That may or may not be clear at the end of March when the letters roll in, but once you start at whatever lucky school you decide to attend, you will find happiness. The overwhelming majority of Pingry graduates say so. We all have high hopes and standards, but rest assured that your future success and well-being will not depend on getting into the school that you currently consider "the college of your dreams."

Name brands will only get you so far; even the Ivies admit that. It's all about what you make of the experience, and putting a damper on the end of your Pingry career because you are so anxious about your college decisions is not worthwhile.

So regardless of what grade you are in, take a deep breath. To my classmates: congratulations to each of you on your acceptances! I'm so glad that we can finally say we have survived this.

To the underclassman: the journey is long and hard, but you are well-equipped to handle it. Don't let your parents or counselors make the choices for you – be proud of the schools to which you apply, the work that you submit, and, in the end, the acceptance(s) that you receive. The Class of 2008 wishes you the best of luck with your college process, and we expect to hear great results from you down the road.



What I Didn't Expect When Studying CPR

By SAM BARON (IV)

I suppose that when we least expect it, the otherwise insignificant decisions that we make everyday can be marvels in themselves. If I told you that March 8, the first day of Spring Break, was an average day, I would be lying. If I told you that March 8, the day in which I would have to go to my biannual dentist appointment, was a spectacular day, I would also be lying. It certainly seemed like a normal day, but somehow the choices that I made early on would make this the oddest day that I have ever been privileged to live.

On Thursday, March 6, I received my official CPR certification card. Admittedly, I saw this as the wallet-sized end to a long and useless course. At least, I joked with my friends, we could now legitimately say, "It's okay: I know CPR." Visions of one of us running out of a burning building or out of a car, yelling such a hyperbole, were scanty.

I still took the opportunity to fold, sign, and insert the card into my wallet. I said to my parents, as I am sure most of my peers did, "Gee, I hope I never have to use it." What I meant to say was, "Gee, I'm never going to use this. What's for dinner?"

A day passed and to my absolute astonishment, the card remained in my wallet. By then I had already forgotten about it. Another day passed, and the card remained tucked in my wallet on my nightstand: I am convinced I had clumsily forgotten it in my

haste to make my dentist's hygienist's sadistic appointment.

There was a torrential downpour, and although I do like the rain, there was little prospect I'd be getting soaking wet to have someone pick at my teeth. My appointment was at 11:00 and it is a 15-minute ride.

I overslept. Now that we were running a half-hour late, my father and I were in a rush. Luckily, the dentist's office was still able to take me. Rushing, I left my wallet and cell phone in my room, and chose not to change into the uniform I have to wear for my job at Morristown Memorial Hospital. This mistake would require my father and me to drive back home after lunch.

Another piece of this story was that it was also eight days until my birthday, and I had been saving up to buy a new mountain bike, having outgrown my old one. After the dentist, I was planning to go to a store to explore my options. However, sitting in a Chinese restaurant following my appointment, my father and I opted to give up bike shopping because of the ongoing thunderstorm. Instead we decided to just go straight home so that I could quickly change into my uniform.

It had been a very pleasant day so far. Even the dentist appointment was faster than usual. I enjoyed the company of my father and was looking forward to the company of my friends at the hospital.

We were almost home when I was looking down, reading a copy of *The New Yorker*, when my father slammed on the breaks, aghast. I looked up and saw what appeared to be the scene of an accident. I would like to say that I consciously made the decision to get out of the car and run to help, but it was really just instinct. I then realized why the CPR course is built on constant repetition.

Once I reached the victim, a woman lying on the ground, and said that I knew First Aid and CPR, I was told that she had just collapsed while loading her daughter's Girl Scout cookies into her car. They had already called 911.

Once I had established that she was not breathing, I went through the steps. As anyone who is trained would know, I gave her two rescue breaths and then checked for her pulse. She was so swollen that I found it hard to judge, but I could tell that she did not have one. After that I froze. The people around me were asking questions. One

lady even put her hands on her stomach and told me that she was going to start compressions. In a lighter circumstance, I probably would have laughed. Instead, and I probably came off as harsh, I told her to step away.

Although the course had prepared me well, nothing can prepare you for taking a person's life into your own two hands. Deciding to initiate CPR was a very difficult decision, and I did not want to harm the victim even more. Her swollen face, rolled back eyes, and gurgling mouth were enough to start me shaking. My decision to give her CPR was not instinctual, but rather calculated and objective. I was petrified, and quite honestly, I thought it was hopeless.

While I was giving CPR for the four minutes until the police arrived, I felt as if I was constantly doing it wrong. Looking back on it, I was doing it correctly, but the idea that I could kill her, or leave her brain damaged, was overwhelming.

When the police arrived, I tried to tell them what happened and the steps that I had taken so that they would know the situation, but it seemed as if they were not listening. They got right to work with CPR and defibrillation. After one shock, she had a small pulse. They continued to give her breaths.

In the training video that our class watched, the American Heart Association warns that once emergency services take over, you may feel left out. I had thought that this was nonsense, but it turned out to be true for me. It is difficult to describe what I felt, but it was along the lines of being "ditched," like I was unimportant. I got over this pretty quickly and then, soaking wet and tired, I was just miserable. I was sure that I had failed.

The bystanders sensed my discomfort and were trying to convince me that I had saved Lori Heavener's life. I am still not convinced.

If you are wondering about my job at the hospital, my father had called my mother, saying that "Sam's going to be late to work; he's busy administering CPR." My mother, of course, rushed down to the scene, which was only a block from my house. I did not notice she was there until the police had arrived, and I was relieved of my position.

Calling my supervisor and telling her about the situation, my mother said I probably would not be at work. To this my supervisor responded, "Oh, okay, but tell him to hurry up. We really need him today." I don't think she was

fully aware of the situation, not to mention my soaked clothes.

Yet, what scared me the most on that day was not the situation, but the very conscious decisions that I made that are so clear in my mind: not changing into my uniform, choosing to rush to the dentist rather than reschedule, and not going to Cyclecraft. Then there was the biggest, though not conscious, of them all: oversleeping by a half-hour.

In the days to come, I was bombarded by calls and emails from friends and family. A police officer at the scene had contacted the *Daily Record*, and they, the *Randolph Reporter*, and *News12 New Jersey* picked up my story. When the *Daily Record* came to our house to take my picture, I assumed it would be a thumbnail sized image. To my dismay, it was larger than the story itself and right on the front page. The article had even bumped Elliot Spitzer's scandal to another page. My family bought a few copies, and, as if they thought we did not know, our friends and family mailed us countless copies. I suppose it was all in good faith, though. I even got a call from Mrs. Heavener's brothers that week. One told me how he found my phone number. It turns out that he was Mr. Cox's roommate in college.

When someone thanks you for saving their sister's, mother's, friend's, or their life, it is hard to know what to say. I was just glad I could help and am glad she is making a full recovery.

Most of the people I have talked to speak of fate, or God. I met Mrs. Heavener about a week later, and she believes that her deceased mother made sure that I happened to be at the right place at the right time. While it certainly is nice that she believes this, I really beg to differ. My mother believes that God was the reason I was there. Again, I beg to differ. Others say it was just fate, and I still beg to differ.

The conscious, yet completely normal, decisions that I made that day were why I happened to be riding down Meadowbrook Road at 1:40 P.M. on a Saturday afternoon. We did not go to Cyclecraft only because of the rain, which was caused by a low pressure system in our area, which was caused by some system west of New Jersey. There is no fate or God involved.

To me, it was all just one colossal coincidence, a coincidence that still keeps me in bed, immobile, clutching my sheets, staring at the blank ceiling at night.



The Pingry Record VOLUME CXXXIV
NUMBER 6

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Children Need Time and Space in Order to Grow Up

By NICK RICE (IV)

For the youth of the United States of America, the days of tree forts, camp outs, and just cruising around town on tricycles, bicycles, scooters, or other recreational forms of transportation are coming quickly to an end. As the media often laments, young people today are experiencing loss of childhood at a younger age than ever before. Parents are quick to blame television, extensive hours of intensive video-gaming, and constant internet usage. However, I do not blame sex on television, violence in music, or even the endless collection of adult content on the internet. It is the work of the parents themselves that is causing this frightening loss of childhood experiences in modern American youth.

For the parents, the task of parenting has become as over-competitive as the little league baseball teams they coach. Not long after a child is born, many parents start looking for ways to give their children a leg up over the "competition." By the time children enter elementary school, recreational sports begin. Young children are subjected to rigorous sports schedules before they can even spell. As the years go on, these children are raised on year-round sports, and, by the end of elementary school, some are playing multiple sports per season.

The fundamental physical exercise and team building experience behind youth sports is great for a young child, but there is no need to win. There is no need to be the best. Parents get caught up in the competition, and now the time in-between each sports practice is spent at private training.

By middle school, traveling teams begin and suddenly children are at practice every night and games every weekend. According to child psychologist Dr. Alvin Rosenfeld, in the past two decades, the 200 percent increase in structured sports time has caused a 50 percent drop in free time for the average American child, a 33 percent drop in time spent having family dinners, and a 28 percent drop in time spent on family vacations.

As far as life outside of sports goes, children spend seven hours a day at school. Sadly, many parents have come to treat school just like a sport. Parents of some middle school children fight to have their child in a higher math class, regardless of their actual talent, but again for competition. The parents may be happy with a child being in higher classes, but all of a sudden, a student is in over his or her head with

work. Now, in-between athletic training, sports practice, and school, children are going to tutoring to keep their grades up.

As soon as a child finds something he actually enjoys or excels at, parents immediately look for a way to turn it into something that can be recognized by schools, colleges, programs, or whoever parents are trying to impress. If a child has an interest in music, they are placed in every band, chorus, orchestra or relevant program possible.

Even rock music, which has remained a refuge for youth from their parents and teachers, and an outlet for emotions and angst and complete creative freedom is becoming organized and controlled by rock-school programs such as The School of Rock, The Original Music School, and The Power Chord Academy.

I know about this firsthand. I joined the Paul Green School of Rock Music at age thirteen. Prior to that, I played music in bands I started with friends. Initially, I was excited to be playing world famous New York clubs, such as CBGB and the Knitting Factory, but as I got over the initial novelty, I found my creativity blocked by the influence of instructors and other parents. I left the program eight months later to move back to the freedom and the excitement of being on my own with a band. Since I left in the spring of 2006, the number of Paul Green School of Rock locations has increased by over fifty schools nationwide.

The constant scheduling, over organization, and general manipulation of children's lives has developed one particularly scary mindset in modern society that has greatly contributed to the loss of childhood. Aside from being constantly busy, the one thing that keeps children from living like children is the general mindset that it is bad to have unscheduled time. Suddenly, children who are just walking around town or hanging out are thought of as delinquents. Society has fabricated a belief that a child with nothing to do must be up to no good, or that a group of kids standing around outside of a storefront must be doing something bad. With this general belief, parents do not let their children out on their own, even in a safe suburban neighborhood.

They are not scared of injury or any other number of bad things that can happen to unsupervised children. They are scared of what other parents might think if their child is seen running around the

neighborhood unsupervised. This causes children to use the little free time they have staying inside and playing videogames, watching TV, and going on the internet.

Children need time to grow. They need time to experience life for themselves. They need long summer afternoons spent with friends around town instead of at all day training camps, and snow days spent sledding instead of studying. They need time to bond with other children in a non-competitive environment. But most of all, children need time to figure themselves out, without a parent telling them who they are or who the parent wants them to be.

A Community Question: Should We Let Our Spirits Be Stolen?

By ZARA MANNAN (V)

After a hundred years of existence, the Pingry School has grown to be a venerated establishment with proud traditions. But in the wake of this year, there was a crisis when one or more members of our school chose to violate the spirit of our Honor Code. Someone has been stealing possessions from the students, faculty, and staff. As a result, we have all become cautious and protective of our belongings. Students have resorted to using their lockers religiously. Teachers lock their cabinets. No longer do we have the privilege of trusting each other and our community.

On the Tuesday morning that Mrs. Hearst announced how serious the stealing scandal was, I was struck by the sadness in her voice suppressed by a determination for us to realize and to help fix the situation. As we were asked to stand and look at each other, all I was thinking was: Who could it be?

A few years ago, my skirt was stolen. I found my gym bag left open in the girls' locker room with all its contents either pulled out or disordered. After searching for my clothes, I realized I had no skirt to change into, and I quickly searched the rest of the locker room. Shortly, I found the skirt put away in a locker on the other side of the room. I was shocked. Though I tried to come up with some rational explanation, nothing could erase the fact that my skirt had clearly been stolen. With help from the maintenance crew, I was able to retrieve my skirt, but not my trust. I remember how often my mother asked, "Zara, what's wrong? Why are you so pale?"

Just a year ago, my little brother had to bring in an interesting book, toy, or project for show and tell day. He decided to bring a little green plant that he had nurtured for weeks. I remember how eagerly he pointed his tiny finger at the stem and explained how the plant had grown. With a dimple on one cheek, he left for school with his prized possession. I chuckled as he tightly grasped his plant, the size of a

By DIANA JIANG (V)

As the hectic AP season nears, so does summer, marking the end of a school year and the coming of another. For juniors, it will be a drastic transition as we become the new seniors—the ones who sit in the front in Hauser and whom underclassmen look up to. With so many school activities currently led by extraordinarily able seniors, how will we be able to live up to their legacy? How can we embrace our responsibilities and make Pingry even better?

The seniors have been role models for the rest of us, whether it was in drama productions, school publications, or peer leadership. By now, they have experienced stress in its worst forms (from studying simultaneously for multiple exams to filling out college applications

and waiting for the envelopes to arrive) but have triumphed, succeeding in academics, athletics, and extracurriculars. They have each contributed greatly to our community, and their leadership has been essential to many of our school functions. The task of living up to them may seem daunting, but if we face our last year of high school with enthusiasm, we too can set a great example for both new and returning underclassmen.

Next year will bring fresh leaders, from new presidents of clubs to new team captains. I suggest that these students, as well as everyone involved in those clubs or teams, learn as much as they can from the seniors before they graduate. The seniors have earned their spots after years of dedication to their activities, and they're the ones who are the most experienced

at what they do. I learned the importance of this lesson firsthand this year when it struck me that the talented seniors on the Record's editorial board will soon be leaving. I will no longer be able to run to Darina if I have a question about running assignment meetings, nor to Jack if I'm confused about layout. Instead, I'll have to be well prepared from the start and take on their roles. By spending a lot of time with them while working on our recent issues, my initial worries have finally been eased and I'm confident about making next year a success. So as you prepare to embrace leadership roles in your activities next year, take advantage of the opportunity to ask for advice and guidance from the seniors who have been there.

Seniors have the unique ability to set the tone for the school and leave behind a legacy. How will we make our senior year a memorable one, both for our school and ourselves? It may be scary to think that many eyes (of students and faculty alike) will be on us as we enter the frantic world of college decisions. However, that's also a great chance for us to show them what we're all about. We can raise school spirit to new heights, embodying the essence of Pingry. We need to each make a difference, in whatever way we can, to improve our school and leave it better than when we entered it. If you're unsatisfied with any aspect of our school, make your voice heard by writing for the newspaper, or talking to the faculty who are always willing to listen.

Don't hide your opinions if you believe they can be constructive to our community. Pingry prides itself on its diversity and its open environment, so don't be afraid to share new ideas. Only if we're eager to be active in our school will we have the power to contribute to it just as much as the class of 2008 has, if not more.

small cup.

When I came home from school, I found my brother in tears showing me his empty hands. Someone had stolen the plant when he went to the bathroom. He said to me over and over again, "I came back and it was gone. I came back and it was gone." I gave my brother as many hugs and kisses as I could offer and hissed remarks of indignation at the culprit who hurt my brother. The next day, my brother took another couple of seeds from his plant making kit and again invested all his hope and energy for another few weeks. Though he had lost the plant, he had not lost his hope and the ability to recreate what he had lost.

Stealing is horrible. Despite the value of what has been stolen, the act always has one

thing in common. It destroys the integrity of our community, and leaves us all feeling horribly suspicious of each other. If one person violates this sense of trust, everyone is affected by it. But as we lament the crisis looming over our community, should we let our spirit be stolen? Forgetting the laptops, cell phones, wallets, and hordes of cash taken away from us, there is one thing that we can keep to ourselves and which no one, no matter how mischievous, can steal. That is our spirit and our integrity, if we choose to guard it.

Even though Mrs. Hearst was overcome with sadness, she did not lose her spirit and determination as she reached out to the community to fix the terrible problem. We must all do the same.

If Only We'd Known...

A Message From Seniors to Underclassmen

- Take the SATs early, like November of your junior year early. It will be the best decision you will ever make in your life.
- Create a realistic college list with both safeties and reaches. Learn to love your match schools as much as your reaches.
- Rolling and Early Action schools are a godsend. Apply to all of them (unless you would never consider attending).
- When your friends start breaking down from stress, be supportive. Embrace the Zen.
- Check to see if you are an Eskimo. If not, ask a distant cousin to move to Juneau.
- Not getting into college early doesn't mean the world is about to implode.
- College counselors have an open door policy. This means it's your prerogative to be in there every hour of the day if that's what you think you need.
- Become good at an esoteric sport played exclusively by rich, white kids from the northeast.
- Respect athletic recruits who got in early; they're talented at something as well.
- Statistics are misleading. *US News* rankings mean nothing. Don't buy into statistics released by Pingry's college counseling office or the colleges themselves.
- College admissions are not fair. Deal with it.

CORRECTION

American Field Service (AFS) is not affiliated with the Senegal trip that Pingry sponsored.

Faculty Members Explored China Over Break Robotics Competes at N.Y.C. Regional



Faculty members saw the Great Wall of China.

Courtesy of Nat Conard

By BECCA HAMM CONARD (V)

Despite China's recent buzz in the news, the trip that a number of faculty members experienced during spring break was more than unique; it was an experience of sharp contrasts. Ancient history and a vast cultural heritage bumped elbows with strikingly modern cities and a booming economy. On their "Teach China Study Tour to China," Ms. Alice Brown, Headmaster Nathaniel Conard, Mr. John Crowley-Delman '97, Mrs. Carolyn Gibson, Mrs. Eileen Hymas, Mrs. Christine Irish, and Dr. Patricia Lowery joined five faculty members from the Riverdale Country School, two representatives from "Facing History and Ourselves," and Mr. Kevin Lawrence, a representative from the China Institute who often served as the group's tour guide. Funded by a Pingry parent, the group's goal was to discover this vast country, partly by visiting a range of different schools.

The first school the group visited was the Yucai School in Beijing, where, during the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Emperors performed ritual sacrifices. Of all the schools visited, Yucai had the most leeway to experiment pedagogically because of its strong ties to the Communist Party.

More than 4,000 students in grades 1 through 12 attend the school, including over 100 students in the international program, from countries such as Korea, Japan, and Kazakhstan. Whereas the average class size in the regular school was 40, the average in the international program was 10.

In contrast to most schools in the United States, the state mandates the amount of homework assigned to each level of student. Primary students get no homework; middle school students

(6th-9th grade) get one hour; and senior students get one and a half hours. But when speaking candidly, Mr. Conard explained, students admitted they spend considerably more time on their homework than teachers assume or claim.

The second school the group visited was the Dandelion School, named for the hardy flower that can grow anywhere. Largely a boarding school, the Dandelion School is the only middle school for migrant worker children in China, where education past middle school is not compulsory. Many students who attend come from homes without modern amenities, which is why they may be boarding students even if their homes are in the region. Others return home during the day to care for younger children.

Many of these students are part of the 5-8% of the Chinese population made up of 55 minority ethnicities. The school struggles financially, relying on volunteers for tutoring, using furniture donated from corporations, and holding some classes in rooms with dirt floors.

According to Dr. Lowery, "The student dormitories were small with up to sixteen students in bunk beds in one small room. There were no desks or lockers and sets of washbowls, cups and toothbrushes were neatly positioned under each bunk. An orderly line of pairs of flip-flops indicated how many students occupied the room." Yet Dr. Lowery was "amazed and saddened to hear how much better these crowded conditions were for the children compared to their homes."

She was also moved by how, despite these problems, these students were excited and energized by the remarkable opportunities the school afforded them. "We

traded English sentences with the eager children for an hour," Dr. Lowery said, "They had been practicing the future tense ("I will be...an astronaut"), because for the first time in their lives, they have a future."

Mrs. Hymas agreed that when "interacting with the students, you could not help but enjoy their enthusiasm for learning."

The third school the group visited was the Fuxiao school in Xi'an, a primary (1st-5th grade) school with 2200 students and 130 teachers. The school has a close relationship with a school in Connecticut, and in 2005, five or six teachers and the same number of students traveled to the United States. After visiting the school in the U.S., Fuxiao began trying to reduce the class size, and they've succeeded in transitioning from 50-60 students per class to about 40 students in first grade classes.

Mrs. Hymas commented on the numbers of students, saying that "Despite the large class size, the teacher was in full control. Using a microphone headset and power point, he delivered his lesson, organized group work and called on the students to answer his questions."

The walls of Old Xi'an, where the older Fuxiao campus is located, are pierced with tunnels lit by Chinese lanterns, while the traditional buildings are brightly painted. Although many of the designs are so high above the street that they cannot be identified by the naked eye, each minute, hand-painted detail is perfect and uniform.

For the faculty, riding a bike around the top of the wall in Xi'an between the ancient city and the modern apartment buildings was like straddling a line between two different worlds, worlds set apart by gates of colorful lanterns and ribbons. They also, said Mrs. Gibson, "visited a Muslim mosque and bazaar which challenged our notion of China as one culture."

The ShiXi school in Shanghai, founded in 1869 for children of expatriates, was, like Yucai, an example of modern learning in a historical setting. During the Anti-Japanese War, which we know as World War II, the school was used as a concentration or internment camp by the Japanese. In 1949 the school merged with a number of other local schools, and since then has followed the Confucian school motto of "Study hard and work vigorously."

The focus at ShiXi is on moral education and sending excellent graduates to top colleges and universities. In some ways, this focus on moral education is much like the focus on the Honor Code at

Pingry. The students at ShiXi get involved in the management of the physical environment and security of the school. Most importantly, they are expected to monitor each other's behavior to ensure the success of a moral education.

The final school the group visited provided an experience that isn't possible in the United States. Originally founded in 1035 as a Confucian School, the Suzhou Provincial High School now has two campuses, one in Old Suzhou, an ancient city called the Venice of China for its many narrow canals, and a three-year-old school in Suzhou Industrial Park.

Dr. Lowery effectively summarized that contrast in her description of Shanghai: "Everywhere we went we saw old and new together — a brand new Mercedes driving on a crowded Shanghai street next to bicycle carts carrying produce, a young man riding a bike with a young lady sitting 'side saddle' on the back, no helmet in sight. As we drove past areas where new skyscraper buildings were going up and huge cranes lifted supplies, I saw old men with three-wheeled motorized carts loading them up with metal and other materials scavenged from lots where older buildings were being demolished. Driving appeared especially scary as cars, bikes, motor-driven three-wheeled carts, busses, and people squeezed along narrow roads."

Ultimately, the group found China even more fascinating than they expected. Mr. Crowley-Delman already is trying to figure out how to go back. Mr. Conard said of the trip that "the opportunity to spend ten days in China visiting schools, meeting with students, teachers, and administrators, and gaining a better understanding of a country that will play such an important role in our future was extraordinary. We look forward to forming partnerships between Pingry and some of the schools we visited!" And Mr. Conard is encouraging other faculty members to visit China when they have the opportunity.

Robotics Competes at N.Y.C. Regional

By ANDREW SARTORIUS (V)

On the weekend of April 4, the Robotics team competed in the FIRST New York Regional Robotics tournament held at the Javits Center in New York City. The team of 20 members, led by senior captains JP Patrizio and Craig Limoli and faculty advisor Mr. Jeffrey Jenkins, finished with four wins and four losses, placing 34th in the field of 69 teams and fourth in the ten-team rookie division.

"Overall, I'm very impressed and pleased with the results considering this was an international competition with teams traveling from as far as England to compete," said Mr. Jenkins.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is known to be the premier robotics competition for high school students. The team was first assembled in early January under the guidance of Patrizio and Limoli. The team was given a kit of parts and two months by FIRST to construct a robot that could "travel around a track while moving large trackballs over and/or under the overpass that bisects the track." The robot had to be packaged and shipped to FIRST by February 19.

"Building the robot was mostly a group effort from everyone on the team, but there were a group of guys that worked heavily and put in lots of hours in the days leading up to the competition to make sure we had the best robot possible," said Mr. Jenkins.

During the building process, the team broke up into smaller squads that worked on various individual components of the robot. Mr. Jenkins added, "This is a team that drew talents from various areas of all academic disciplines. There

was something on this team for everyone."

The most challenging aspect of the competition, making the robot complete the tasks given by FIRST, was given to the engineering team. This team broke up into smaller groups that worked on driving the robot, manipulating the trackball, distributing power to the robot, and creating software to make the robot responsive to remote control.

A second team, the CAD (computer aided design) team, designed the robot using free 3D animation software provided by FIRST. The art team contributed to the graphic design of the robot as well as creating T-shirts and a website.

At the FIRST competition, there were three sub-competitions: a middle school competition, the First Tech Competition for high schools with smaller robots, and the First Robotics Competition for high school with larger robots (the competition that Pingry competed in).

"It was a hustling, bustling scene when we were there since this was one of the largest regional competitions in the nation," said Mr. Jenkins.

"Looking back on it," said Mr. Jenkins, "we could have spent a little more time tweaking it, but there was a great competitive drive from everyone on the team and that overcame any of the problems we had."

"I thought this was a great program for our students regardless of how we did in the competition. We definitely generated a great deal of open-ended creativity. Sometimes the best ideas come from those who were least constrained by preconceptions."

S.M.A.R.T. Team in California



Courtesy of Tommie S. Hata

By BRANDON BRIER (IV)

Pingry's SMART team recently took its annual trip to San Diego to meet other scientists and learn about proteins and enzymes. At the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Conference, the group of students, led by biology teacher Mr. Hata, presented their poster and models to an audience from all over the world.

This year, the SMART team studied bacteriophage lysins and their significance in medicine. In order to learn

about lysins, the SMART team students visited Dr. Vincent Fischetti at Rockefeller University and conducted research. Using the information they gathered, the students constructed physical models of the proteins, which they presented in San Diego.

The trip was also a learning experience for the students, as they attended lectures and presentations led by professors and graduate students. At the Scripps Institute and the University of California at San Diego, they accompanied other SMART teams and learned from crystallog-

raphers and protein modelers. In addition, the students experienced 'the cave,' in which advanced three-dimensional technology allowed them to explore protein models in a new and fascinating way.

SMART team members say that their experience was improved by friendly peers and faculty. Mr. Hata and Mrs. O'Mara "made learning biology fun," Bozhena Lisko (IV) said.

Although Yamini Nabar (IV) found the research "complex" and "difficult," the effort was "definitely worth it in the end," she said.

2008 Cum Laude Inductees

Form V

Dan Elkind
Michael Fernando
Diana Jiang
Audrey Li
Zara Mannan
Jenny Palacios
Sarah Paton
Jackie Reef
Giancarlo Riotto
Andrew Sartorius
Colleen Tapen
Christine Willinger

Form VI

Parul Agarwal
Kerry Bickford
Zach Carr
Wyatt Komarin
Lauren Kronthal
Ryan Maxwell
Caroline Pinke
Angela Ramirez
Meredith Skiba
Andrew Willinger
Ricky Zacharias
Jess Zhao
Melinda Zoepfel



Courtesy of Melinda Zoepfel (VI)

Pingry's Night of Enchantment: A Prom Night to Remember

By MEREDITH SKIBA (VI)

This year's senior and junior prom was truly magical. Held once again at the Bridgewater Marriott, the prom took place on April 17, beginning at 7:30 and continuing into the night. The prom committee, headed up by economics teachers Mrs. Leslie Wolfson, selected "a night of enchantment" as the prom's theme, and decorations and prom favors that

corresponded beautifully. After months of anticipation, juniors and seniors left school on Thursday – many leaving before conference period for hair appointments and other preparations – and most attended various pre-parties for photo opportunities. Students then proceeded to the Marriott, arriving between 7:30 to 8:30 to be greeted by faculty chaperones and guests. After a "cocktail"

hour, the doors were open for an evening of great fun, food, and dancing.

Spirits were high when Grant Schonberg (VI) and Eric Hynes (VI) opened up the dance floor with faculty chaperones. Later on in the evening, Pingry's first-ever prom king and queen, Brian Hart (V) and Ashley Acosta (VI) were drawn by a raffle and danced to the prom's theme song. Another highlight included juniors and seniors tearing up the dance floor with the "Soulja Boy" dance.

After dessert, prom started to clear out. Prom committee member Charlotte Conway (VI) expressed the common sentiment that "it was truly a delightful evening."

Green Group Starts Recycling Campaign

By SAM MACKOFF (V)

The new trash receptacles around the school have caused a major buzz. Part of the new recycling program put into effect by the Green Group, with help from Mr. Virzi, the Director of Facilities, the dark blue recycling bins arrived several weeks ago and were assembled and placed around the school.

The new recycling program allows for the separation of recyclable materials, such as bottles and paper, so that trash can be disposed in more environmentally friendly ways and waste can be reduced. One of the major goals of this project is to teach proper recycling methods and how they can make a positive impact on the environment.

"The recycling program has been very successful so far," commented Mr. Peter Delman, the head faculty advisor of the group. "It's making the school a lot cleaner."

Along with this major change, there are many more reforms that the group hopes to achieve. "We

have made a big impact, but we have to keep working on it," said Mr. Delman. The Green Group has already begun efforts to end the waste caused by paper catalogues received in the mail. Hoping to get recycling bins in areas where there is a lot of paper use, members are sending letters to various companies to encourage recycling.

In addition to reducing waste, removing invasive species from the local area is another Green Group goal. Also, the school hopes to implement a composting system. Composting will allow the school to decompose its own organic waste and allow it to be reused as soil. In order to accomplish this, the school needs to get the necessary machinery, and the community must be educated on what materials can and cannot be composted. They also hope to find a future assembly speaker in order to further educate the community on environmentally safe practices.



M. Skiba (VI)

Pingry Takes Paris by Storm

By AMANDA HALTMEIER (III)

At the beginning of Spring Break, 28 students from Forms I to V looked forward to their twelve-day trip to France with Madame Castaldo, Madame Jordan, and Madame Roxbury.

The trip commenced in Chartres where the group visited the Romanesque Cathedral de Notre-Dame de Chartres. After a night at the hotel Mercure, the group toured the Loire Valley and visited medieval castles, such as Chateau d'Amboise, which belongs to Compte de Paris, a direct descendant of France's last royal family. Other castles included Chateau Chenonceau, which had Renaissance architecture, and Chateau du Clos-Luce, the last home of Leonardo Da Vinci.

Julia Dowling (III) found the trip both fun and educational. "I was expecting a lot of guided tours and sightseeing," she said, "but it was so much more. We got a lot of

free time to experience the different cities like Paris by ourselves, and it made the trip so much more fun to be on our own."

Madame Jordan commended the students on their manners, saying, "There were 32 of us counting our guide, yet, everywhere we went, French people commented on how well behaved and polite our students were. I was truly proud of our group."

The next part of the trip consisted of a stay in St. Malo, where students lived with host families. During the four days in St. Malo, the group traveled to an aquarium, a cheese factory, and also a local public school where the local students presented power points in English regarding what their school is doing to improve the unhealthy environment. The final four days of the trip were spent in Paris where the group visited the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame, and the Champs-Elysees.

For Sam Neibart (III), "experiencing daily life in France, talking to people on the streets, waiters, store owners, and eating French food in restaurants" was the best part of the trip.

For Madame Jordan, the trip allowed "me to see my country through different eyes, and to discover it again through the questions and the comments of the students. I loved it when they took chances by trying new foods (for example the famous oysters of Cancale, Brittany), by talking to French natives while ordering food, shopping or asking for directions. Their enthusiasm and energy (even when they said they were exhausted or cold!) delighted me and certainly kept me going."

And although the trip consisted of freezing rain and high winds, a great deal of walking, long bus rides, and of course, jetlag, it was a great experience for everyone involved.



Courtesy of N. Joshi (IV)

Justin Society Hosts Festival

By ANDREW SARTORIUS (V)

The eleventh annual Creative Writing Festival, sponsored by the Justin Society, brought six well-known authors to the Pingry community and exposed students and faculty members to voices of contemporary literature. The authors, comprising three poets and three novelists, all have close ties to Pingry or its faculty members. They were all eager to share their works as well as their thoughts on the craft of writing.

This year's authors included: Hettie Jones, a novelist and poet best known for her 1990 memoir, "How I Became Hettie Jones"; Frederick Reiken, a New Jersey novelist who won the New York Times Notable Book Award for his novel, "The Lost Legends of New Jersey"; Dani Shapiro, a Pingry graduate who has written five novels and a best-selling memoir, "Slow Motion"; Daisy Fried, a Pennsylvania poet best known for her poetry anthology, "My Brother is Getting Arrested Again"; Brad Leithauser, author of five poetry collections and six novels; and Chuck Wachtel, associate professor of creative writing at NYU and author of various short story collections.

The festival, organized by Festival Coordinator Dr. Susan Dineen in the style of the

Dodge Poetry Festival at Waterloo Village, began with the authors reading small excerpts of their works at an all-school assembly. "I really appreciated the diversity of the authors' works," said senior Evan Rosenman, "Dr. Dineen did a great job in bringing together writers who represented different genres of literature."

After a break and lunch, the students involved in the all-day festival program were assigned to various workshops in fiction, poetry, and memoir writing. Authors headed each of these workshops, employing various writing exercises with their groups.

The fiction workshop, head-

ed by Dani Shapiro, was especially popular.

"I loved Dani Shapiro and her writing," said Hallie Bianco (VI). "She read from one of her favorite books called 'I Remember,' which was about an old man's memories, and then we had to write about our own memories. I thought this was a great assignment, because it helped me focus on being precise and concise in my writing."

The day ended with a student-led "open-mic" reading, with many of the authors who had previously read stopping to listen to the up-and-coming voices of the younger generation.



A. Kogut (V)

ANNUAL STIFEL PRIZE AWARDED TO TWO RECIPIENTS

FAYEN AND RESCOE

Both Have Exhibited 'Courage, Passion, Optimism, and Spirit'

Continued From Page 1

on his mom, who is bedridden and wheelchair driven, Rescoe said, "It's hard growing up and taking care of your mom. The traditional family dynamic completely reverses, which has always been a source of sadness."

Nevertheless, he approaches life with admirable optimism and compassion towards others. Miss Wolfson even called him "one of the most incredible young men I have ever met."

Rescoe admits that there have been times when he has felt isolated by his experiences, but since coming to Pingry, he has met people who have provided him with immense support and understanding. "People can surprise you with how much love, support, and thoughtful advice they give to people who ask."

For Spring Fashion, Turn to Bright Colors and Bold Patterns



Courtesy of People Magazine

Take a page out of Lauren Conrad's book and think like the American flag when you dress up this spring.

By ALLI DADOURIS (IV)

Springtime is here, and it's time for a whole new set of trends. Push those browns and blacks to the back of your closet because this spring is all about bright colors and patterns. Usually, the traditional pastel floral pieces – the ones that bring to mind our grandmothers' couches – are expected, but this year, flowers are blooming into a bright and funky new trend thanks to Balenciaga. Everyone wants her outfit to catch some attention, and all it takes is some

bright colors to stand out.

Whether you want to go all out in a new metallic floral dress or go for something a little more calm, like bright orange Ralph Lauren jeans and a white shirt, you'll be ready to hit up any party this spring, and all eyes will be on you.

With Memorial Day just around the corner, stars and stripes are also sweeping into closets across the country. We pledge allegiance to Chanel for designing a sexy yet pa-

triotic wardrobe that would put Betsy Ross to shame. The trick is to mix and match your colors and patterns. If you think you look like a flag, then you're doing it right. Top off your outfit with a pair of Moschino star sandals and go show your American pride.

It's also time to show off your wild side with some new animal print outfits. The trick is to make safari look chic. Derek Lam showed off his new leopard print designs this spring, and it wasn't long before Roberto Cavalli and Louis Vuitton were in on the hot new style. So if you're rocking a full-on leopard dress, or just a cute spotted scarf, it doesn't take much to make your look fierce.

Finally, for all you artistic ones out there, it's time to combine your art with fashion and create a real masterpiece. Artists like Picasso and Dali are being used as inspiration for bold new outfits filled with vibrant colors. It can be as simple as a black dress spiced up with some colorful pumps, as Marc Jacobs designed for his newest collection, or an outfit as crazy as those that appeared in Miu Miu's newest collection, which will leave you more colorful than a box of Fruity Pebbles. Designers have really started to tap into their inner painters and have come out with some of the most surreal outfits out there, and you can do it too. Just grab your paintbrush and attack those old outfits you never thought you'd wear again. It'll be a fun way to spend your Sunday afternoons instead of doing homework, and the result is bound to be one of a kind.

'Smart People' Is a Mellow Film

By JENN SOONG (IV)

Sharing the box office with a fast-paced thriller, a Dr. Seuss cartoon movie, and a teenage horror film, "Smart People" is a nice change from the status quo. Although the film has a simple plot, it is moved forward by the beautiful story of five unique characters and their relationships with one another.

The film stars Dennis Quaid as Lawrence Weatherfield, a middle-aged, self-absorbed, depressed professor. Surrounding him are Vanessa (Ellen Page), his overachieving, doomed-to-follow-in-his-path daughter; James (Ashton Holmes), his brilliant but distant son; and Chuck (Thomas Haden Church) his adopted, not-so-smart brother who has come to live with the family. Viewed by his students as a grumpy, unsympathetic man who is obsessed with publishing his rejected manuscript, Weatherfield's life finally changes when he meets Dr. Janet Hartigan (Sarah Jessica Parker), his former student. After a few awkward dates and pleas for a second chance, their relationship blooms and ultimately allows Lawrence to let go of his past. Likewise, his two children also grow, as one becomes an independent student who expands his love for poetry while the other realizes that her school life is not as fulfilling as it seems.

Despite its solid script, "Smart People" is far from the next "Juno" or "Little Miss Sunshine." Although it has a similar feel, it's

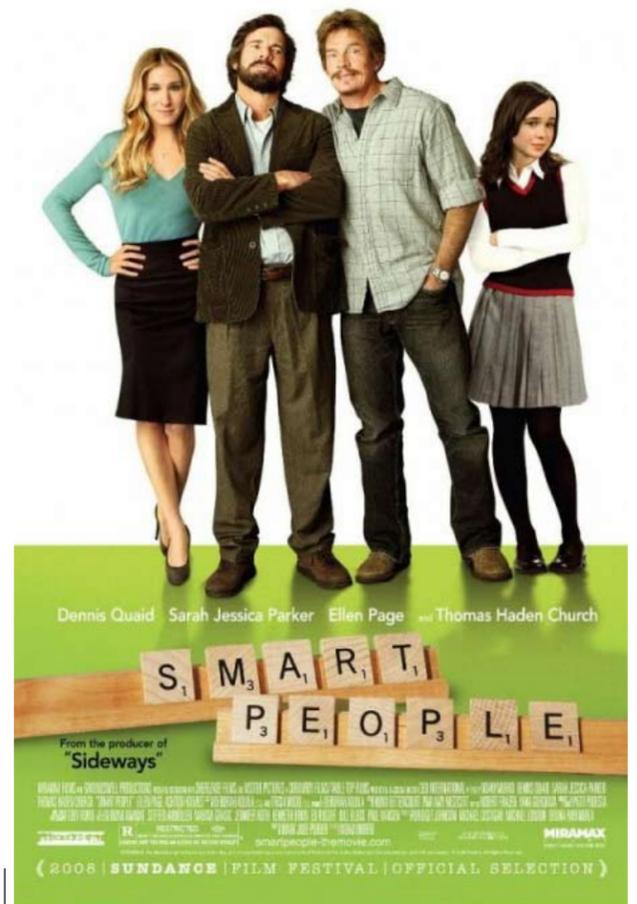
simply not as fresh or clever as it could be. The movie can be boring at times, as well as highly predictable. Nevertheless, the audience cannot help but notice how perfectly Page and Church fit into their roles. While the former provides several emotionally poignant scenes, the latter allows for powerful comic relief. Their relationship in the film is also unexpected, original, and touching.

Quaid does a good job of portraying his character's disenchantment with life; however, the transition between being a loner and

falling in love is too sudden and disjointed. Of all the main actors' performances, however, Parker's has perhaps the least impact; while her role has huge potential, the actress fails to light up the screen.

Overall, "Smart People" is not mind-blowing. However it does provide more than a few beautiful moments between its interesting, yet relatable, characters. Its original soundtrack also lends a nice touch to the film's overall aura. If you're looking for a sweet and mellow film for the weekend, this is it.

Sometimes the smartest people have the most to learn.



Courtesy of IMDb.com

"Smart People" is a sweet film worth seeing.

Faculty Members Display Artwork

By HENRIETTA HAKES (V)

The faculty art show in the Hostetter Arts Center gallery displayed a unique combination of mediums, subjects, and artists. This annual show brings together the talents of several members of the Pingry art faculty — Mr. Rich Freiwald, Mrs. Laurinda Stockwell, Mr. Peter Delman, and Mr. Miles Boyd — all of whom have contributed thoughtful and creative pieces to create a wonderful new exhibition.

Mr. Freiwald has on display pieces in several mediums, all of which experiment with different colors and textures. Among his contributions is a group of wall panels that combine several different types of materials and techniques. One work of art, made of billet glass and copper carbonate on clay, is entitled "Crystal Clear." It depicts a glass-like, cracked surface in a deep Mediterranean blue. Another panel, named "Perception," utilizes lava glazes on clay to create a grey, roughly textured half circle on a lighter grey background.

There is also a collection of jewelry in the exhibit, several of which are made of metal.

Materials like silver or bronze are heated until they liquefy and then pressed into different shapes. Often studded with pearls or bordered by polished silver wire, these pendants and pins provide a contrast to the rough surface of the melted metal. Mrs. Stockwell, who donated several pieces of jewelry, utilizes the style of "found object," using materials like buttons and coat pins for her pieces of jewelry.

Perhaps the most extraordinary part of Mrs. Stockwell's contribution, however, is seen in a series of photographs she has been working on for thirty years. Ranging in subject from cows to abandoned farm equipment, these photographs depict scenes from her grandfather's Ohio farm and chronicle its steady decay. Mrs. Stockwell comments, "My photographs of the farm... began to take form as documentary photographs when I realized by editing fifteen years of slides that this farm was slowly but definitely in decline."

Continuing the creativity of the other exhibitors is Mr. Delman. He has submitted two paintings from his recent series "Keeping up with Current Events." One painting, an

oil on canvas characterized by thickly applied paint, shows two American soldiers wading through a field of pink tulips with a deep blue sky accented by streaks of orange and red reminiscent of missiles. Mr. Delman says, "I draw images from a variety of sources, but a steady source going back to my student days is the good old New York Times. There is an immediacy, drama, and power in some of the images in

the New York Times that I see nowhere else." Mr. Delman has captured the drama from this inspiration and translated it onto the canvas.

The final Pingry art faculty member on display is Mr. Boyd. He has created a series of wall panels using sheet metal. Mr. Boyd scratched lines, curving and straight, to create simple designs on plates of red steel, grey steel, or white zinc.



K. Bendetti (V)

Hostetter Art Center Celebrates Five Years

Continued From Page 1

ter celebration really allowed parents to see students express themselves," DeChiara said.

The Academiks, a dance group comprised of Maynard Pond (V), David Martin (IV), Myles Bristow (IV), and Grant Palmer (V) performed a dance in the style of the Jabberwockies Dance Crew.

Jazz Band, the Buttondowns, the Balladeers, and the Strings Orchestra all gave half-hour performances. Jazz Band played "Lady Madonna," by the Beatles and "Oclupaca," by Duke. Jazz Band member Nancy Eckenthal (IV) said, "I love being in jazz band. We play awesome music, and I'm so excited to play at this event."

In addition, Mrs. Trisha Wheeler held dance classes for younger students. Parents also walked through the arts center to see the artwork, paintings of students, and sculptures in each classroom.

The Buttondowns showed

a funny movie that introduced each singer. After the movie, they performed three songs: "Good Riddance" by Green Day, with soloists Ben Hamm (III) and Scotty Eckenthal (IV); "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" by Elton John, with soloist Brian Hart (V); and "The Longest Time" by Billy Joel, with soloists Jeff Baum (III), Hamm, Hart, and John Kwon (IV).

The Balladeers performed three songs as well: "Tintinnabulum," "Chili Con Carne," and "What Can I Do," the last featuring Hallie Bianco (VI) and Lillie Ricciardi (IV) as soloists.

At the end of the anniversary, Headmaster Nat Conard thanked all coordinators, faculty, and students involved in creating the event. Then, everyone wished a happy birthday to the Arts Center over cake.

Cathy Melligon, a Pingry parent, called the event "fabulous, inspiring, and truly a great celebration of the Pingry Arts."



Bruce Morrison '64

Softball Faces Tough Opponents, Comes Out With Bold Victories

By KATIE CONTESS (V)

After a great spring break preseason in Orlando, Florida, the Pingry softball team is ready for the long season ahead. The team has seven returning starters, including the entire infield except the shortstop position. Captain Katie Occhipinti (VI), who originally played centerfield, now plays shortstop. Moving from leftfield to center is fellow captain Jessica Westerman (VI), whose strong leadership is just as important off the field as on. Thanks to hard work and focused practice, the team is adapting smoothly to these changes.

While scrimmaging at Disney, the team came across a new motivational technique: a player of the game award, or "POG." At the end of every game, Coaches Miller, Hoskins, and Grill choose one player who excelled and give her a neon-pink stuffed alien. The next day, the "POG" must be carried around by the player and be visible at all times. Captain and second-baseman Biff Parker-Magyar (VI) extols the value of the "POG" as a motivational technique. She says, "The 'POG' motivates us all to play our best. While we all want to work well together, it has also created internal competition."

Due to inclement weather, the team had a late first game on April 3 versus powerhouse Cedar Grove. Despite a disappointing 13-1 loss, the team was "looking sharp" thanks to a stellar, "POG"-winning performance by Westerman as well as hits by Parker-Magyar, Occhipinti, third-baseman Lindsay Hyman (VI), and first-baseman Leigh Meckler (V). Junior pitching-catching duo Maja Feenick (V) and Emma Carver (V) was also strong on defense.

In an exciting nail-biter versus Montclair Kimberly Academy on April 7, Pingry scored three runs after being

behind 1-0 for most of the game. Propelled by hits from right-fielder Rebecca Hamm Conard (V), Parker-Magyar, Occhipinti, and Carver, the team's hitting was matched by excellent playing in the field. Outfielders Westerman and Chloe Carver (III) helped hold M.K.A. to only two more runs and many fly balls. In a disappointing turn of events, M.K.A. came back in the seventh inning to win the game, 4-3. In spite of the loss, Coach Mills was pleased with the team's level of play, calling it a "good loss, if such a thing exists." Among many strong performances by players, the "POG" was awarded

to Chloe Carver.

After these two losses, Pingry began a steady turnaround with victories over Morristown-Beard, St. Elizabeth, and Glen Ridge. They also emerged triumphant with a 7-1 victory over Gill St. Bernard's in the first round of the Country Tournament.

With many important games coming up, the softball team looks forward to continued improvements. Parker-Magyar (VI) describes the softball team as a "really close-knit group with support and teamwork as its strongest assets." The softball team is sure to continue on to a great season.

Baseball Hopes to End Their Season Strong

By GIANCARLO RIOTTO (V)

The 2008 Varsity Baseball squad, led by head coach Ted Corvino '94 and assistant coach Manny Tramontana, feels optimistic about a season that will include County and State Tournaments. After a solid 11-10 record last year, the team advanced to the county quarterfinals and made the state tournament. This year, the team lost three critical seniors to graduation: starting shortstop Craig Ramirez, starting right fielder Chris Cummins, and starting centerfielder Nick Devers. All three were instrumental to the team's offense and defense; nonetheless, with talented underclassmen, the coaching staff is confident about a successful season.

To fill shortstop, Mr. Corvino moved junior Brendan Burgdorf, a third baseman last year, to the position. Burgdorf is a strong offensive talent, given his ability to hit with power and get on base, and has made a smooth transition to shortstop. The vacated outfield spots was filled by junior Conor Starr, whose speed allows him to cover tremendous ground in the outfield.

The leadership of the returning seniors dictated a significant part

of the team's success. Four-year varsity letter winner and captain Brian O'Toole started at second base, and his speed, defense, and enthusiasm is more important than ever. Outfielder Ben Spicehandler (VI), who has battled shoulder problems admirably, opened the season as the team's leadoff hitter. First baseman and converted-outfielder Peter Corrigan (VI) can play various positions and possesses a powerful bat.

The pitching staff is led by returning seniors Zach Carr and

Tennis Has a Strong Line Up

By SHAAN GURNANI (III)

The varsity tennis team, under the guidance of long-time coach Gary Miller, will be starting with a solid line-up. Last year, Pingry placed seventh in the Colonial Hills Conference and lost to Delbarton in the State Sectional Finals.

As team co-captain, Garrett Schuman (VI) is the first singles player for the third straight year. Schuman was also an NJSIAA quarterfinalist last year. His co-captain Jeff Tanenbaum (VI), a four-year starter, moves to second singles after three years of stellar doubles play. Junior Evan Ju will be third singles this year after a strong showing at second doubles last year. Will Klein (V), Ju's doubles partner last year, and sophomore David Kerr (IV) will team up at first doubles. Rounding off the doubles will be lefty duo junior Alex Salz and sophomore Nick Meiring.

Plenty of strong players are also ready to fill in when needed; juniors JJ Mignon and Michael



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Fernando; sophomores James Chin and Brian Weiniger; and freshmen Chris Ju and Jared Cohen.

Pingry is in one of the state's most competitive conferences with Newark Academy, Montclair Kimberly Academy, and Morristown-Beard providing stern opposition. The team will also play in one of the state's

toughest county tournaments, vying against Bridgewater, Hillsborough, Ridge, Rutgers Prep, and Watchung Hills Regional for the title.

The team has already had a strong opening, beating both Newark Academy (3-2) and Watchung Hills (4-1), and can look forward to a very successful season.

Girls' Lacrosse Comes Together



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By ARIELLE KOGUT (V)

Over the first few games, the Girls' Lacrosse team has truly come together and stepped up their game. They have done a great job in learning each others' strengths and weaknesses and in trusting each other. The intensity of the practices challenges each player to always improve and strengthen their skills.

The team is led by captains Jordan Shelby (VI) and Shelby Bartlett (VI). "Even though every team we play this year is very good, we're going to have to take it up a notch," said Shelby.

The entire team plays with a lot of heart throughout the game. It would be great to have a large crowd of fans to cheer on the girls. The games are fun to watch, as the girls get pumped up to "Bounce That" during their pre-game warm up.

The team has a completely new coaching staff this year. Head Coach Tony Garcia, father of Maddy (IV) and Beth (IV), draws from his experience playing lacrosse at Princeton University. He is assisted by Kathryn Burrini and Kristan Cassidy, who also has a creative side that inspires the team with her "KPS" and "Whoa Mama" target shooting. Additionally, the JV coaches are Mike Gervis and Monica Misticak.

"The team has great potential," said Bartlett, "and we're looking forward to continued success."



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Track Hopes to Win States Again

By **JOE NASO (V)**
and **SCOTT BISSINGER (VI)**

Every returning member of the Boys' Track and Field team feels the pressure, the pressure to repeat. After winning the Prep B State Championship in Egg Harbor last June, this season's biggest goal is to win States again.

With a team just as strong as last year's, the outlook is optimistic. The additions of Matt Rybak (V) and Grant Thomas (V) fill gaps in the team that were created with the graduation of various key members. Rybak looks to aid the distance and relay teams, while Thomas is sure to add some power to the throwing team. "I know I can play an important role on this team," says Rybak, "and running is what I do. Plus I can wear cool shoes while doing it."

Senior Captains Mike Martinson and Tyler Reichert, both four-year members of the team, know that it is up to them to keep the team focused.

According to Martinson, "Last year's State Championship has instilled in this team a fire the likes of which I have never seen in any previous track team to which I have belonged."

Reichert became an integral part of the sprinting team during the push to the championship last season and certainly looks to help carry the team once again. This year's sprinters and hurdlers include Ryan Maxwell (VI), Godfrey Best (V), Carlton Bowers (V), David Martin (IV), and Randall Jordan (IV). Tucker Bourne (VI), Andrew Willinger (VI), and Jordan are key members of the jumping squad. Evan Mendelsohn (VI) is the core of the pole-vaulting crew and was the best pole-vaulter in Parochial B competition this past season.

The throwing team, competing in the javelin, shot put, and discus, also had their fair share of triumphs last season. Matt Ford (V) helped round out all three events and the addition of Thomas will solidify a

strong shot put crew. The team's strongest javelin throwers, Ford, James White (V) and Joe Naso (V), look to duplicate the success from last year as well. The javelin team came on especially strong as the year went on, fueled by consistent improvement all the way up until the State Championship Meet.

Arguably the strongest and most consistent part of the entire Boy's Track and Field team is the distance squad. Helped by Dan Schuchinsky (V) and Matt LaForgia (V), the addition of Rybak fills the large void left by the graduation of Chris Scavone and Dan Davidson. "The new members to the team will definitely make a mark for themselves," say Schuchinsky. "We need all the help we can get with the loss of Toreyan Clarke, Russel Simpson, Chris Scavone and Dan Davidson. Everyone knows their part and it's up to them to work to win another championship."

Girls' track is off to an equally impressive start. Every season since 2001, the Pingry Girls' track team has been defending the Prep B State Championship. After a victory last year over Sacred Heart of Vineland, the girls are on a crusade to make it to eight straight titles this year.

The girl's squad just came off a successful indoor season. Despite lacking high jumpers, pole-vaulters, and throwers, the team managed to come in second place in the Prep meet, only losing to a non-Public A school.

The girls' sprint squad includes Kate Sowinsky (V), an indoor track 3rd team all non-public sprinter, as well as MIT bound Martha Gross (VI) and a plethora of dependable runners crucial to the team's successes. Four-year varsity veteran Adrienne Spiegel (VI) leads a young, yet promising hurdling group that includes 110-meter freshman star, Helen Daifotis. The distance track team is led by senior captain Olivia Delia and freshman phenomenon Olivia Tarantino. The duo, both indoor state champions, hopes

to take their success from inside the Jersey City Armory to the outdoors.

The team's current goals include maintaining their Prep B State Champion title, stealing the Colonial Hills title from the Verona Hillbillies, and becoming Prep A champions. Their two main rivals for the season will include Kent Place and Lawrenceville. For the state Non-Public B meet, the competition will consist of the Seraphs of Mater Dei and Sacred Heart School. The girls look forward to another successful year and hope to bring back a few more accolades to the widely successful team.

Boys' and Girls' Golf Are Both Optimistic About Their Season

By **ZACHARY RING (V)**

The boys' golf team has gotten off to a weak start, but is very optimistic about the future. "We have nothing to lose," junior Brian Quinn says, "We just have to command the course from the beginning of each match."

Coaches Mr. Joe Forte and Mr. Bill Bourne lead the Boys' team along with captains Jay Sogliuzzo (VI) and Dan Weiniger (VI).

The team has had a tough schedule so far, beginning the year 1-7. Having lost to powerhouses like Verona and Glen Ridge, the team believes that it is just getting used to the heavy competition and will shake it off in no time.

Other team members include seniors Stephen Roach and John Guiffie, juniors Cory especially at the end. Babcock and Jeff Michels, and the newest member to the team, Quinn.

Quinn hopes that "with Weiniger's hot streak and all of our talents, we can finish the season really strong."

With most of their remaining matches away from Twin Brooks Country Club, their home course, it will certainly be a struggle for the boys to finish strong.

Upcoming matches against Glen Ridge, Newark Academy, and Mountain Lakes, will definitely test their courage and desire to

win.

The girls' golf team is coached by Ms. Jackie Fives and Mr. Sean McAnally. Captain Katrina Soriano (VI) leads the team along with vice captains Aly Kerr (VI) and Beth Homan (VI).

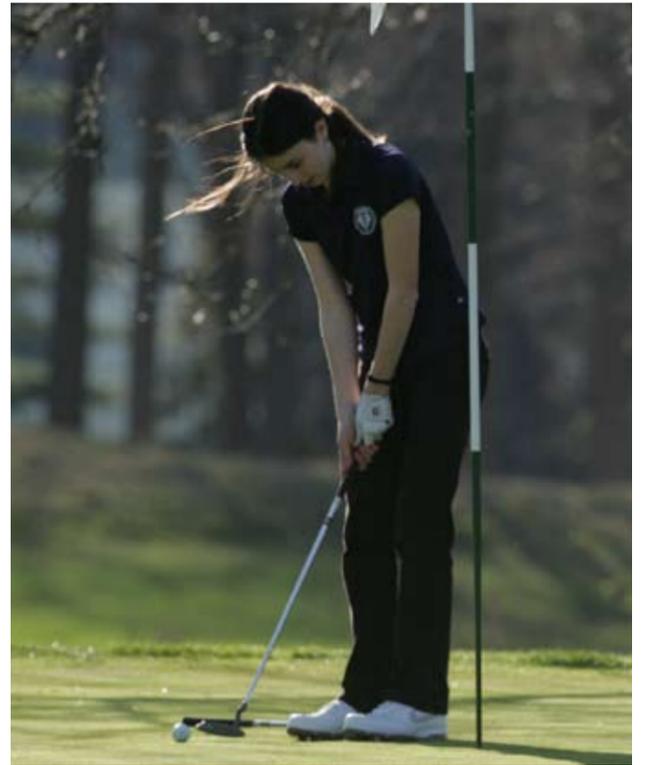
Soriano said, "This season has been great we've won four matches so far. Our outlook is very positive. We're a very young team with a lot of potential and the seniors are awesome."

The girls have a record of 4-2 which included beating

Kent Place 224 to 191 and winning against Millburn 262 to 216. Playing Kent Place Soriano scored best with 43 strokes.

Girls have also played against Oak Knoll and Mt. St. Dominics among others. They still have games against Passaic Tech and Peddie as well as some NJ-SIAA events.

The girls' team is looking forward to a good end to their season. Beth Homan said, "We're very optimistic."



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Boys' Lacrosse is Stronger Than Ever Before

By **KEVIN McNULTY (V)**

This spring, the Boys' Lacrosse team is stronger than ever before. The offense is led by Captain Henry "Sneaky Hands" Burchenal, and has only improved as the unique chemistry between seniors Cary Corrigan and Jeremy Mykulak strengthens.

These three returning starters are sure to "put some real heat in the back of the ol' net," as Burchenal describes it.

The mid-field—boasting returning juniors Chris Hellauer, Abram Bernstein, and Brett Hardman—is strengthened by its recent NJSIA approved injection, 'new life.'

The revitalizing energy of freshmen Will Burchenal's ball-handling skills and Brendan Newman's face-off talent, and senior Eric Hynes' ability to run, is sure to give the mid-field the pep to "make the midfield our [turf]," says Bernstein. This year's defense is led by injured senior captain Will Brundage off the field, and junior Eric Oplinger "in the jungle," as he calls the field.

In addition to the close defensive men, junior Todd Feldman will head the long-stick midfield position. Returning from his successful season last year, Feldman,

along with junior Kevin McNulty, feels they can play the position far better than last year.

As Feldman explains, "Last year was hard for us since after playing short stick midfield for so long, we had both just made the switch to playing with long sticks, which are much longer than regular lacrosse sticks. Now, after a year of playing with them," he said, "we just have a much better feel for how to use them."

After losing both varsity goalies last year, and having Jay Holman put on the disabled list after he ruptured his ACL, sophomore Dylan "Stone Wall" Westerhold has taken up the position of starting goalie.

Coach Mike Webster, along with his assistant coaches, sense the team's raw talent and intensity and hope the boys will capture the Prep B state title last claimed by the boys' 2006 lacrosse team. Maybe they'll even go on to be the first Pingry Lacrosse team ever to win the tournament of champions, he says, referring to the tournament that decides the overall champion of New Jersey lacrosse.



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The editors would like to thank Mr. Bruce Morrison '64 for allowing the Record to use his photos.