

# COMMENCEMENT 2010



## Seniors Take Month Off to Pursue Passions During ISP

By JASMINE OGHAN (V) and ROXANNE OGHAN (V)

Beginning May 1, all 133 seniors dropped their classes in order to pursue Independent Study Projects (ISPs). The projects ranged from musical endeavors to cross-country road trips and allowed the seniors to explore their interests and take full advantage of their last month in high school.

### ARTS Music

Following her passion for music, **Emily Xia** learned how to play the *dizi*, the Chinese transverse flute. She already had some experience with the western flute, and the two structurally similar instruments allowed her to learn about the differences in writing and technique between classical eastern and western music.

**Victoria Lee**, looking to experiment with different genres of music other than the classical she is used to, produced an album containing songs from a variety of time periods and styles. She later sold the CDs and donated all proceeds to the Starlight Children's foundation.

**Josephine LaCosta** likewise showcased her talented singing voice by producing an album that contained about a dozen songs from a variety of different genres. She has never focused on just one type of music and therefore wanted her album to contain the same variety as the music that has influenced her over the years. Her main instrumental accompanist was Michael Arrom (III), at whose home recording studio the album was produced.

Looking to explore a new area of music, **John Kwon** dedicated his time to song-writing. Although he worked primarily on the Pingry campus, his occasional off-campus trips to isolated and new environments provided important inspiration for the original songs he wrote.

**Morgan Foster** researched different songs and composers to further her knowledge of the piano, and she practiced playing the piano to improve her skills and technique. Her studies culminated in a piano concert, which was held at Pingry.

**Pamela Giangreco** honed her vocal abilities by researching different genres of music and recording a CD

consisting of a collection of songs. She also used her time to become more familiar with the sound equipment and software required to produce an album.

**Rakesh Bhisham** and **David Martin** took popular songs and altered them by changing the vocals and adding their own instrumentals. In addition, they each wrote seven songs and compiled their creations to produce a unique CD.

**Brian Weiniger** and **Ryan Kiska** wrote their own raps and composed accompanying music.

### Visual Arts

**Jennifer Soong** further pursued her interest in art by experimenting with different media, including oil paint and pastel. Furthermore, she decided to work on larger canvases on which she overlapped various images.

**Kate Conway** broadened her artistic horizons by experimenting in three-dimensional studies. She used a variety of different materials and subjects for her unique sculptures, which consisted mostly of various body casts

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## Mrs. Madeline Landau Leaves Behind Tremendous Legacy

By DAN ABEND (IV)

After 26 years as a History teacher and a nine-year period as History Department Head, Mrs. Madeline Landau has decided to retire.

As a teacher, Mrs. Landau taught survey classes in World, European and American History as well as A.P. American and A.P. European History. "It's been a great experience as a teacher here," she said. "I have had so many wonderful students and colleagues." Her enthusiasm for her job has helped to make her a great teacher in the eyes of those around her. "Having a teacher as passionate as Mrs. Landau encourages the students to learn with the same intensity," said Logan McGowan (IV).

Will Pinke (VI) added that "Mrs. Landau clearly loves what she does as well as her students. She's a great teacher."

Fellow history teacher Mr. Matthew Horesta praised her as well, saying, "Someone like Mrs. Landau will be extremely hard to replace."

It was recognition of this excellence in the classroom as well as her devotion to students that allowed her to become Head of the History Department. For nine years she put her hard work and fervor for history into guiding her department towards excellence. Her work included making AP European History available for sophomores, encouraging inter-

disciplinary studies, especially with the English department, as well as further integrating Holocaust studies into the history curriculum.

Looking back on her job as Department Head, Mrs. Landau "thinks [her] job transformed the department," and "made it the best department at the time." Ultimately though, she decided that her position was not what she wanted to do and stepped down. "I realized that my best time was when I was teaching," she explained. "I wanted to spend more time with the kids."

Mrs. Landau's relationship with her students has always been a large part of what makes her such a good teacher, as well as something she prides herself on. "I've always believed that if I impact one student in a way that his or her behavior changes, then I've done my job," she said.

There is a connection that exists between her and the kids she teaches in her classes as well as others she encounters in the school. "In teaching kids, I have learned so much from them and also learned a lot about myself," she said. Alex Fagella (V), who witnessed that connection, commented that "she cared deeply about each one of [her students] as individuals. If you fell behind, she would do everything to help you catch up."

"We are fortunate to have consistently wonderful young people here," said Mrs. Landau.

"In teaching here, I feel that I am impacting tomorrow's leaders."

Mrs. Landau carried her connections with her students to her endeavors outside the classroom as well. A large part of her legacy was her involvement with a variety of annual all-school assemblies. "Assemblies are very important," she remarked, because "they have made the students more aware. When you hear numbers in a textbook, you have to remember that those are real human beings. I think these assemblies accomplished that."

Her work includes initiating the Veterans Day Assembly, the Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, and the Holocaust Remembrance Assembly.

Mrs. Landau's legacy extended even further outside the classroom, with her work on *Vital Signs*, the school's opinion magazine. Since helping students from the Awareness Society (which she also founded) start the publication in 1986, Mrs. Landau had a large role in the magazine's funding, publishing, and distribution. *Vital Signs* has been "a vehicle for the kids to think of issues outside themselves and the immediate community and to express an opinion," she said. "It gives kids the reward of being a published writer and/or cartoonist and allows them to develop leadership talent as well as those skills needed to put out

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## EDITORIAL

## Auf Wiedersehen!

1998 was a big year. It was the year when millions mourned the end of "Seinfeld," when Monica Lewinski's big scandal with Bill Clinton broke out, and when Exxon bought Mobil. 1998 was the year Frank Sinatra and Barry Goldwater passed away, as well as the time when two men jumpstarted Google, Inc. It was also the year when Leo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet stood together on the big screen in the blockbuster "Titanic."

Yes, 1998 was a big year indeed. In fact, even for a five-year-old girl with black bangs and purple rubber boots, it was an important time, one that marked the beginning of an incredible 12 year journey at a place in suburban New Jersey that we have all come to call our second home: Pingry.

I remember a lot from 1998. I was the only new first-grader at the Lower Campus, and on the very first day of school, the other kids told me that I had taken the spot of the girl who had kissed Christian Betts during a pool party in Kindergarten. (For those of you who don't know, Christian was a classmate of mine for one year at Pingry and his five-second girlfriend, Kayla, had moved away the summer before I arrived.) I remember giggling as my fellow students recounted the story and thinking that Kayla had truly made history. Boy, did I have some big shoes to fill!

Twelve years have passed since then, and I think it is safe to say that in the time that the Class of 2010 has spent at Pingry, we have each created our own history, filling the large shoes of our predecessors. Whether our greatest moments were in the classroom or in the relationships we have made with peers and faculty members, Pingry has made just as much of a mark on us as we have on it.

Many have said it in the past, and many more will say it in the future, but this editorial would not be complete if I did not take the time to say it, too: Thank you, Pingry. To all my various teachers throughout the years (Dr. Pearlman, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Grant, and Dr. Dineen—for instilling a passion for English in me; Mr. Delman—for allowing me to take on my own artistic direction and have fun in the studio; Mr. Raby, Mrs. Landau, Dr. DeSimone, and Mr. Horesta—for bringing history to life; Trem, Mr. Grant, Señor Vasquez, Señor Nazario, Mr. Reichle, and Mr. Thompson—for educating me in what you are each passionate about), you have been my supportive bridge from adolescence to adulthood, the constant reminder that education is the groundwork for all my future endeavors. I could not have done it without you all, and I owe all my accomplishments to your hard work and faith in this generation.

Like 1998, 2010 has been a big year. Shaun White amazed us at the Vancouver Olympics, J.D. Salinger left behind a legacy of brilliance, and the Sci-Fi phenomenon "LOST" concluded a six-year run. However, although these are the events that made newspapers' front covers and TV screens, the senior class has had its own share of milestones. For example, the birth of Nicky Haik (VI) and Aaron Davis (VI)'s bromance, a cross-dress-themed spirit day, and ISP are just some of the events that have made the 2010 a tremendous amount of fun. Whether you know it or not, we have created our own headlines, ranging from Ronnie Haymaker's Facebook page reaching 395 fans to heated debates over a freshman's right to freedom of speech.

There is no doubt in my mind that after graduation, each and every member of the Class of 2010 will continue to do great things. I look forward to reminiscing upon this fond year and remembering all the reasons why I am proud to have been a Pingry student for twelve years. As the Trapp children say in "The Sound of Music," "So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good-bye."

—Jennifer Soong

## Missing the "Super-fan" Moments

By JOHN KWON (VI)

Where have these six years gone? While writing this reflection, it finally hit me that in about a month, I'm leaving high school for good. My love for sweater-vests, singing, and the Patriots may accompany me next fall, but my label as a Pingry student will not. It's sad to leave this place, which has become embedded with countless memories and emotions.

There's this sweatshirt that I still have from my freshman year. And while I've lost or stopped wearing all the other Pingry attire I've compiled over the years, this sweatshirt has become a staple in my wardrobe. When I wear it, it's as if I receive a "brain blast" (thank you, "Jimmy Neutron") that helps me write my papers, comprehend what Euler's Method is (shout-out to you, Trem), or figure out what toppings I should add on my ice-cream sundae. It's been with me through the Celtics games, my Pingry all-nighters, and of course, as I write this reflection.

On the front of the sweatshirt is the word "super-fan" with a dictionary-esque definition next to it. On the back is the Pingry logo. So let's put those two sides together. Super-fan. Pingry Super-fan. You bet I am! It saddens me to see so many of my peers "dying" to leave Pingry and eager to get on with the next

stage in their lives. Of course, we are all excited to embark on what is supposed to be "the best four years of our lives," but can't we lament for a second about what we are leaving behind?

How I'll miss screaming "Class X!" with the rest of my class during school events, or the applause and screams of numerous Buttndowns fans! How sad it will be to never be called an "angelface" again, or witness the wonderful sight of Mr. Hedengren and Senora Ortner walking side by side. Is it June already?

I wanted to speed through those grueling months of applications in the fall, but let's slow down now. There are too many memories to count, too many teachers that have had an impact on me, too many friends who I wish I could stay connected with. Only now do I fully appreciate why my parents wanted me to attend Pingry. I now know how much of an impact the school has had on me. My extraordinary teachers devoted their time to help me succeed and became part of my support system in and outside of the classroom. I have also learned so much about myself from my closest friends. Ten years from now, I'll remember the late-night diner runs, cast traditions before the musical, and lying together on the grass under the stars.

Everything about this place

means something to me, from the big, beautiful clock tower out front to the weekly Mindful Awareness Practices with Mr. Sluyter. Regardless of how excited I am to depart for college, I am going to miss this place so much. Pingry has shaped me in a way that I would have never dreamed of as

a 7th grader.

I'm taking this sweatshirt with me to Boston next year. Not because of its warmth or comfort, but because it's a reminder of the memories and the friends I made while I was at Pingry, a school which will never cease to be a part of me.



B. Hamm Conard (V)

## Sharing My Five Greatest Pingry Hits

By MAX DECHIARA (VI)

I have been at Pingry for thirteen years. While some of my classmates might cringe at the thought of being a "lifer," I am proud to say that I have enjoyed much of my time here. This school has given me so much and, using an idea from an old episode of "LOST," I decided that I would use this reflection to highlight the "Greatest Hits" of my Pingry career. Not all of the moments I have chosen are happy, but they are all important to me in one way or another.

1. I was in Mrs. Johnson's first grade class, and I never remembered to raise my hand. It's not that I was trying to be disrespectful—I just always wanted to answer the questions. Accordingly, Mrs. Johnson made me tally each time

that I called out. Needless to say, I was thoroughly embarrassed. Unfortunately, my humiliation did not hinder my mouth from interrupting others.

2. I was in Mrs. Simon's fourth grade class, and we did an entire unit on baseball, which ended with a trip to the Yogi Berra Museum. We took about ten field trips that year—much more than any of the other fourth grade classes. Of course we still learned, but I remember that we enjoyed everything we did. I cannot recall an unhappy memory from that class.

3. I was in eighth grade, and I was on the middle school Tennis team. If you know me, then you know that I am *not* an athlete. At that time, we were required to do a sport each season, so I decided to sign up for tennis in

the spring; I have never enjoyed a sport more than I did during that tennis season. Every day, I went to practice with Anthony Parisi (VI), and we just hit the ball back and forth while making immature jokes. I never actually played in a match.

4. I was in my tenth grade Fall Play. It was my first year in the Fall Play, and I was cast as the waiter. I had approximately four lines and tried to make the most out of a very small role. The waiter became very flamboyant, arrogant, and extremely disrespectful. To complete the role, Sarah Paton '09 taught me how to "pop my hip" so I could fully get into the character I created. My nasty attitude was only heightened by the fact that I could not pour water very well—I ended up spilling it on some of my fel-

low cast mates.

5. I was in twelfth grade, and I was with my advisor group. We decided to go to an advisor group dinner the last week before we left for ISP. It was delicious, and the food was okay, too. But actually, it was a great meal that we got to share together. The conversation was light, everyone was relaxed, and my advisor, Mrs. Grant, made all of us smile with her warm comments. The night made me realize how much I am going to miss my advisor group—and the many other relationships I have formed at Pingry—next year.

I know that my "Greatest Hits" were less than profound, but I know that I will carry these memories—and many others—with me for years to come. Thank you all so much for everything. I will miss you all next year.

## Making School Something to Laugh About

By BENNETT ROSENBACH (VI)

I do not think it is possible to make my senior reflection an accurate summary of the last four years or even a giant "thank you" to all the people at Pingry who have helped me. Instead, I will tell a story which pops into

my head every couple of months and makes me laugh whenever I think of it.

You know how the day before a break is. Every period is a test, a movie-watching class, or possibly even a free period. Nothing consequential ever happens that day. And, in that sense, the day before spring break of my sophomore year was typical. A month before, my friends and I had discovered the novel concept of keeping a basketball in a locker so, if we wanted to go into a gym and shoot, we did not have to count on a ball being in a gym. It was not uncommon for us to play basketball during free periods or conference periods. As you could probably guess, that is what we did on that March 2008 day for several periods.

During sophomore year I had Latin sixth period with Magistra Forrester. That class happened to have many of the guys who played pick-up ball with me. One of them was John Kwon (VI). So when John and I heard from a girl who shall remain nameless that Magistra was giving us a free that day, we went straight to the gym. We did not even check in with Magistra first. Big mistake.

We shot hoops through all of sixth period. At one point we wondered why no one joined us in the gym but we did not really care. We were having fun by ourselves. After class, we ran into some of the guys who we expected to join us in the gym, and they told us that Magistra had not in fact given us a free. The class had actually watched "Gladiator" that period. Uh-oh.

John and I sprinted to Magistra's classroom, but she was not there. We waited in her classroom anxiously, wondering if we were going to be given a detention, suspended, or even expelled. We sat for fifteen minutes in this nervous, agitated state before she finally returned to her room. We apologized to her over and over again. Luckily, she was not angry with us and just hoped that we had learned something from the experience. We assured her that we had.

Afterwards, John and I remembered how the whole incident had started with that girl who shall remain nameless, and we decided to exact revenge on her. We called her and told her that

we were suspended for three days and that we were scheduled to go in front of the honor board, with more possible punishment possibly forthcoming. We let her freak out for a good two minutes before telling her the truth. I would say we got her back big-time.

I suppose that this story is not a true senior reflection; it merely

summarizes one of the 650 school days that made up my high school career.

For those fifteen minutes when John and I thought we were in trouble, we thought that this experience was going to be an important moment in our lives. Instead, it ended up being something to laugh about. And, as I now realize, high school as a whole is like that. Despite how we may feel at the time, high school is merely preparation for the climax of our lives, rather than the event itself. I believe and hope that our best days are still in the future. We are all going to make mistakes in high school; as George W. Bush once said, we are "young and stupid." But if we learn from our mistakes, we inch closer to our bright futures, rather than farther away from them.



The Pingry Record

VOLUME CXXXVI  
NUMBER 7

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# My High School Experience: A Blend of Conflicting Flavors

By BRANDON BRIER (VI)

Every morning, I stop at the Martinsville Starbucks between 7:30 and quarter to 8 to pick up my 20-ounce bold coffee, hoping that Julianne, my favorite barista, will be there. Although she rarely works in the morning, I do see many others who I've grown to know relatively well in the brief time I spend there, a truth that applies to my arrival at the senior couches just minutes later. Interestingly, I feel that this prelude to my school day serves as a microcosm of the hours that follow it.

Before beginning to reflect upon my time at Pingry, I must confess that I am mildly addicted to Starbucks. "Mildly" represents my own perspective on my love for coffee, while "addicted" represents that of my friends. Even so, I have realized that many of my most vivid high

school memories are intertwined with peppermint mochas and cappuccinos. I recall writing debate cases over espresso and soothing college nerves with extra whipped cream.

As many similarities as I draw between my high school experience and Starbucks, I know that my time at Pingry was hardly as simple as the coffee that began each day. Whereas I can always anticipate the taste of a caramel macchiato, there was much uncertainty throughout my high school experience. I am no longer associated with any of the organizations that I joined freshman year and am instead passionate about those that I have joined most recently. Even my attire has transformed from a collection of hockey sweatshirts to assorted

button-downs. My best efforts to resist the preppy influences could not prevent the transformation of my wardrobe and the pride that I felt when Senor Nazario and I wore matching sweaters.

There are many things more important than Starbucks that I want to reference in my reflection that seem disparate and unrelated. I want to mention Mrs. Grant's obsession with purple pens, Trem's tendency to mock (though rightfully so) my uninspiring freshman baseball career, and Senor Naz's legendary Spanish class one-liners. I want to talk about the people I first talked to in September of my freshman year and the good friends that I first met just a few months ago. I want

to honor the musical recitals that I have attended, praise the art shows that I have seen, lament my struggles through freshman year drama, and grieve my not-so-attractive combination of stripes and plaid. I want to thank Mrs. Newman for carrying Tide to Go, scold Mr. Bourne for mocking its use, and accredit Mr. Grant for interspersing an update on Syracuse basketball. I want to acknowledge the hot chocolates that my friends brought me on the legendary April 1st and those I brought for them in its December prelude.

Generally, I know that I will never have time to do all that I would like, and I suppose these reflections follow that same limitation. That being said, I suppose this magnum opus is a venti quad no-foam latte with three shots of raspberry, mint, and cinnamon flavors with both soy and skim milks. Really, I've tried to cram

so much into these thoughts that they are slightly aimless, virtually tasteless, and probably seem like a mess of flavor.

I've decided that's okay, though. Because it's exactly what my high school experience was like: colorful but confusing, vivid but vague. I've chuckled at challenges, fretted over friendships,

and laughed over losses. That's why as I write this, in a quasi-stream-of-consciousness, I've stopped resisting the conflicting flavors that have found their way into my thoughts, the varied emotions that have blended in my heart, and the mixed meanings that have grown to define my four years at Pingry.

*It's exactly what my high school experience was like: colorful but confusing, vivid but vague.*

that reason, I feel the need to tell all of you who are standing at the threshold of your Pingry careers exactly what nobody told me. All of you: you will accomplish much more than you, even now, can suspect! Pingry is a wonderful place (this is something I didn't always appreciate) that will reward you beyond what you can imagine if you work hard and put yourself forward.

So, when I take that final stroll across the stage at graduation to receive my diploma, I will undoubtedly feel proud. This pride, however, will be tempered by the tremendous humility that I feel knowing that I couldn't have accomplished anything without the help of so many different people. Were it not for my incredible friends, I don't think I could ever have made it, and to them I owe a debt of enormous gratitude. And as our ugly-looking school undergoes a particularly ugly-looking renovation, it is clearer than ever that the true gem of Pingry lies inside the pink brick walls—the people here are what make Pingry the wonderful place that it is.

Some of my favorite memories are of the times I spent with the teachers at Pingry. I will always cherish the moments on the couch in the English office with Mrs. Grant, who is the best therapist a student could have. Likewise, I treasure the many conversations I had with Mr. Varnes, who opened my mind to many new ideas, and with Dr. Moore, whose humor and intellect is unmatched. The ways in which the entire Pingry faculty has helped me to grow and improve number more than I can count. For this, I owe a debt to the school. So, thank you, because I couldn't have done it without you.

## An Actor's Transition Into the Spotlight

By SEAN SALAMON (VI)

Oddly enough, one of my most vivid memories of eighth grade was sitting in the Macrae Theatre as a prospective Pingry student, listening to a rather scruffy-looking but passionate man named Mr. Romano talk about drama at Pingry. As an eighth grader, I had known that I wanted to involve myself in music and theatre, but up until then, I hadn't had the courage to put myself forward. I plainly remember lamenting that I would never be one of "Those People" that had talent and starred in the school plays or musicals. Alas, I was accepted into Pingry freshman year—but I wasn't accepted into that year's musical, "Into the Woods." I have no doubt that I gave one of the worst auditions that day.

More than three years later, however, music and theatre are my lifeblood. Just this past year, I've played the lead in two musicals at Pingry, and I've co-directed a musical production for my ISP. I say this not to boast, but to encourage current and future Pingry students: fortune favors those who work hard and aim high. If someone had told me in the Macrae Theatre that day of the things that I would accomplish by the end of my senior year, I wouldn't have believed them. For

that reason, I feel the need to tell all of you who are standing at the threshold of your Pingry careers exactly what nobody told me. All of you: you will accomplish much more than you, even now, can suspect! Pingry is a wonderful place (this is something I didn't always appreciate) that will reward you beyond what you can imagine if you work hard and put yourself forward.

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Some of my favorite memories are of the times I spent with the



R. Tyson (V)

## Four Years of Unforgettable Memories

By JAMES CHIN (VI)

The fact that I am not attending Pingry next fall finally hit me when Jenn Soong (VI) asked me to write this reflection. An important component that made my Pingry experience so memorable was how great the teachers were. Some fond memories include meditating and at times dozing off in Dean Sluyter's room, hearing Trem and Mr. Thomson tell fat jokes about one another, and listening to stories that would make me laugh so hard that I would be on the verge of tears.

At Pingry, the students are so intimate with their teachers that they are able to establish a deeper bond than the traditional student-teacher relationship. One story that comes to mind that exemplifies this bond occurred when I was attending Mr. Keating's AP English Language Review last year. In the middle of one of his sessions, I raised my hand to ask what syntax meant. A series of witty

comments from Mr. Keating followed. One comment that I vividly remembered was about my college sweatshirt. He said that assuming that I apply to Ivy schools like the one I was wearing, I should apply to somewhere like Mississippi State. As revenge, my friend, Robby Allen (VI) and I chipped in our money to buy a Mississippi State sweatshirt to give to Mr. Keating as a gift.

An average Pingry student goes through the cycle of learning from his or her upperclassmen and passing that knowledge to the future underclassmen. I was no different. When I was a freshman, I had trouble transferring to the tougher curriculum and was virtually clueless in a plethora of other topics. However, my upperclassmen friends helped me get through by giving me tips and advice like utilizing those free periods and avoiding the blackened tilapia. Before I

knew it, I turned out to be the experienced upperclassman giving out advice.

I felt this cycle the most when I was selected to be a peer leader. When I was a freshman, my peer leaders helped me feel more comfortable in the Pingry environment which spawned my decision to apply for peer leadership when I was a junior. Hopefully, I accomplished the same goals as my predecessors and made the transition for my peer groupies as seamless as possible for them. When I graduate, that cycle will simply reset and a new generation of Pingry students will continue that trend.

One thing I will miss will be all the friends who are graduating with me and departing to our respective colleges as well as all my friends who are still attending Pingry. I can simply not forget all the funny moments throughout my time

here. For example, one time, two current underclassmen decided to prank phone call me and tell me someone had hit my car in the parking lot. In panic and fear, I immediately ran to the parking lot only to discover that my car was in perfect condition. Another memory was the tennis trips to Hilton Head where many pranks ensued and many hilarious moments that seemed to involve Wild Wings.

Lastly, to the teachers, thanks for your guidance and wisdom. To the underclassmen, relax and never let the Pingry workload dictate your life: you are always in control of your life even though you may think otherwise. To the Tennis team, I wish the best of luck for the season ahead and I will be sure to keep in touch with you all to see how the season is progressing. And to my fellow seniors: it was nice meeting you guys and even though we are now going on different paths, I hope our paths cross again in the near future.

*I can simply not forget all the funny moments throughout my time here.*

### EDITORIAL

## Seeing Ghosts

Despite my best efforts to stay away, I have found myself walking through the formerly pale turquoise, now stripped down, alarmingly naked clock tower almost as much as I did before ISP started. There were many reasons for me to return: the Balladeers' final concert, Record meetings, lacrosse games, Morgan McCollum (VI) and Alex Daifotis's (VI) piano recital, performances of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," in addition to the multitude of strictly senior events. In the past month, it sometimes even felt as though I was spending more time in school than outside of it, even with an off-campus ISP.

Each time I returned, I found myself falling into familiar habits: I'd check the cafeteria for apples (or the cookie trays on Fridays!), leave all of my things in the girls' dressing room, organize the articles sent to the Record staff's email account, and loiter around the couches, where I was sure to find a surprising number of my classmates.

Still, it was strange to go back, out of dress code, accustomed to working in a theatre rather than sitting in a classroom. I felt almost as though I was a stranger in my home, caught in a kind of purgatory between belonging and not belonging.

I've been going to Pingry since third grade. The halls of the Martinsville campus are so familiar to me that I could maneuver around them in the dark, and, due to the many Blue Key tours I've given, I could even tell you fun facts along the way: that the C.B. Newton Library was named after one of our notable headmasters, Charles Bertram Newton; that the arts wing was built for the 2003-2004 school year; or that Hauser Auditorium seats around 753 people.

I know every nook and cranny of Macrae Theatre. That small stage, with horribly cramped wing space, is the setting of many stories, "break-a-leg" hugs, embarrassing moments, and personal victories. There is the spot behind the black curtains, stage left, where I would nervously poke one eye through to watch Lillie Ricciardi (IV) and Brian Hart '09 serenade each other lovingly during "Pirates of Penzance," the muted green seat in the front row, house right, where I once lost my wallet, and the "X" center stage where Mr. Romano brought me to tears by pushing me to be better at my set speech from "Romeo and Juliet" in Drama III. Theatres are notorious for being haunted. Macrae Theatre, my theatre for six years, is haunted by my memories.

Even just walking through the hallways and in almost every classroom, I'm surrounded by ghosts. For ten years now, Pingry has been my go-to meeting place, the cause of my frustration, the setting of many of my adventures, and as familiar to me as my own home. It has become customary and safe. Did I always feel this way? Not as a third grader in Miss M's classroom, who refused to participate in the pumpkin exercise for Halloween because I'd have to get my hands dirty, or as a roly-backpack-toting seventh grader, nervous to ask upperclassmen for help finding my next class, or as a freshman, self-conscious about walking past the senior couches.

But Pingry has this way of enveloping you in its tradition, its hallways that all look exactly the same, and its ideology. The kids graduate, the teachers retire, the building undergoes renovations, but it doesn't really change. As I moved from grade to grade, I found myself loving it sometimes, hating it other times, but always becoming accustomed to it. And I have no doubt that there are masses of current Pingry students who will echo my statement that, whether you like it or not, Pingry becomes like a second home, and an even greater number of alumni that, like me, encounter ghosts everywhere they turn when they come back.

I'm not good at goodbyes. Ask anyone who was at the closing night of "Sweeney Todd," and they'll tell you that I become a mess when something meaningful to me ends. But this goodbye is different because I know that I'll be back. As I found over ISP, I'm drawn to Pingry as if by a magnet: I can't get away. So, to my teachers who made learning easy and wonderful, the friends I've found, and the building clouded by memories: Until we meet again.

—Jenny Gorelick

The Record staff would like to thank everyone who wrote a senior reflection. We apologize if we did not include certain pieces due to space issues. If you would like to read additional senior reflections, please access the online edition of The Record on the Pingry website.

# From Bar-Mitzvahs to Student Government: Will Pinke Tells All

By WILL PINKE (VI)

I was contacted to write this reflection two months ago. It was due one month ago. I am writing it now. But while the wonderful and talented Record editors were sending me threatening e-mails over and over to get it in, little did they know I was working on it the entire time. I have spent the past two months reminiscing on my time at Pingry and trying to put all of my favorite memories into words, but I realized that the task was impossible. I have so many great Pingry memories that after two months of constant, grueling work on this piece, trying my absolute hardest to get it in on time, I have decided to narrow it down to one memory from each of my six years at Pingry, starting in seventh grade.

**Seventh Grade-** This was the only year of my Pingry career that I played tennis in the spring, but it was a great season. I would always wear ridiculous outfits and be really obnoxious to my opponents (so I guess I haven't changed much in that department). One match, which I believe was against Delbarton, I was playing doubles with my partner Duncan Anderson. Before the match, I had our coach introduce me as Guillermo, the exchange student from the Dominican Republic. For the entire match, I spoke in Spanish. I pretended not to understand anything our opponents said, like when they repeatedly asked me to count the score in English. Duncan

played along when they asked him if I actually didn't speak any English. They ended up getting really angry, especially since we were destroying them. After the match, when we went to the net to shake hands, I said "good game" to each of them in perfect English and walked off the court.

**Eighth Grade-Seventh grade** was the year of the bar/bat-mitzvah, and besides my own, I loved them dearly. My friends and I would always go crazy. The best one of all, however, was actually in eighth grade; Glenn Friedman's (VI). At the party, they were making customized jewelry and t-shirts and there were gambling tables. Unfortunately, I, like everyone else, was limited to one shirt, one piece of jewelry, and one bag of poker chips. That was until I told the people working there that I was Glenn, the Bar-Mitzvah boy. They gave me as much as I wanted. Then I hit the dance floor and danced with these two really hot twin motivational dancers. When they did the hora, I got in the chair after Glenn's family, and they lifted me up too, which started a chain reaction of all of my friends getting in the chair, including Randall Jordan (VI) (which I'm pretty sure Glenn's Grandma freaked out about. I still have no idea why...).

**Ninth Grade-** My ninth grade Spanish trip was to Oh Que Rico, a charming, disgusting, little restaurant in Dover. I had heard from a friend of mine who had done the trip in the past that there

would be a huge stuffed pig in the restaurant. He had taken the pig's claw when he went, so I vowed I would bring part of the pig back too in order to continue the tradition. When I got in the buffet line, I saw a huge knife right next to the pig. I had some people form a blockade in front of me so the teachers wouldn't see and I proceeded to saw off the pig's nose, scoop out the eyes, and chop off a claw or two. I put all of the pieces in my jacket pocket. On the bus ride home, after throwing

*On another note, Mr. Raby kissed me that year...twice.*

one of the eyeballs and the nose out of the window onto another car's windshield, my accomplices dared me to throw the eye to the front of the bus to hit Alex Daifotis (VI). I hit Alex in the head and everyone erupted into laughter. And then Alex showed the eye to Senora Ortner who was sitting directly in front of him. Needless to say, she did not find it quite as funny and neither did my parents when she told them about it.

On another note, Mr. Raby kissed me that year...twice.

**Tenth grade-** Mr. Hata and Mrs. O'Mara, you might want to shield your eyes for this section. I sincerely apologize in advance.

**Sophomore year,** I was accepted into S.M.A.R.T. Team, along my friend Mac Cordrey and seven other freshman biology all-stars. We spent the year working on a project with Vincent Fischetti

at the Rockefeller institute and in the spring, we took a trip to San Diego to present our work at a scientific conference. Mac and I presented when we had to and did all of the required work, but Mr. Hata also gave us all free time to "go to lectures" and "look at other presentations." This is the first time I am divulging this information, but I think enough time has passed that it is safe for me to tell the truth. During all of our free time, Mac and I left the conference and explored the city of San Diego

while everyone else sat in lectures. We saw every corner of the famous Gaslamp Quarter. We ate lunch at a famous rib place called Kansas City BBQ where a scene from the movie "Top Gun" was shot. We went to Ghirardelli and bought unhealthy amounts of chocolate. We went to the Hard Rock Hotel and walked through the museum. We narrowly escaped being caught numerous times. It was the best field trip in the history of the Pingry School and nobody ever knew about it, until now.

**Digression:** Things I learned in sophomore year Chemistry.

Parv hates: Cats, Russia, Andy Warhol, Raspberry Sorbet, Tin Foil, Julia Nosofsky (VI)

Parv loves: Moles, Rusyns, Lakota Indians, The Steelers, Corduroys, The Macarena, Will Pinke and Mac Cordrey

**Eleventh grade-** I ran for Stu-

dent Body President and won! Now The Record asks me to write articles for them all the time. Other memories include jokes made by Mr. Thomson. Some memorable quotes include: "You know Trem holds a baseball record. Most amount of pinstripes worn." "If a man expresses an opinion in the woods and no woman hears him, is he still wrong?" "If the options are A) stay home with my wife or B) ---, the answer is B."

**Twelfth grade-** First semester was Hell. Second semester was awesome. Some highlights include beating Manchester United,

Blue Army, Cross-dressing day, two double snow days, lifting the kindergartener at the Christmas concert, Senior Prank Take 2, getting into college, Jisneyland, The best SAC ever- Can't teach me nothing, faculty jeopardy, the beard-off (my proudest moment at Pingry...after winning Student Body President of course), the Smoothie Lounge, and of course, Graduation

In conclusion, I did some pretty stupid things at Pingry. But I had fun. Hopefully the best is yet to come. I love you all, and I'm going to miss you.

## Work Hard, Play Hard Is My Motto

By ERIKA LAMPERT (VI)

The six years I have spent at Pingry have been long and treacherous, yet fun and fulfilling. At the beginning of seventh grade, I was reluctant to go to Pingry, concerned that I would not be smart or cool enough. From my protruding braces, popped collars, and ribbon belts, to my scrawny twig legs and knobby knees, which could barely support my gawky body, I was the definition of awkward. Despite all of this, it took just a few weeks for me to feel completely at home in Pingry. And while I will be the first to admit that Pingry definitely has its flaws, fast-forward six years, and I still feel at home in this community.

One thing that I am certain I will miss next year at college is the Pingry faculty, an intelligent, unique, and often bizarre group

of individuals undeniably dedicated to their students. Reminiscing about freshman year, I fondly remember my

World History class dancing on the Harkness table with Mr. Raby during one of his out-of-the-box lessons. And I will never forget the day Mrs. O'Mara (who now trusts me enough to babysit her children, might I add) kicked me out of the classroom during lab for pulling away someone's chair as he went to sit down.

Another memory somewhat burned into my brain is the very first day of sophomore year, when Mrs. McGrath came running down the hall to give me one of her great, yet mildly suffocating, hugs right in front of the senior couches. And I highly doubt I will meet a professor in college who I will greet and with whom I will end up having a five-minute chat like I do with Mrs. Landau. The Pingry teachers have served as support systems and mentors for me throughout my high school career, and even the absurd amount

of work they have assigned over the years has not changed my appreciation for all of them.

A special attribute of Pingry is that everybody can find their own niche, whether that be music, theater, clubs, or my particular niche, athletics. I love winning, and therefore, by the transitive property, I love Pingry sports, because we win. However, there is so much more about our sports teams that I am going to miss. What has kept me playing three sports these past four years is simply how fun the teams are. After a long and stressful day at Pingry, nothing is better than stepping onto the field and letting off some steam with teammates. The only thing I would change about Pingry sports is the fan support; the girls' Varsity Basketball team had an incredible season this year, breaking records left and right, but our greatest achievement

was getting more than five student fans to attend a game. Everyone seriously needs to stop studying and watch a game, or buy tickets to the play and musical to support the community.

To be honest, I could not be more ready to move on from Pingry and begin my college years. Yet, I would never change the time I have spent as a member of the Pingry community. Despite what most people think, the best part about being a senior is not that you run the school (which we do), but that you realize how little time is left and take advantage of it. I hate to sound cheesy, but if I could give one piece of advice it would simply be, "Relax." I spent way too much time stressing, and it wasn't until second semester, when I finally became a victim of senioritis, that I had this epiphany. Instead of embracing Pingry's new motto, "excellence and honor," strive to embody a "work hard, play hard" mentality - I know that I will at college. Sayonara, suckers!

## The Strength of the Big Blue Community

By KATE DREYFUSS (VI)

Many aspects of Pingry life have changed since I arrived as a new 5th grader in September, 2002. There is a new Middle School building, the Martinsville cafeteria is bigger, and the much-disputed John Pingry statue now greets every person who drives down our impressive driveway. One thing that has not changed, which I hope will continue to ring true for the rest of Pingry's existence, is the strength of our community.

My family and I felt this strength first-hand in the beginning of my 6th grade year, after we tragically lost two family members in an accident. Even though we were relatively new members of the community, Pingry embraced us and helped us endure the horrific circumstances in ways that I could never have imagined. The Lower School teachers and administrators made themselves available if I ever needed someone to talk to, no matter what time of day it was. My classmates did anything to help distract me from what was happening at home, from inviting me to sleep over on a school night to taking me out to dinner.

The kind gestures that Pingry offered after my family's tragedy rooted me in the community and gave me the confidence to explore all that the school has to offer. One thing that has stood out to me in particular, even beyond the wide array of academic and extracurricular opportunities, is the accessibility of the faculty. Pingry teachers not only care about helping their students; they also strive to understand who each student is as an individual. This will to understand makes the Pingry student-teacher relationship all the more solid.

The strength of the Pingry community can also be perceived in the respect that the students have for one another. This past February, I gave my senior violin recital at Juilliard in New York City. I told my classmates about it, not really expecting many of them to make the trip to New York on a cold Saturday afternoon to hear me play. To my surprise, however, after the performance was over, hordes of Pingry students overran the backstage area of the recital hall, many of whom had never attended a classical recital before. My friends' touching sign of respect for what I do outside of

school touched me deeply, and I hope to make friends in college who are equally supportive.

When I was younger, I always used to wonder why so many alumni come back to visit Pingry during their vacations from college. I now understand the reason. By the time that students graduate from Pingry, they have grown to view their teachers not only as educators, but also

as friends. Thus, in closing, I would like to thank Mr. Burns, Mr. Jenkins, and the rest of the physics office, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Geacintov, Dr. Dineen, and Mr. Vassall for the endless amounts of knowledge that they have provided for me over the past few years. And to my fellow members of the class of 2010, best of luck with college and your future endeavors.



## Students: What will you miss the most about the Class of 2010?



ASHLEY FENG (V)

"I'll miss the fencers."



ELLIS FLANNERY (III)

"Terrible drivers and interesting football players."



AMANDA HAIK (III)

"My brother."



JOSH KING (IV)

"Their fun lovingness."



HANNAH AJMANI (IV)

"The humor and enthusiasm they bring to the school."

# From Dancing in the Academiks to Starting the Poetry Slam Series: How I've Gained Confidence and Taken Risks

By MYLES BRISTOW (VI)

I've looked forward to writing my senior reflection article for years because I thought it'd be easy to write a funny article that expressed how I felt. Now that I'm here, I find that it's tougher to write than I thought. This is mostly because I don't know how to talk about graduating when, to be completely honest, there are times when I didn't even think I'd make it here. There were moments when I thought that I'd be eaten up by the stress, the rigor, the competition, and the high expectations of The Pingry School.

I even remember my first day ever coming to the Martinsville campus. Actually, all I remember about the day is the first hour. Why? Not because of how big the school seemed to me (that feeling has long since worn off, though it's nice to see people unaccustomed to the school stare in awe), but because my breakfast of oatmeal and a muffin made a preview on the steps that connect the Upper and Lower Commons. My nervousness was so great that I couldn't keep my breakfast down. Redecorating the steps before I had even been accepted to the school seemed like a sure sign of trouble. However, the school accepted me anyway, and six years later, here I am.

Trying to convey my feel-

ings toward Pingry is like trying to look at two sides of the same quarter at the same time. On the one hand, I feel extremely satisfied at the fact that not only have I finished high school but that I was able to exceed some of my own expectations before my last days at Pingry. April 30th could not have come sooner.

On the other hand, I know there are people, friends, and teachers who I will sorely miss, and whose presence in my daily life made the stress and sleep deprivation worthwhile. Friends were the distraction I both needed and should've stayed away from during my six years at Pingry,

*Trying to convey my feelings toward Pingry is like trying to look at two sides of the same quarter at the same time.*

and I can never thank them enough for being the ears that listened to my annoying voice, or the annoying voice that I begrudgingly listened to.

But I cannot say that I will leave Pingry empty handed. Pingry's competitive environment forced me to pick up some tools I might've never found otherwise, like the ability to take risks and explore. Someone once said, "With a high level of intelligence, comes a high level of arrogance." Conceptually, this statement reaches the heart of my experience with what I will call the "Pingry mentality." We demand "Excellence and Honor" because we have high expectations, but deep down, it's also because we're a little bit arrogant. And that's okay.

For me specifically, the

Academiks Dance Crew and the Myles Bristow/David Martin Poetry Series were risks I took because I was arrogant enough to believe they'd be successful. At the same time, when there were mishaps, mistakes, close calls and disappointments. I

learned to be humble and to try to make a positive out of a negative. As an alum of the People of Color Conference, those risks I took became fueled by the desire to reach other people and share the blessings and opportunities I've received. If I'm confi-

dent enough, arrogant enough to own the world (which, for better or worse, many people in Pingry are), I might as well change it for the better. And if I must leave, I might as well leave behind something that people can use to improve themselves and others. The

building that is designed like a spaceship is not what made my Pingry experience worth having. It was the people; it was the teachers who pushed me to find my full potential and the friends who pulled me out of myself and onto that stage.

## Appreciating Pingry's Diversity and Learning to Prevail Like A Champion

By DAVID KERR (VI)

As I finish ISP I feel that my days are a combination of reflecting on the past and looking towards the future: looking at the person I am now and imagining who I could be in the future.

Senior year has been great (though when I say senior year I really mean the second semester). College visits were the highlights of my year; it is hard not to have a great time when you have a team trying to convince you that their team is the most fun and has the most to offer. In addition, it was also a good way to meet people who I'll be playing sports against in my next four years. I'll certainly miss my teammates this year on both the squash and tennis teams (shout outs to Martin Bawden (VI), Will Moore (VI), and Chloe Blacker (VI) for four years of squash together and James Chin (VI), Brian Weiniger (VI), and Nic Meiring (VI) for some great tennis seasons). Some of my greatest moments at Pingry were

with these latter tennis boys, including the time when my partner and I won the Somerset county doubles tournament and when our team played all the way to the state tournament finals. Even though the team fell just short of winning the entire competition, it was fun progressing through the tournament with our close-bonded team. These memories I will forever cherish and carry on in my future years.

In my time at Pingry, there have always been obstacles I have had to overcome, but I have learned to prevail like a true champion. I have been going to Pingry since the middle of

second grade, and I can truly say my time here has been educational but also fun. I am super excited to enter the real world with the skills and knowledge I have acquired from my Pingry experience.

*I can truly say that my Pingry experience has been well rounded.*

I will always remember the days at school where I had the most interesting conversations with my teachers who became some of my great friends. I can't believe that I am graduating and going to college in the fall. It seems like only yesterday when I was in the Lower Campus spending my free time playing Punch-ball.

I can truly say that my Pingry experience has been well rounded. With Pin-

gry's openness and diverse crowd of students, I was not afraid to take chances and participate in activities that I never would have probably joined if I were enrolled in a different school. For example, this year I participated in the production of "Sweeney Todd." Even though this was completely out of my comfort zone, the students who did these productions before were open and were very willing to teach me. In fact, I think that the biggest thing that Pingry has given me is a plethora of opportunities.

To the underclassmen that will be still here, do not be afraid to take risks and try something different, you might come out with memories that you will never forget.

## Overcoming My Fears of Conforming to Pingry Culture

By NICK RICE (VI)

It was the spring of 2006. I stood, skateboard in hand, on the gazebo in the park in my hometown, contemplating the staircase I was about to hurl myself down. My friend, who was getting ready to film this stunt, commented on the irony of me attending a private school as he set up the shot. Casually leaned up against a "No Skateboarding" sign, I was completely decked out:

black and red Converse All Stars, skinny black jeans, a black studded belt with splattered red spray-paint, a matching Slayer pentagram t-shirt and belt buckle, and, of course, my infamous afro. I laughed his comment off, but I was actually hit by the fear that Pingry might turn me into some sort of robot-like conformist. Four years later, with a taste for oxfords, wing-tips, blazers, striped ties, and J. Crew, (but the same old independent spirit) I can finally look back and laugh

at what was, at that time, a very realistic fear.

Of course when I look back at my time as a metal head, a punk, a reggae fan to the point of trying to become a Rastafarian, it is obvious that I have changed. I wear different clothes, listen to different music, and have different opinions, as anyone does as they grow up. However, the important

*You must only ask one simple question: do you like who you are?*

part isn't what has changed, but what I've gained: new friends, new experiences, new interests,

and an array of different teachers and mentors who have been able to guide me along the way. These things, among others, are the parts of Pingry that I will be able to take with me as I leave. Unfortunately, I also have a tendency to look back and see the low points of my academic career: the bad grades, the late papers, the alert notices. But, I urge everyone not to bother dwelling on those. These, alternatively, are the parts I want to leave behind.

The bottom line is that as

graduating seniors, we are in one the most advantageous positions of our lives. This is one of the few times in a person's life where there is a definitive line between the past and the future. Instead of dwelling on the past or worrying about the future, you must only ask one simple question: do you like who you are?

The beauty of this time in our lives is simple. If the answer to that question is yes, then, awesome. Keep it up. If the answer is no, then you are about to enter a place where you can learn from your mistakes and experiences and not have to worry about your past. While most of us tend to regret our mistakes and worry about our futures, now is the best time to take a page out of Mr. Sluyster's Literature of Enlightenment class. "Be here now," as Ram Das' book title so simply urges. This is the best way to let go of our pasts and transition naturally into our futures. Keep what you want and let the rest go, and move into the next stage of your life ready to be the person you want to be.

By COURTNEY HULSE (VI)

I've been at Pingry for seven years now. I was awkward when I started and I'm awkward now. Inherently I'm the same person, but in many ways I have changed, and Pingry has everything to do with it. Granted, had I been at a different high school during these formative years it would have impacted my growth as a teenager and as an individual, but Pingry is special; we all know it, and really it isn't for any one reason. It's because there are many reasons and for each one of us it may be different.

It strikes me that out of the 133 kids in our graduating class, each has had a unique experience here, and it only makes sense. There is so much going on, so much to get involved in, so many people to get to know, so many things to understand, and yet it's all part of one thing. It's the era of hockey games and papers and school dances, and that era is coming to a close. No doubt we've still got a lot of growing up to do, but we're due for a new setting to make our mistakes. We came, we were here, and now it's time to leave.

I have to admit I've been feeling the tug of the exciting things that lie ahead - I made a "graduation" playlist in February - but at the same time I've become nostalgic of the time I've spent at Pingry. It's a complex emotion,

graduating. We're moving on, and it's been scheduled to happen this way ever since we read our first words in kindergarten.

It's like the map of departures at the airport: we're all starting at the same place, but it's just a little dot on the map, and now we're about to take off in different directions like the planes branching out like spider legs to their varied destinations. I can only imagine what the future holds for some of my classmates, but I have a weird feeling that one day I'm going to wake up and realize that my high school class is running the country, and to look at them it's definitely plausible.

There is so much talent in this group of my peers, and I feel lucky to have gone through high school with them. It is

because they set the bar high that I have come as far as I have, and for that I am grateful. In a way we owe it to each other for who we've become, and not only because we have competed with each other, but because we have supported each other through it all. These kids will forever be the "kids we graduated high school with," a bond that can transcend space and time, for even twenty years from now, when we run into a classmate

we will still share our Pingry roots and everything that the phrase implies.

With our graduation approaching, I've found my friends and family reminiscing about memories of their own graduations, and for me it's driven home the fact that this only happens once. It's funny, the obscure details that some people remember, and rather than be nervous, I find myself wondering what I'll take away from such a milestone of a day.

Already I've taken so much away from my experiences at Pingry. There have been

*I have a weird feeling that one day I'm going to wake up and realize that my high school class is running the country.*

countless times when I've silently thanked my parents for making me come here, and I don't think even they could have known the extent of it's impact. Some things from Pingry will stay

with me forever, like where to put a comma in a parenthetical citation and what kind of bonding exists in network solids, but also how to look someone in the eye when I'm talking to them and to keep in mind that everyone has a story. I'll remember the assemblies and cookie Fridays to be sure, but it's the general sense of being here that already keeps coming back to me, that abstract feeling that I was part of something irreplaceable.

# How Far We've Come Since Those Freshman Crushes

By ALEX SCAVONE (VI)

Richard Bradley '07 was tall, dark, and handsome. As Varsity Soccer and Varsity Lacrosse captain, he could put any high school movie stud to shame. I will never forget the first time I saw him strutting off the soccer field one unbearably hot day in August. He ambled towards the athletic entrance and wiped the sweat off his brow with one smooth, swift flick of the wrist. I watched those sacred droplets of perspiration hit the pavement in slow motion as I stood mesmerized on the sidelines of the field hockey field with my mouth guard protruding out of my agape jaw. There it was, right in front of me: pure, unadulterated man. Borrowing words from Ivan Turgenev, "From that day, my 'passion' began."

There was no turning back; I was fully committed to Richard Bradley from head to neon green polished toes. Upon reflection, the most mortifying part of all of this was that he knew. He was not merely observant of my erratic behavior in his presence or simply

aware of the fact that I found him attractive (because really, who didn't?). No, he was made keen to the fact that I was bona fide in love with him, and it was all because of that unforgettable fall day.

While passing by the soccer seniors, I turned to my friend and made a comment about Richard's beautiful physique. In typical fashion, I spoke in a rather loud whisper. The snickering that ensued from Richard's friends was horrifying enough for my self-conscious freshman self. My woes, un-

fortunately, were far from over. Meandering down the athletic halls one afternoon, I overheard the deep sonata of voices that could only belong to senior boys flowing out of the trainer's office. "Did you hear what little Scavone said about Bradley?" one voice said. I stopped suddenly at the mention of my name. "Oh, you guys didn't?" the voice continued. I pressed up against the wall in absolute humiliation as I eavesdropped on the painfully slow

retelling of my horrors and the loud chuckles of the senior boys that ensued.

It didn't end there. One night, during a family dinner, I casually asked my mother if I could go to the Boys' Soccer State Final Game. "Why?" my brother jeered with a smirk on his face, "Supporting Richard?" I sank down in my chair and wallowed in my humiliation.

My trials continued the following week. Deserted hallway. Myself on one end. Richard at the other. I shuffled along, glancing down at my feet, then up at him, then quickly down again. When we were approximately five feet apart, it happened. Richard removed one hand from his pocket and did the unthinkable: he waved. Flustered, I turned bright red and erupted into a flood of giggles as I happily rushed onward.

Although these memories still make me cringe in horror, I must admit that I find them undeniably

endearing. While Richard has probably forgotten my name, these memories remain to me as fresh as they were three years ago. New senior classes have come and gone, and with them new senior crushes, but something special remains about Richard, as I am sure remains about everyone's first senior crush.

Maybe in our desperate struggle to figure out who we are, we get caught up in who we want to be, or in my case, who we want. While we were urgently attempting to escape from the aftermath of growth spurts and oily skin, those certain seniors – the ones we can still name all these years later – lightheartedly walked the halls with faultless smiles, perfect clothes, and unmatched confidence.

Now that I am a senior myself, I have gained invaluable clarity: I see that I do not have it all, and in reality, no senior does. While I finally have that confidence that I so badly wanted, I still spill on myself when I wear white, and I always will. Time moves on, braces come off, but within all of

us remains that awkward freshman. In our journey to define ourselves, we are undeniably aided by our impressions of those sacred seniors. I want to dedicate this reflection to those of us who have suffered from such torturous

unrequited loves. While maybe the days of engraving hearts that enclose *RB + AS* in the library cubicles are long gone, I smile at the fact that in some freshman boy's mind I am *that* senior girl. And so the cycle continues....



## The Heart of Pingry Lies in Education

By LOUISA LEE (VI)

It's done. Finito. Caput. We've finally made it through, and we've officially received our Pingry diplomas. And now that it's "over," all those long nights of cramming for science tests and prepping for College Board cruelty seem like they happened in a blink of an eye. And yet, I feel so distant from the gangly fifth grader that first walked through Pingry's doors.

Looking back, I recall several funny incidents. I remember being forgotten at the lower campus after school, fighting back tears as Mr. Corvino and Mr. Vehslage

tried to cheer me up. I remember making up code names for boys in middle school. I remember trying to write "high school" essays for the first time in ninth grade and literally learning how to run (my coordination skills were in serious need of improvement).

I remember almost puking at track practices and eating ice cream with the team. I remember playing capture the flag after dark, pulling all nighters to write essays for Mrs. Grant, praying for a decent grade in AP U.S. History, and spending hours with Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Leonhard before, during, and after school. So what does it mean? What is a Pingry diploma really worth?

Some would argue a lot less than the tuition we pay, but obviously, at the risk of

playing the ultimate cliché, it's really more. The Pingry student is unique. I'm not sure there are very many other schools where kids giggle about DNA helicase unzipping their genes.

But we gain this valuable knowledge from their teachers. It is undeniable that the amazing faculty at Pingry creates the special learning environment that exists in our classrooms. Pingry would not have the reputation it does without the incredible people that teach and mentor us.

In fact, I've been here eight years and have been a little nervous at every graduation or teacher's retirement that Pingry won't

ever be the same. In my eyes, Pingry will always represent this amazing relationship between students and teachers. So even though the (memorable and incredibly amazing) Class of 2010 is leaving Pingry behind, and the Class of 2011 is stepping up, Pingry will still be Pingry.

Now that I've graduated, it's time to transition back to the life of a freshman (this time at college). I'm nervous, because I've grown so much with my peers and teachers aiding and surrounding me. One thing I can assuredly take with me is my Pingry education: memories of working harder than I thought possible, getting closer to teachers than I thought possible, and becoming friends with so many people. So thank you, Pingry, and congratulations Class X.

*The amazing faculty at Pingry creates the special learning environment.*

## The Life of the Field and Classroom

By SAM FISHER (VI)

It's hard to believe that my time at Pingry has come to an end. The last few weeks of ISP and assemblies have seemed almost surreal at times. I think the best way to reflect on my Pingry experience is to recall a few stories, so here we go...

I will always remember Señora Carr's 6th grade homeroom. From our most embarrassing assembly presentation, "Al fin de la semana, no voy a quedar en la cama," to secretly playing with Señora's Beanie Babies before she got there, we had a pretty good time as 6th graders. I still remember how much we all laughed when Max DeChiara (VI) accidentally got one of Señora's favorite Beanie Babies stuck on top of the fan. His deathly-scared look was hilarious to see.

I'll also remember 2006 when I roomed with my fellow eighth graders at the time, Anthony Parisi (VI), Myles Bristow (VI), and Dan Muller (VI), in Washington D.C. I remember waking up at 3:00 in the morning and realizing that none of them had even fallen asleep yet. We then decided to order room service ice cream (at 3 AM). It was incredibly fun, and I still remember holding in our laughs when Mr. Phil Cox announced room service would be banned the next night thanks to people ordering in the middle of the night.

I will always remember my Pingry football experience as well. It's amazing to think how much we changed from freshman to senior year. I remember the pasta parties and being forced to

crawl around and seem stealth like Splinter Cell. I remember being on scout team, being double-teamed by Zach Flowerman '07 and Russell Simpson '07, something no little freshman should ever have had to do...

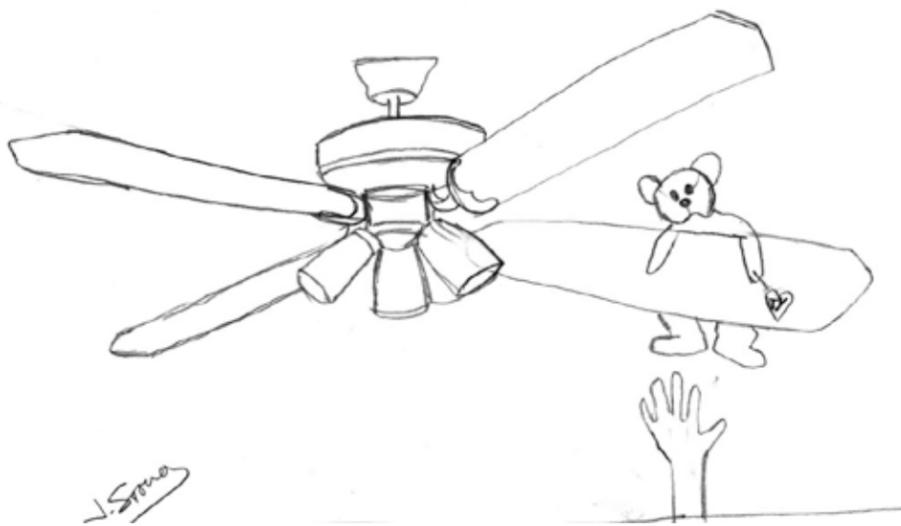
Then, I remember it all changing junior year with Coach Shilts. I will never forget beating Bernards in the mud to clinch a playoff birth for the first time since we were in middle school. Lastly, I will always remember the senior Football boys who went through it all with me for all four years: Will Evenson, Alex Mole, Billy McFarland, Charlie Laud, Chris Christensen, Muller, Spencer Topf, Dylan Westerhold, and Tyler Zoidis.

I will always remember Pingry Quiz Bowl. From fake names to Brian Jenkins songs, we had so many inside jokes and good memories. Even today, nothing feels better than beating teams in suits. And meeting the host of

Quiz Bowl, JCotter, was pretty fun too.

I will always remember my favorite Pingry subject, math. Trig with Mr. Jaqua was always entertaining. Then, back-to-back years with Mr. Thomson gave me stories to tell for years and years. The Big Momma exam might have been the best intellectual experience for me in high school. Last, but certainly not least, was Math 6 with Coach Tremontana. "Children, babies, Brier," might be my favorite quote of high school. We had so much fun in that class, and it is truly sad to leave it.

I will always remember my Computer Science classes too. Mr. Burkhart introduced me to programming sophomore year, and I never looked back. I'm so happy I was able to take computer science for my last three years of high school, and look forward to continuing my studies next year at Stanford. I will always remem-



## Seniors: Why is the Class of 2010 the best?



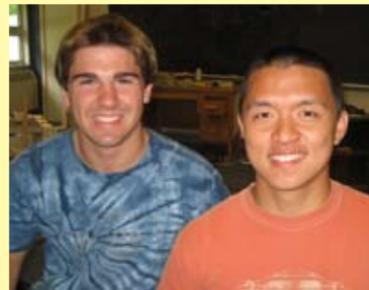
**SOFI BARRIONUEVO (VI)**  
"Because Russo's in it."



**VICTORIA LEE (VI)**  
"We're a very close knit community."



**AARON DAVIS (VI)**  
"Because we've got an impossible dream."



**JON CIRIELLO (VI) + BRIAN ZHOU (VI)**  
"Because we're so damn good looking."



**COURTNEY HULSE (VI)**  
"We're always supporting each other."

# Embracing What Finding My Identity in Accoutrements Makes Us Different

By JASMIN NEAL (VI)

Just when I thought that I was finally done with Pingry...along comes another assignment! This seemingly simple task of reflecting on my Pingry experience has turned into a struggle of trying to shove four years' worth of experiences and memories into the minute existence of 600 words. I'm not really sure where to begin, so I guess I'll just start from the beginning....

Coming here *I just wish it could last a little while longer.* As this stage in my life closes, I know that these four short years have set the stage for some fantastic things to happen in my future and I am forever grateful to everyone in my life, and Pingry for all that has happened here. To my family, teachers, friends, and advisors: Thank you for all of your love, support, guidance, and wisdom. Even though I may not have appreciated it at the time, I truly am grateful for it now. And lastly, to Class X: We made it! Through all of the research papers and retreats, essays and explications, break-ups and boring assemblies, parties and pranks, through all of the dances and dissections, classes and couches, teachers and trainers, projects and Pizza Brothers, through all of the good times, bad times, and everything in between, we made it! And never forget, no one will ever be able to be a perfect '10 like we were. Goodbye and good luck.

world will know what it was to be a member of our Pingry class.

Although it was always there, it took a while for us as a class to see it and embrace it for what it was. You know, it's funny. All throughout high school and even in lower grades, all that we look forward to is growing up: graduating from high school, going to college, and being on our own. But now that it's finally reality, I just wish it could last a little while longer.

As this stage in my life closes, I know that these four short years have set the stage for some fantastic things to happen in my future and I am forever grateful to everyone in my life, and Pingry for all that has happened here.

To my family, teachers, friends, and advisors: Thank you for all of your love, support, guidance, and wisdom. Even though I may not have appreciated it at the time, I truly am grateful for it now.

And lastly, to Class X: We made it! Through all of the research papers and retreats, essays and explications, break-ups and boring assemblies, parties and pranks, through all of the dances and dissections, classes and couches, teachers and trainers, projects and Pizza Brothers, through all of the good times, bad times, and everything in between, we made it! And never forget, no one will ever be able to be a perfect '10 like we were. Goodbye and good luck.

By NEHA SRIVASTAVA (VI)

Pingry has taken over my bedroom. A Pingry calendar hangs over my bookshelf, a large white P is tacked slightly off-kilter onto my armoire, and Pingry pencils fill a coffee mug emblazoned with those same six white letters. PINGRY binders are scattered throughout my bookshelf, several peeling from their years of use. Approximately a third of my closet is stocked with Pingry apparel, excluding the Big Blue sweatshirt I have on right now.

I must admit my obsession for Pingry paraphernalia doesn't stop there. Once, I purchased the Pingry chocolate bar from the bookstore. I probably could have reasoned that this candy, four times the price of a regular Hershey's, would not be four times more delicious. Forget my parents' expressions when they see the account bill. A Pingry keychain, a Pingry bear shaped toothbrush, a Pingry pez dispenser? Load me up.

Often, I wondered what compels me to buy this stuff. Do I need constant reminders that I attend Pingry? Or, are the items just superior, because of the name attached? In my earlier years (Ninth and tenth grade) of commercial incongruity, I justified my spend-thrift ways with this argument: Pingry is the best private school in New Jersey, and I'm proud to show that I belong to the best.

Yet, as I'm about to leave Pingry, I realize that wasn't it, at all. Over the past four years, I spent an inordinate amount of time at the upper school campus. Between classes, club meetings,

and sports practice, on an average day, I spent more time at Pingry than I did at my own house. I have grown the most through my time at Pingry—it has seen the best, and the worst, in me.

That green Pingry binder, stuffed with crinkly white pages of scribbled numbers, says that Trem successfully stuffed mathematical knowledge into my reluctant brain. That large white P reminds me of how Mr. McAnally related jazz to ice hockey and how I often forgot to put on pants before leaving the locker room. The Pingry sweatshirt I'm wearing right now, exists to say that I spent hours reading students' debate cases, gave presentations on advanced genome technology for SYFASE, and curled up on the senior couches during frees.

Pingry is a part of my identity, whether I like it or not. Thus, these Pingry related objects are simply extensions of myself, bought or used because they express who I am and what I've done.



I'm guessing that it's the same for all of us. Pingry is the locus of our academic, social, musical, artistic and athletic growth. Here, we have laughed, cried, learned, sang, and ran. We may resent certain aspects of our school, but nonetheless, it is ours. We feel Pingry pride, not just because it is the best high school in New Jersey, but because we are Pingry, and it is us.

I cleaned up my room the other day. Now all of my Pingry related

stuff lies in a corner, in a large pile, to go in a box in my attic. In a few months, I'll head off to college. I'll return for vacations, though, and maybe I'll remember that box, head up to the attic, comb through its contents, and immerse myself in the memories that these objects contain. Today, I am ready to put those memories aside and perhaps start collecting accoutrements of another name. But I think I'll keep on this sweatshirt, at least until the sun comes up.

## Taking A Long Walk Down Memory Lane

By BOZHENA LISKO (VI)

I first entered the walls of the Pingry School in the beginning of ninth grade. The school seemed grandiose, the walls formidable, the institution intimidating. There existed an air of higher learning that I wanted to breathe in, as if somehow inhaling Pingry air would make me wiser. This seems a bit exaggerated but I promise you this is how I viewed education even at a young age. However, what I discovered over my four years was much more significant than IQ-enriched oxygen. I hope I'm not too cliché when I say that I discovered myself at Pingry.

Recently, I found myself in a conversation with my mother about the legacy a student leaves behind when he or she graduates. I have found my Pingry legacy to remain with the great teachers at this institution: in every serious discussion and witty repartee. They have been much more than just teachers to me, and therefore I devote this piece to them. Thank you to all of you who have touched my life in some meaningful way.

I will start my recognition geographically in the cavernous depths of the science wing. Many people know of my interests in science, but I will proudly say that my career in the major league of science started with Pingry. The teachers saw potential in me and helped it flourish. They were my greatest mentors, debaters, and public relations consultants. I honestly cannot picture my life unfolding any other way. I recall a great SMART Team trip to San Francisco, California. It has remained my favorite field trip at Pingry. Perhaps it was the Cali climate but I think we all grew closer over those couple of days. I still have my dorky amino acid necklace that spells my name. I can't say that I've worn it too many times.

Then, if you go up the stairs from the Science Department, you'll enter the welcoming English Department. Now despite my love for the sciences, the English department managed to turn me into a writer and quite the rampant

Edgar Allan Poe fanatic. I know I may have scared you with the dark imagery and repetitive broken husband-wife relationships in my poems, but I really cultivated a skill and passion that I never really knew existed. There's something to be said for philosophical Mr. Li debates, flowery Mrs. Grant language, and legendary Mr. Keating films. You are quite a special department, full of color and personality. Thank you for giving me a voice.

Walk down the hallway and turn left. You now hit the History office. I find it hard to believe we ever made it through AP US History with the raging political debates led by Alex Mole (VI) and Calvin Jones (VI). Yet our opinions were readily heard and encouraged. That's what I loved about this school. Most importantly History Department, I loved your interest in my Ukrainian heritage. I was proud to share my cultural traditions with you.

Turn left at the next two corners, walk above the senior couches, past the main office, and turn left. In the ever-central math wing, my math career was very, well, math-y. I will miss the baseball bats and subtle name-dropping in word problems, the noise complaints, and two VERY prominent math teachers, if you catch my drift. Turn left again and you will hear a commanding manly voice in the hallway. You have reached the Language Department.

Lastly, my love goes to the Señors and Señoras of Pingry. You have captivated my soul with the Spanish language, introduced me to the mysteries of Borges, and offered me some of the most inspiring advice in the world. To all the teachers I have and have not named, you have left an ever-lasting impression in my life. I honestly enjoyed coming to school because of you and I know that many of my fellow classmates are just as grateful to you. I've asked many of them the biggest thing they will miss about Pingry, and honestly, the answer is always the teachers. Our personal connections to you will never be forgotten.

## Four Years of Being So Close Yet So Far

By NANCY ECKENTHAL (VI)

I'm sitting at my kitchen table attempting to reflect on my four years at The Pingry School. The only words that seem to accurately describe my high school career come together in a cliché usually used to react to disappointment or a near-miss situation: so close, yet so far. In geographic proximity, relationships to friends, and test scores and grades, I have been so close, yet so far from this school.

I have lived virtually across the street from The Pingry School for the past twelve years, yet I had no idea it even existed until my brother, Scotty '08, applied for a spot in the freshman class of 2004. So close, yet so far. Upon his acceptance and the start of his first semester at Pingry, he quickly became a legend. His success with his peers, his teachers, and the administration impressed my parents and persuaded them to urge me to apply as well. With applications, interviews, and independent school standardized tests behind me, I entered the freshman class in 2006. Needless to say, I certainly did not have nearly as

much social success as my brother, but that really wasn't important to me. I did all the work to the best of my ability and most of the time, it paid off with report cards that merited being taped to the fridge. But, after class, extra help, working out, and hockey practice, I rushed home. No loitering in the halls, snacking with friends until their late buses at 5:30, or doing homework with my peers on the couches. I was gone. I came to school nearly every day of the last four school years and tried my best not to spend any more time there than absolutely necessary. I live so close, but my head was always so far from Pingry.

Along with entering a new school community for high school, I also became involved in a new community outside of school, where I quickly found a place I felt safer and more like myself than I could ever imagine at home or in school. The school social hierarchy was more like a spectacle for me than a concern because I found my friends elsewhere. I stayed close with my childhood best friend who attended Watchung Hills Regional High School and

gained myriad incredible friends all over the Tri-state area through the new family into which I fell as a sophomore. Despite the exceedingly lengthier drives to those friends in comparison with those I made at Pingry, I saw my new friends every weekend whereas I saw my Pingry friends at school only. I was always so close, yet so far from the friends I made at Pingry no matter how great and fun they were. In contrast, I was so far, yet so close to my friends outside the linoleum and steel walls of this institution.

As I previously mentioned, I worked extremely hard on every homework assignment, on each English, French, and history paper, and during every study session. My report cards and interim comments were always a joy for me to read, and they gave me a sense of pride in my work and experience at Pingry. My teachers throughout the last four years have been incredibly patient and intuitive, and without their help with all my questions throughout classes and during Conference Period, there is no possible way I could have done as well as I did. But I was

always so close, yet so far from those perfect A+'s, those academic honors, and the top ends of my borderline grades. It seemed that no matter how much time I spent on my work and how much effort I exerted, I couldn't break into the "exceptional" category for any of my teachers or subjects. My success being so close, yet so far from great has actually made me a very well rounded student and helped me enjoy and put in effort equally for all of my classes.

My experience at the Pingry School may seem unconventional, antisocial, and frankly depressing to some, but for anyone who knows me, they can see that I am a perfectly happy, hard-working, motivated student and friend. I have a love-hate relationship with this institution, and I would be lying if I said I wasn't excited to be graduating. I have honestly enjoyed my teachers and the appreciated all that I have learned both about the anatomy of a fetal pig and about myself over the years. And what I will always remember about this place is that being so close, yet so far isn't necessarily a bad thing.

## Teachers: What will you miss most about the Class of 2010?



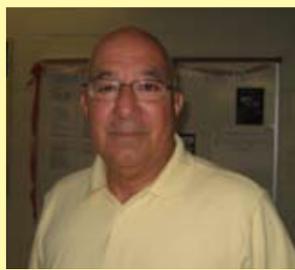
DR. DESIMONE

*"Their wide range of perspectives."*



MRS. LANDAU

*"Not being able to see the seniors when they come to visit."*



SEÑOR NAZARIO

*"Their great sense of friendship and humor."*



MRS. GRANT

*"Their joie de vivre!"*



MR. LI

*"Interesting personalities with creative potential."*

# 2010 Senior Class College Application Summary

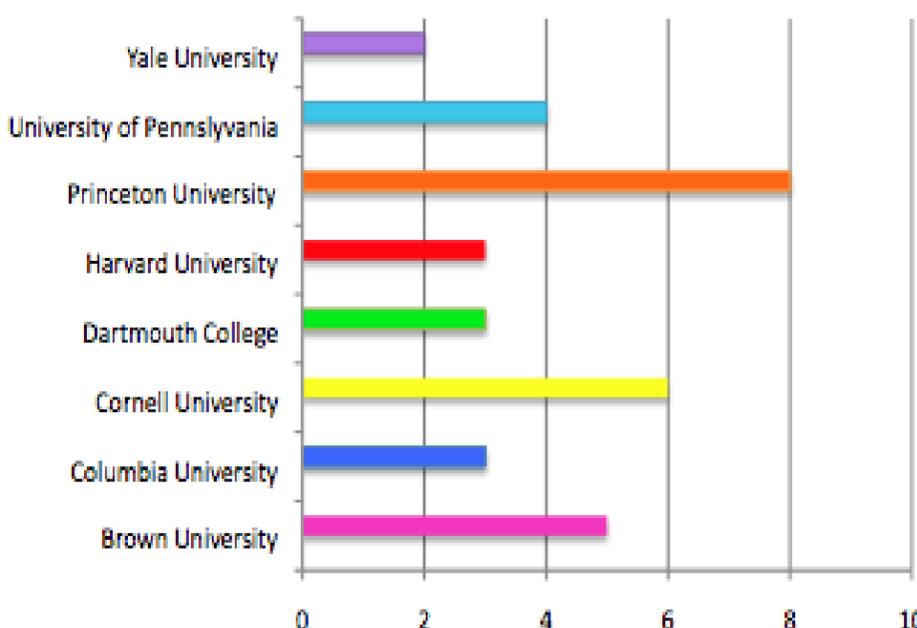
By LAKSHMI DAVEY (V)

This year, the senior class, 133 individuals, applied to 176 colleges, averaging 9.6 applications each. In the end, they decided to attend 65 different colleges. The top three schools matriculating Pingry students are Princeton University, with 8 students attending, and Cornell University and Hamilton College, each with 6 students attending (see graph). A record-breaking percent of the class, 92%, applied early,

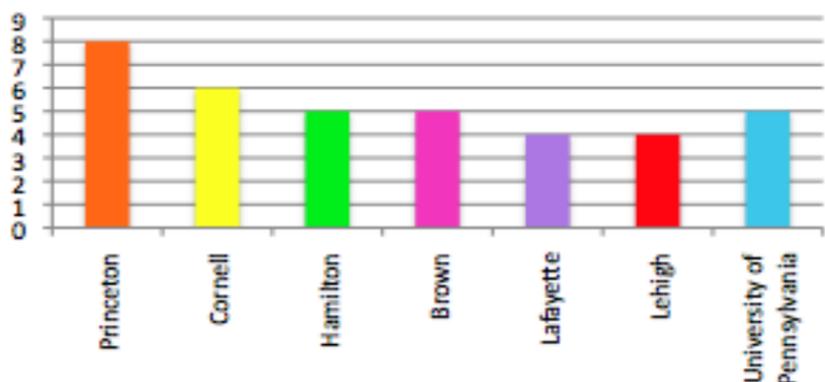
which includes either Early Decision I, II, or Early Action plans; 72% of those who applied early were admitted. 32 students applied to only one college. Furthermore, 27% of the class was admitted to an Ivy League school, slightly higher than the average for the last two years, which was 21%.

Head of College Counseling Mr. Tim Lear commented, "Although it was another exciting year for college admissions, with many schools receiving record numbers of applications

(and then turning away record numbers of qualified applicants), Pingry's seniors did very well. A few highlights stand out, such as the remarkable diversity of not only the seniors' college lists, but also their new homes for the fall. This class, like last year's, will be sending its graduates to states as varied as California and Maine, Ohio and Texas. They'll also be joining a remarkable range of schools, from large research universities to small liberal-arts colleges. Congratulations Class of 2010!"



The number of students matriculating to Ivy League universities.



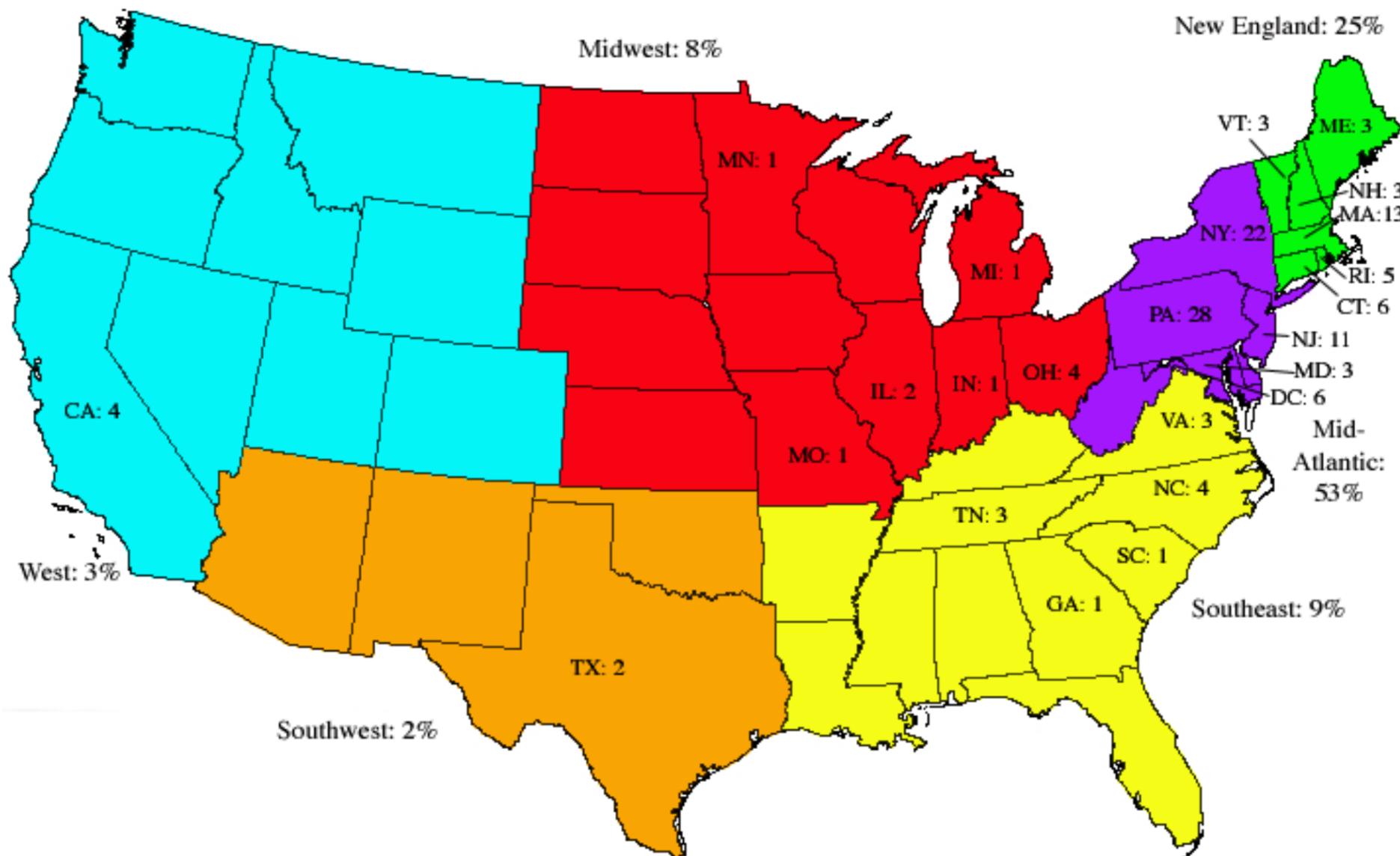
Colleges with the highest Pingry matriculation.

## Highlights:

- 14 admits to Cornell: ties highest total in 15 years (2003)
- 12 admits to NYU: highest total since 2005
- 10 admits to Columbia: highest total in a decade
- 11 admits to Princeton: highest total in 15 years
- 8 admits to Washington University (St. Louis): ties highest total in 15 years
- 7 admits to Chicago: second highest total in a decade
- 7 admits to College of William & Mary: highest total in 15 years

## New Schools for 2010:

- Baylor University: first student in a decade
- Berklee College of Music: second admit in over a decade
- Coast Guard Academy: first student admitted and enrolled in over a decade
- NYU Abu Dhabi: Pingry student in the inaugural class
- Pratt Institute: third admit in a decade
- Rhodes College: second student enrolling in a decade
- St. John's College, MA: first student enrolling in over a decade
- UCLA: highest number of admits in over a decade (3)
- USC: highest number of admits in over a decade (5)
- University of Texas, Austin: highest number of admits in over a decade (2)



A US map depicting the regional distribution of students.

# The 1902 Emblem

**T**he Class of 1902 Emblem is awarded to Samuel Fisher of the Class of 2010, who, while in The Pingry School, by the efficiency and the amount of service and loyalty of attitude has done the most for the school, and who has been judged therefore by schoolfellows and faculty to have shown of them all the greatest amount of school spirit.

The Class of 1902 Emblem represents the highest ideals of The Pingry School. The nominees chosen by their classmates and faculty are considered to embody the very principles of integrity and service that lie at the heart of the institution. Thus, even to be nominated for this award is regarded as a paramount honor.



## SAMUEL FISHER

**Years at Pingry:** Eight

**Trademark Characteristics:** Supportive, friendly, fun-loving, super fan

**Activities:** Football, Quiz Bowl, Tutoring, Volunteering at LINK Community School

**Summer Plans:** Working at Epoch Investment Partners in NYC, family vacations, baseball games, and hanging with friends.

**College Plans:** Stanford

**Career Possibilities:** Tech entrepreneur, finance,

education

**Faculty Mentors:** Mr. Thomson, Coach Shilts, Mr. Burkhart, Mr. Coe, Mr. Trem, Coach Leef, and more

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** Beating Bernards in the mud to clinch Football's first playoff birth in four years.

**What I'll Take Away:** Great relationships with teachers and friends, memories of being with the Blue Army in the stands, countless laughs on the football field, "Solids and Solvents," and "Children, babies, Brier"



## MYLES BRISTOW

**Years at Pingry:** Six

**Trademark Characteristics:** Outgoing, occasionally insightful, helpful, active, artistic, creative, dynamic

**Activities:** Student Government, Track, Art, Academiks, Poetry, Shades of Color Club

**Summer Plans:** Working at the YMCA Summer Camp, hanging out with friends, college shopping

**College Plans:** Trinity College

**Career Possibilities:** Cartooning, Graphic Design, Author/Illustrator, Education

**Faculty Mentors:** Mr. Nazario, Mr. Shilts, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Leef, Mr. Crowley-Delman, Dr. Parvensky, Mr. Corvino, Dr. Artis, Mrs. Hymas

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** Dancing on Rufus Gunther Day with the Academiks; the PCC in New Orleans

**What I'll Take Away:** How to stand behind what I believe; how to get back up and keep going when I've fallen down.



## MAX DeCHIARA

**Years at Pingry:** Thirteen

**Trademark Characteristics:** Caring, friendly, being the only guy in Drama class

**Activities:** Honor Board, Peer Leadership, Fall Play, Winter Musical, Pingry Record

**Summer Plans:** Working and spending time with friends

**College Plans:** Swarthmore College

**Career Possibilities:** Law, politics, something to do with writing? I honestly have no idea.

**Faculty Mentors:** Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Hearst, Dr. Dineen, Mrs. Landau, Dr. DeSimone, Mr. Romano, Ms. Chatterji, Mr. Lear, and many others.

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** The Senior Peer Leadership Retreat; performance week for "The Comedy of Errors"

**What I'll Take Away:** Fantastic memories, a great education, and the many relationships I have built over the past thirteen years.



## COURTNEY HULSE

**Years at Pingry:** Seven

**Trademark Characteristics:** Friendly, good listener, apt to insert random facts into conversation

**Activities:** Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Student Government, Blue Key, Tennis, Glee Club

**Summer Plans:** Working at the beach, reading, playing tennis

**College Plans:** Vanderbilt

**Career Possibilities:** I'd like to study anthropology; the rest is still a mystery

**Faculty Mentors:** Mr. Sluyter, Mr. McAnally, Mr. Burns, Mrs. McGrath, Señor Vasquez, Señor Naz

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** AP Chem raves

**What I'll Take Away:** Lasting friendships, priceless memories, the knowledge that I'm capable of more than I think, the ability to write a good essay in the amount of time it takes to bake a cake



### ERIKA LAMPERT

**Years at Pingry:** Six

**Trademark Characteristics:** Outgoing, energetic, kind, and caring

**Activities:** Student Government, Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse, Vital Signs

**Summer Plans:** Playing soccer, working, hanging out with my friends before college

**College Plans:** Duke

**Career Possibilities:** I have no clue right now!

**Faculty Mentors:** Mrs. Landau, Mrs. O'Mara, Mrs. McGrath, Senora Godfrey, and countless others

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** Almost being suspended in middle school for saying "anus" in a science project. And sweeping the Skyland conference this year!

**What I'll Take Away:** I am very grateful for the years I have spent at Pingry. The students and faculty here are truly special and I feel incredibly prepared to move on to college next year.



### LOUISA LEE

**Years at Pingry:** Eight

**Trademark Characteristics:** Friendly and always running

**Activities:** Cross-Country, Swimming, Track, Vital Signs, Girls Learn International

**Summer Plans:** Working at the Sneaker Factory and spending time with my friends before college

**College Plans:** Williams College

**Career Possibilities:** Completely undecided

**Faculty Mentors:** There are SO many: Mr. Grant, Mrs. Landau, Mr. Nazario

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** Eight years has made so many memories, but being forgotten at school in fifth grade and crying as Mr. Corvino tried to cheer me up with fat jokes is one of my first.

**What I'll Take Away:** I'm so fortunate to have been able to spend eight years at a school filled with amazing and intellectual people.



### BOZHENA LISKO

**Years at Pingry:** Four

**Trademark Characteristics:** Passionate, determined, resourceful, outgoing, helpful

**Activities:** Robotics, Debate, Tennis, Women of Science, Writing Center, Quizbowl

**Summer Plans:** The European tour I've dreamed of for a very long time

**College Plans:** Princeton

**Career Possibilities:** Finding a cure for cancer, pharmaceutical industry

**Faculty Mentors:** Mrs. Grant, Mr. De, Mr. Nazario, Mr. Burkhart, Mrs. Newman and all of the faculty members I've had the opportunity to work with

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** S.M.A.R.T. Team with Mr. Hata, getting lost with Mr. Jenkins en route to robotics

**What I'll Take Away:** The opportunities Pingry has given me. I've truly been able to thrive and mature because of the personal relationships I've developed with both the faculty and students.



### VICTORIA MORGAN

**Years at Pingry:** Four

**Trademark Characteristics:** Outgoing, happy, and always there to give a hug

**Activities:** AFS, POCC, Robotics, Basketball

**Summer Plans:** Working at Ninety Acres Culinary School, spending time with my family and friends before heading off to college

**College Plans:** Vassar College

**Career Possibilities:** Bio-engineering, Sports Psychology, Teacher, Chef

**Faculty Mentors:** Mr. Raby, Mr. Hadbavny, Mr. Maxwell and most every other teacher at Pingry

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** The first and only English trip to Greece with Ms. Kicenuik and Mr. Shilts — lots of laughs and great memories.

**What I'll Take Away:** The amazing opportunities I have been given and the countless friendships I have made.



### SEAN SALAMON

**Years at Pingry:** Four

**Trademark Characteristics:** Friendly, resourceful, passionate, hard-working, jovial, always making jokes.

**Activities:** Buttondowns, all music and theatre groups, public speaking, The Record, Vital Signs

**Summer Plans:** Working, summer theatre, listening to lots of music, spending plenty of time with my friends.

**College Plans:** Currently Carnegie Mellon University.

**Career Possibilities:** Music, Theatre, Journalism, Education

**Faculty Mentors:** Mrs. Grant, Dr. Moore, Mr. Varnes, Mrs. Romankow

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** Having fun whenever all of my friends and I were together and performing in the various Pingry musicals.

**What I'll Take Away:** Pingry helped me become self-sufficient and entirely sure of who I am.



### LAURA WHITE

**Years at Pingry:** Eleven

**Trademark Characteristics:** Bubbly, friendly, optimistic, caring, and hard-working

**Activities:** Peer Leadership, Independent Research Team, Winter Musical, Balladeers, Blue Key, Liberty Corner First Aid Squad

**Summer Plans:** Server at T.G.I.F!, working with the First Aid Squad, and just having a good time

**College Plans:** Baylor!! Sic 'Em, Bears!

**Career Possibilities:** Medicine

**Faculty Mentors:** Mr. De, Miss Wolfson, Mr. Li, Mr. Hata, Dr. Parv, and so many more!

**Favorite Pingry Memory:** Way too many to pick a favorite!

**What I'll Take Away:** I will never forget my many long conversations with faculty members and the love I have for so many people within the Pingry community.

# Senior Awards

## Arts & Drama

Director's Award for Achievement in Dramatic Arts  
Drama Department Award for Technical Theatre  
Michael E. Popp Photography Prize  
B. Jerry Donahue '79 Memorial Prize for Fine Arts  
B. Jerry Donahue '79 Memorial Prize for Pottery  
Barbara Berlin Prize in Art History  
Music Award

Jennifer Gorelick  
Pamela Giangreco  
Emily Gilbert  
Katharine Conway  
Spencer Topf  
Louisa Lee  
Sean Salamon

## School Service & Leadership

Michael Jupka, Jr., '76 Blue Key Award  
Community Service Award  
Paul R. Leary '90 Award  
John Taylor Babbitt '07 Award  
Student Government Achievement Award

Jennifer Gorelick  
Laura White  
Christopher Christensen  
Alexandra Rotatori  
Courtney Hulse

## Athletic Awards

Boys' Cross-Country Award  
Girls' Cross-Country Award  
Andrea Montague Field Hockey Award  
Tom Boyer Award  
Michael Jupka, Jr., '76 Football Award  
Timothy C. Cornwall '64 Boys'  
Soccer Sportsmanship Award  
Dick Gradwohl Boys' Soccer Cup for Most Team Spirit  
Elizabeth Allan Smith '83 Girls' Soccer Award  
John R. Dufford, Jr., Tennis Trophy  
Water Polo Award  
Frank L. Romano Boys' Basketball Award

Bennett Rosenbach  
Louisa Lee  
Charlotte Small  
J. Dylan Westerhold  
William Evenson  
Andrew La Fontaine,  
Peter Martin  
Scott Keogh, Tyler Smith  
Kara Marciscano  
Natalie Battista  
Nicholas Gilligan  
William Pinke

Joe LaValley Boys' Basketball Award  
David M. Allan Memorial Girls' Basketball Award  
Virginia Nazario Fencing Award  
Varsity Boys' Ice Hockey Award  
Girls' Ice Hockey Award  
Girls' Ski Team Award  
Boys' Ski Team Award  
Boys' Squash Team Award  
Girls' Squash Team Award  
Boys' Swimming Award  
Ashley G. Marsh and Family Swimming Award  
Michael Jupka, Jr., '76 Wrestling Award  
Boys' Winter Track Award  
Girls' Winter Track Award  
Class of 1935 Graham Churchill Baseball Award  
Boys' Golf Award  
Girls' Golf Award  
Richard C. Weiler Boys' Lacrosse Award  
Girls' Lacrosse Sportsmanship Award  
Girls' Lacrosse Cup  
Boys' Tennis Award  
Boys' Track Award  
Richard G. Gradwohl Girls' Track Award  
Cipriano Family Scholar-Athlete Award  
Twelve Varsity Letter Award

Bennett Rosenbach  
Erika Lampert  
Diamond McClintock, David Martin  
Andrew La Fontaine  
Courtney Hulse  
Blake Vessa  
Alexander Daifotis  
William Moore  
Chloe Blacker  
Calvin Jones  
Regan Fink  
Spencer Topf  
Miles Bristow  
Terdoo Nwaoduh  
Ryan Kiska, Andrew Logerfo  
Chad Butler  
Taylor Guiffre  
Andrew La Fontaine  
Alexandra Rotatori  
Kathryn Bennett  
Nicolaas Meiring  
Randall Jordan, David Martin  
Terdoo Nwaoduh, Louisa Lee, Danielle Cosentino  
Danielle Cosentino, Brandon Moy  
Andrew La Fontaine, Louisa Lee

## Academic Awards

John R. Whittemore '47 Biology Award  
Ernest C. Shawcross Chemistry Award  
Antoine duBourg Physics Award  
Science Book Award  
Science Research Award  
Whitlock Prize for Math  
Union College C. A. France Award for Excellence in English  
Paul and Sarah Rouslin Excellence in English Award  
Martin B. O'Connor '26  
Journalism Award  
Yearbook Award  
Justin Society Awards  
Jean S. MacDonald History Prize  
Psychology Prize  
Spanish Prize  
French Language Prize  
German Prize  
Latin Prize  
Advanced Language Prize

Laura White  
Calvin Jones, Nicholas Gilligan  
Calvin Jones  
Regan Fink, Sean Salamon  
William Evenson, Bozhena Lisko  
Jennifer Soong, Willam Evenson  
Jennifer Soong  
Amy Gopinathan  
The Record: Jennifer Gorelick, Jennifer Soong  
Vital Signs: Erika Lampert, Louisa Lee  
Kathryn Bennett  
Poetry: Amy Gopinathan (1st), Myles Bristow, Alysia Tsui (2nd)  
Fiction: Amy Gopinathan (1st), Bozhena Lisko (2nd)  
Louisa Lee, Alexander Molé, Neha Srivastava  
Morgan Foster, Jacklyn Temares  
Bozhena Lisko  
Alexandra Cheng, Nancy Eckenthal  
Alexander Molé  
Natalie Battista, Yamini Nabar  
French: Katherine Dreyfuss, Meghan Hager  
Spanish: Brandon Brier  
Meghan Hager

## All-School Awards

Special Prize to AFS Student  
Pingry School Parents' Association Women's Sports Award  
Centennial Cup — Gift of the Class of '61  
Class of '26 Reese Williams Award  
Faculty Prize  
Charles B. Atwater Valedictory Award

Matteo Valente  
Erika Lampert  
Andrew La Fontaine  
Jonathan Brenner  
Rakesh Bhisham  
Yamini Nabar

## Cum Laude Society

Brandon Brier  
Alexandra Cheng  
Jonathan Ciriello  
Alexander Daifotis  
Maxwell DeChiara  
Katherine Dreyfuss  
Samuel Fisher  
Elizabeth Garcia  
Madeline Garcia

Emily Gilbert  
Nicholas Gilligan  
Amy Gopinathan  
Jennifer Gorelick  
Tanvi Gupta  
Calvin Jones  
Erika Lampert  
Bozhena Lisko  
Louisa Lee

Victoria Lee  
Yamini Nabar  
Jasmin Neal  
Anthony Parisi  
Bennett Rosenbach  
Sean Salamon  
Jennifer Soong  
Neha Srivastava  
Emily Xia

## Advanced Placement Scholars

Julia Blumenstyk\*  
Brandon Brier †  
Carina Chan\*  
Alexandra Cheng\*  
James Chin  
Jonathan Ciriello\*  
Katharine Conway\*  
Danielle Cosentino\*  
Alexander Daifotis †  
Maxwell DeChiara  
Katherine Dreyfuss †  
Regan Fink  
Samuel Fisher ‡  
Morgan Foster †

Stephanie Fung †  
Elizabeth Garcia  
Madeline Garcia  
Emily Gilbert †  
Nicholas Gilligan †  
Amy Gopinathan  
Jennifer Gorelick\*  
Brian Green\*  
Simon Greene †  
Taylor Guiffre  
Tanvi Gupta †  
Meghan Hager\*  
Courtney Hulse\*  
Calvin Jones ‡  
Matthew Zubrow

Nayantara Joshi  
Scott Keogh  
David Kerr †  
John Kwon\*  
Erika Lampert\*  
Louisa Lee †  
Victoria Lee †  
Bozhena Lisko †  
Andrew Logerfo †  
Brandon Moy  
Yamini Nabar ‡  
Julia Nosofsky †  
Rainie Opel  
Anthony Parisi\*  
Matthew Zubrow

William Pinke\*  
Cassidy Reich  
Lillie Ricciardi  
Bennett Rosenbach  
Alexandra Rotatori  
Philip Ryan  
Alexandra Scavone\*  
Kristin Scillia  
Jennifer Soong †  
Neha Srivastava ‡  
Alysia Tsui  
Blake Vessa  
Caroline Ward\*  
Emily Xia †

\* With Honors † With Distinction ‡ National Scholar

## National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars

Robert Allen  
Julia Blumenstyk  
Alexandra Cheng  
Jonathan Ciriello  
Alexander Daifotis  
Maxwell DeChiara  
Claeson Dillon  
Katherine Dreyfuss

Morgan Foster  
R. Pierce Fowler  
Stephanie Fung  
Elizabeth Garcia  
Jennifer Gorelick  
Brian Green  
Calvin Jones  
Rebecca Krakora

Louisa Lee  
Victoria Lee  
Bozhena Lisko  
Andrew Logerfo  
Yamini Nabar  
Anthony Parisi  
Cassidy Reich  
Lillie Ricciardi

Alexandra Rotatori  
Philip Ryan  
Sean Salamon  
Alexandra Scavone  
Kristin Scillia  
Jennifer Soong  
Spencer Topf  
Matthew Zubrow

## National Merit Scholarship Finalists

Brandon Brier  
Carina Chan  
Emily Gilbert

Nicholas Gilligan  
David Kerr  
Elisse Park  
William Pinke

Bennett Rosenbach  
Emily Xia  
P. Tyler Zoidis

## National Merit Scholarship Recipients

Danielle Cosentino  
Samuel Fisher

Courtney Hulse

Neha Srivastava  
Alysia Tsui

## National Achievement Recognition Program

Finalists: Myles Bristow, Jasmin Neal Outstanding Participant: Erin James

## National Hispanic Recognition Program

Elizabeth Garcia

Madeline Garcia

Kara Marciscano

## 2010 Presidential Scholar Semifinalist

Brandon Brier

## Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

Brandon Brier  
Jonathan Ciriello  
Alexander Daifotis

Katherine Dreyfuss  
Regan Fink  
Elizabeth Garcia  
Madeline Garcia

Jennifer Gorelick  
Calvin Jones  
David Kerr  
Rebecca Krakora

Erika Lampert  
Yamini Nabar  
Neha Srivastava

## Magistri Laudandi Award

*In every class, there is one student who graciously gives of him/herself to help the school and fellow students, who demonstrates a personal integrity and generosity that inspire the best in others. This person's own achievements are many, yet his/her sense of purpose is to the greater good. While others may be identified as "the student most likely to succeed," this person is prized as "the student who helps all succeed."*

Kathryn Bennett

Nominees

Max DeChiara  
Samuel Fisher  
Calvin Jones

John Kwon  
Erika Lampert  
Louisa Lee

Jasmin Neal  
Anthony Parisi  
Laura White

# College Placement

MICHAEL ACOSTA Cornell University	PIERCE FOWLER University of Notre Dame	CHARLES LAUD Dartmouth College	CASSIDY REICH College of William and Mary
ROBERT ALLEN Washington University in St. Louis	GLENN FRIEDMAN Syracuse University	LOUISA LEE Williams College	LILLIE RICCIARDI New York University
DINAH SOFIA BARRIONUEVO Lehigh University	STEPHANIE FUNG University of California at Berkeley	VICTORIA LEE Princeton University	NICHOLAS RICE The George Washington University
NATALIE BATTISTA Boston College	ELIZABETH GARCIA Princeton University	BOZHENA LISKO Princeton University	SUZANNE RITZDORF Southern Methodist University
MARTIN BAWDEN Hamilton College — NY	MADELINE GARCIA Dartmouth College	ANDREW LOGERFO Georgetown University	BENNETT ROSENBACH Johns Hopkins University
KATHRYN BENNETT Washington and Lee University	PAMELA GIANGRECO Gettysburg College	KARA MARCISCANO Boston College	ALEXANDRA ROTATORI Middlebury College
RAKESH BHISHAM Morehouse College	EMILY GILBERT Brown University	DAVID MARTIN Howard University	ALEXANDER RUSSONIELLO Fairfield University
CHLOE BLACKER University of Pennsylvania	NICHOLAS GILLIGAN Princeton University	PETER MARTIN Macalester College	PHILIP RYAN The George Washington University
JULIA BLUMENSTYK Colby College	CATHERINE GOLDING Duke University	DIAMOND McCLINTOCK Dickinson College	SEAN SALAMON Carnegie Mellon University
JONATHAN BRENNER Williams College	LIANE GOLE Lafayette College	MORGAN McCOLLUM Colgate University	ALEXANDRA SCAVONE Vanderbilt University
BRANDON BRIER Harvard University	AMY GOPINATHAN Princeton University	WILLIAM McFARLAND Bucknell University	KRISTIN SCILLIA Cornell University
MYLES BRISTOW Trinity College	JENNY GORELICK Brown University	NICOLAAS MEIRING Duke University	GABRIELLA SCRUDATO United States Coast Guard Academy
CHARLES "CHAD" BUTLER Bucknell University	BRIAN GREEN University of Chicago	SAM MILLER Bucknell University	RAM SINHA Lehigh University
NAHEMA CARTY Villanova University	SIMON GREENE University of California at Los Angeles	ALEXANDER MOLÉ Wake Forest University	CHARLOTTE SMALL Brown University
KATLYN CASEY Deerfield Academy	TAYLOR GUIFFRE Bowdoin College	WILLIAM MOORE Middlebury College	TYLER SMITH Middlebury College
CARINA CHAN University of Pennsylvania	TANVI GUPTA Columbia University	VICTORIA MORGAN Vassar College	JENNIFER SOONG Harvard University
ALEXANDRA CHENG Cornell University	MEGHAN HAGER Georgetown University	BRANDON MOY Johns Hopkins University	NEHA SRIVASTAVA Yale University
JAMES CHIN Villanova University	NICHOLAS HAIK Connecticut College	DAN MULLER Kenyon College	EMILY STRACKHOUSE Lehigh University
CHRISTOPHER CHRISTENSEN Haverford College	DAVID HAMILTON The Ohio State University	YAMINI NABAR University of Pennsylvania	REMY TEICHER College of Charleston
JONATHAN CIRIELLO Brown University	COURTNEY HULSE Vanderbilt University	JASMIN NEAL Columbia University	JACKLYN TEMARES Lehigh University
KATHARINE CONWAY Pratt Institute	ERIN JAMES Brown University	JULIA NOSOFSKY Cornell University	SPENCER TOPF Swarthmore College
DANIELLE COSENTINO Columbia University	CALVIN JONES Yale University	TERDOO NWAODUH Rutgers, New Brunswick	ALYSIA TSUI Rutgers, New Brunswick
ALLISON DADOURIS Lafayette College	RANDALL JORDAN Lafayette College	CHRISTOPHER O'CONNELL Boston College	BLAKE VESSA Washington and Lee University
ALEXANDER DAIFOTIS Princeton University	NAYANTARA JOSHI Hamilton College — NY	CHRISTIAN O'DONNELL Lafayette College	CAROLINE WARD Cornell University
AARON DAVIS Berklee College of Music	SCOTT KEOGH Villanova University	KATIE OGDEN Rhodes College	BRIAN WEINIGER Cornell University (Phillips Exeter Academy)
MAXWELL DeCHIARA Swarthmore College	DAVID KERR Amherst College	RAINIE OPEL Harvard University	JOHN DYLAN WESTERHOLD Kenyon College
CLAESON DILLON Hamilton College — NY	RYAN KISKA Taft School	ANTHONY PARISI University of Pennsylvania	LAURA WHITE Baylor University
KATHERINE DREYFUSS Princeton University	REBECCA KRAKORA Bowdoin College	ELISSE PARK Georgetown University	EMILY XIA University of Chicago
NANCY ECKENTHAL Mount Holyoke College	JOHANNA KREISBUCH Hamilton College — NY	ALEXANDER PARKER-MAGYAR Syracuse University	BRIAN ZHOU Washington University in St. Louis
WILLIAM EVENSON Pomona College	KELLY KURLAK Pennsylvania State University, University Park	WILLIAM PINKE Princeton University	PAUL ZOIDIS Amherst College
PAIGE FARLEY The College of New Jersey	JOHN KWON Tufts University	MAXWELL POLANS Franklin and Marshall College	MATTHEW ZUBROW Dartmouth College
REGAN FINK Kenyon College	ANDREW LA FONTAINE Gettysburg College	SPENCER POLANS Franklin and Marshall College	
SAMUEL FISHER Stanford University	JOSEPHINE LaCOSTA St. John's College	FREDERICK PORGES Hamilton College — NY	
MORGAN FOSTER Vassar College	ERIKA LAMPERT Duke University	LUKE POUNDER Syracuse University	

**As of  
June 7, 2010**

## Iconic Teacher Mr. Bill Reichle Retires

By DANIELLE WESTERMAN (V)

This year, beloved math teacher and swim coach Mr. Bill Reichle will be retiring from teaching. Since 1987, Mr. Reichle has been an icon in the Pingry middle school and has led the boys' Varsity Swim team to multiple successful seasons.

Some may not know that before he became a teacher, Mr. Reichle started his own business, Metro Swim Shop,

in Gillette in 1977. Mr. Reichle sold his business in 1982 to spend more time with his new daughter, and in those five years before coming to Pingry, he taught at Drake's Business College, Union Catholic, and Wardlaw-Hartridge.

"The students here at Pingry are great," said Mr. Reichle, "and I've stayed here so long because I love it." Although Mr. Reichle has only taught at the Martinsville campus, he has seen the

school improve and expand. Having almost always taught middle school math, Mr. Reichle recently moved from the main building into the new middle school.

Junior Julia Dowling was saddened to learn that Mr. Reichle will not be returning as a teacher next year. She said, "He was my advisor and math teacher for 7th and 8th grade, and he's one of the best teachers I've ever had."

Most high school students not only remember Mr. Reichle from the middle school, but also know him as the coach of the boy's swim team. Mr. Reichle is "so proud of all the kids that have come through the program, everyone contributing something in one way or another." After such a successful 2010 season, sweeping the state, conference, and county titles, Mr. Reichle will continue to be an adjunct coach.

Swimmer Nic Fink (V) said that Coach Reichle "always reminds the team to never take a meet for granted, and to swim our best at every meet no matter what. We were constantly preparing for the next meet, whatever that was—not just the big championships." Mr. Reichle

focuses on "little details and improving our form," according to Fink, which he claims were essential to having such a successful season.

Fellow swimmer Ned Christensen (IV) is "so glad" that Mr. Reichle will continue to coach swimming next year.

The Water Polo team is another one of Mr. Reichle's legacies here at Pingry; in 1991, some of his swimmers wanted to play a sport in the fall to get in shape for the winter swim season. Always eager to help, Mr. Reichle started the water polo team and coached it for years before passing off the job.

In addition to continuing to coach, Mr. Reichle has plans to travel and sightsee during his retirement. "I'm going to Bermuda in October to compete in an open-water swim, and I couldn't be more excited about that." Mr. Reichle also said that he and his wife are in the process of planning a cross-country road trip. They will also travel with his softball team to compete in tournaments this summer.

"I try not to shy away from challenges," said Mr. Reichle, "and every day I learn something different either in the classroom or in the pool. My students have taught me so much, as I hope I've taught them." Mr. Reichle has taught over two decades worth of Pingry students and will most definitely be missed by each one.

## Mrs. Edwards Bids Farewell to Pingry



S. Gurnani (V)

By ROXANNE FEITEL (IV)

After 27 years of service at Pingry, student registrar Mrs. Barbara Edwards is retiring. Since 1983, Mrs. Edwards has been a fixture in the Upper School office, always prepared to write late notes for tardy students and to keep track of student information.

Her favorite memories are of the wonderful friends on the faculty and staff that she has made. She also said that the kids have always been terrific, and she has fond memories of her interactions with them. She went on to explain that she will miss all of her friends and the kids she has known more than anything else. Working at Pingry, Mrs. Edwards has learned that her children "are no different than any other kids," and to be patient with people.

Alex Castle (IV) appreciated this patience every time he came to the Upper School office. "I live far away so I was late a lot

in the beginning of the year. Mrs. Edwards always greeted me with a smile and happily gave me a late note. By October, she almost had notes with my name on them ready to go when I walked in."

When Mrs. Edwards first began working, the Martinsville campus had only been in use for three weeks. So naturally, the school has changed significantly since then. During her tenure, she has noticed that the landscape has evolved over time. "There are many more fields now, and the shrubbery has grown tremendously," she said. She also remembers seeing the legendary open classrooms become contained, noting, though, that "the office hasn't changed much" since she started work there.

After she retires, Mrs. Edwards plans to spend more time at her vacation home in the Adirondacks. She and her husband plan on splitting the year between her home in New Jersey and her second home in New York.



S. Gurnani (V)

## A Historic 21 Years for Coach and Teacher Mr. John Raby

BY REBECCA SPICEHANDLER (V)

After 21 years as both a beloved teacher and coach, Mr. John Raby sadly leaves our Pingry community at the end of this year to enjoy the seemingly boundless possibilities of retirement.

His strong presence in the classroom and fervent passion in every aspect of life will forever influence those individuals lucky enough to have been his students. Former student, Lindsey Bissinger (V) said, "His enthusiasm for the subject really changed the classroom atmosphere and the entire learning experience."

Mr. Raby's desire to guide his students extends far beyond the limits of his classroom and Pingry's assigned history curriculum. Emily Combias (V) remarked, "Mr. Raby was truly an inspiring teacher. When I walked into his class each day I felt his excitement to teach and it beckoned me to become a better student."

Mr. Raby suggests that what lured him back to Pingry year after year was "the chance to influence students and do something good." And that he did, as former student Schuyler Bianco (V) remembers: "His lively spirit transformed my freshman year history class from simply learning about events and people of the past, to empowering us all to become great figures of the future."

When asked what aspect of education drew him towards the subject of history, Mr. Raby explains, "History is a vehicle to help develop young people." His ability to look at the greater picture and his genuine concern for improving the lives of those around him are just a few distinguishing attributes of a true scholar and educator.

Current chair of the history department, Dr. James Murray says he will always remember his colleague as someone who was "always learning, always willing to experiment, and never content to rest on what he had done before," adding that Mr. Raby will

forever stand as an extraordinary "character" in the minds of Pingry goers.

As an avid proponent of the Harkness method, Mr. Raby has welcomed his students every day into an open and intellectually stimulating environment in which he encourages them to contribute in classroom discussions. He describes the benefits of such a method: "Sitting at one open table, everyone can see each other and this creates a certain atmosphere. It is like going into a corporate board room and knowing you are there to do business while at the same time sitting at a dining room table where you break bread with those around you and create trust. It creates an open-ended conversation where students' thoughts guide class as much as those of the teacher. It forces them to think and participate and understand that everyone's in it together."

However, Mr. Raby's wide understanding of knowledge is not a one-way road. He admitted that he has learned just as much as he has taught from his students and colleagues throughout the years. Indeed the most valuable lessons he has gained while at Pingry are that "you can always learn something new and there is always a chance for a new start."

With shrewd parting words, Mr. Raby explained that we must learn "not to take on too much in an effort to impress." As he sees it, "frenetic activity" is not necessarily productive activity;

rather it is better to do fewer things better than many things without one's full dedication. He eagerly advised the future generations of Pingry students that character and integrity are more important qualities than glory. And indeed he continues to prove himself a living model of these words. As Amanda Flugstad-Clarke (V) remarked, "Mr. Raby is honestly one of the only teachers I've had in the past who still says hi to me in the hallways." If his inspirational words were not enough, surely his sincere actions motivate students to embody that which they believe.

Just as Mr. Raby has "cared about us as full human beings" so have we as a Pingry community come to appreciate him for the leader and role model he is. As Dr. Murray suggested, Mr. Raby's "empathetic and open-minded nature allow him to see a problem from all sides." In this manner, Mr. Raby embraces life from every angle and strives to understand all viewpoints.

As he leaves our Pingry community, Mr. Raby looks forward to governing his own pace of life and having time to judge what is most important. With hopes of moving closer to his son in Maine, Mr. Raby plans on becoming a more active citizen.

One thing is for sure, wherever he goes and whatever he pursues, Mr. Raby will continue to impact those around him and the greater world.



S. Gurnani (V)

## Mr. Sluyter's Passion and Style Sure to Be Missed By All

By SARAH PARK (IV)

English teacher Mr. Dean Sluyter, who has been a key part of the faculty for 33 years, recently announced that he is leaving Pingry this year to move to Santa Monica, California, where he will be teaching upper school English and meditation classes at Milken Community High School.

Mr. Sluyter first visited Pingry in January of 1977 for his job interview. After boarding the wrong bus, having to re-schedule his interview for later that day, and having his feet and pants soaked by the snow and slush, Mr. Sluyter was ready to give up and go home. However, when he was walking through the door of the Hillside campus, a Pingry student named Mike Brody held the door open for him. Sluyter explained, "I thought, 'This is a nice place. These are nice people.'" This one experience set the tone for his entire experience at Pingry.

For most of his years at Pingry, Mr. Sluyter has taught English 10 and American Literature. He has also started many of his own courses and programs over the years, such as Literature of Enlightenment, Classic Cinema, Public Speaking, and the Mindful Awareness program.

Kate Leib (VI) commented, "The Mindful Awareness sessions were surprisingly refreshing. I didn't expect them to actually work."

Of his experiences, Mr. Sluyter said, "I'm thankful to Pingry for giving me freedom in the classroom and the opportunity to innovate." He continued, "What I'll miss the most is witnessing or being a part of those 'aha' moments, when

everything suddenly clicks for a student."

Emily McCormick (IV), who took Mr. Sluyter's English 10 class, said, "My whole style of writing, from technique to grammar, really improved because of Mr. Sluyter. I will never forget that a period or comma at the end of a sentence always goes inside the quotation marks."

Connor McLaughlin, another sophomore in Mr. Sluyter's class, explained, "I learned so much about literature, writing, and life. Mr. Sluyter really is a fantastic teacher, and he does everything with humor and passion; there is never a dull moment with him."

Mr. Sluyter has witnessed many of the changes that Pingry has gone through over these past 33 years, such as the move to

the Martinsville Campus, the addition of the middle school, and now, the ongoing construction. However, for him, the most dramatic change has been the transformation of the way the Pingry community thinks.

Mr. Sluyter said, "In 1977, when I came, Pingry was much more conservative than it is now. The way people thought was less tolerant and more traditional. Since then, everyone has become more accepting and open-minded; the attitude of the school changed completely."

Although Mr. Sluyter's presence will be missed next year, he leaves behind a great legacy as well as a parting message to his students: "Life is, as Chaucer said, 'God's plenty.' Enjoy." And, as for the rest of the Pingry community: "When in doubt, breathe in, breathe out."



S. Gurnani (V)

# Mrs. Landau Leaves After 26 Great Years

Continued From Page 1

a publication.”

Although she is leaving, Mrs. Landau is taking many great memories with her. In fact, there were “so many good memories of students, colleagues, events” that she looks back and believes she “worked here during truly golden years.”

She recalled “being able to keep growing as a teacher,” under people like Mr. John Hanly, whom she called “a legendary headmaster.” The headmaster who hired her to head the history department, he “transformed Pingry” and “was a “wonderful mentor,” she said.

When it comes to students, she thinks about “several students who have gone on to great success” and have told her “that one day they will come back and teach at Pingry.”

Overall, one of her fondest memories is from 1988, when she “led a group of 39 students, two other teachers, and four parents to China at the invitation of the Chinese government.” Mrs. Landau had initiated contact with the government by writing them a letter in the fall of 1987. She promoted a “sister” relationship to a school in China that was comparable to Pingry.

“Unfortunately, that June was Tiananmen Square,” she explained, and the relationship petered out. However, the excursion was one of her “fondest memories.”

Mrs. Landau hopes to be remembered as “a teacher who really engaged kids in thinking and writing critically, clearly and effectively” as well as someone who “made an impact” on her students both “socially and intellectually.” When it comes to her students, she has some words of wisdom. First, she hopes they will “support their opinions with solid evidence.”

Second, she wishes that all students “will want to make a difference in this world for the better. It’s not just about reading, writing, and arithmetic; it’s about contributing back to society.”

Also, she emphasized, “students must be aware of their world, be engaged in it, and avoid being neutral when bad things are happening. Neutrality helps the aggressor.”

Finally, she wants everyone to “realize that Pingry is a special place. We have to remember that point when we have a bad day or some disappointment.”

Mrs. Landau and her husband, Peter, are moving to Park City, Utah where they “expect to do a lot of downhill skiing as well as see more of our daughter, Hanny ’91, son-in-law Jamison, and grandson Nathan, who are in California.” They also expect that their son Elias may re-locate to the west coast as he is pursuing aeronautical engineering and most of that industry is based out there.

Even so, Mrs. Landau said that she will “definitely come back and visit” after she retires.



J. Levine (IV)

# Mr. Jeffrey Bartsch Moves to Rhode Island

By MOLLY SCHULMAN (IV)

After four years of teaching at Pingry, History teacher Mr. Jeffrey Bartsch will be leaving the faculty staff. He and his wife are moving to Providence, Rhode Island so that they will be closer to Boston, where Mrs. Bartsch works.

Mr. Bartsch is currently interviewing for several jobs as a teacher at local middle schools and high schools, while his sons are heading off to in different directions. His older son will go to boarding school, while his younger attends a private school

in Providence.

Mr. Bartsch is going to miss Pingry greatly. He said, “I can honestly say that I have enjoyed all four years in different ways each year.”

Commenting on his experiences at Pingry, Mr. Bartsch also said, “This Dorothy Parker quote always comes to mind when I think about my students: ‘The cure for boredom is curiosity and there is no cure for curiosity.’ I really feel that over and over here.”

Throughout his time in the middle school, Mr. Bartsch has found great joy and wonder



S. Gurnani (V)

# Mr. Hata Relocates to Washington D.C

By SHAAN GURNANI (V)

After eight years as a teacher in the Biology Department at Pingry, Mr. Tommie Hata will be leaving the school to teach at the Sidwell Friends School, a private Quaker school, in Washington, D.C. During his time here, Mr. Hata has taught Freshman Biology and Introduction to Scientific Research and mentored several S.M.A.R.T. (Students Modeling a Research Topic) teams.

He will undoubtedly be missed by many. Wade Homer (V) praised Mr. Hata, saying, “He has been a great teacher; he’s really enthusiastic and knowledgeable about science and research. I’ve learned a lot about a possible subject to pursue in college.”

Born in Tokyo, Mr. Hata moved to Hawaii at the age of ten and finished high school there. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2002, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Secondary Education, and has been at Pingry ever since. He pointed out, “My very first freshman class graduated from college this spring.” From 2006 to 2008, Mr. Hata traveled to New York City several days during the week to earn his Master of Arts in Biotechnology from Columbia University.

S.M.A.R.T. teams were started by Dr. Tim Herman at the Center for BioMolecular Modeling at the Milwaukee School of Engineer-

ing, and Mr. Hata formed Pingry’s first team in the 2003-2004 academic year. Since then, Mr. Hata and fellow Biology teacher Mrs. Deirdre O’Mara have taken turns running the team, with the other teacher serving as a mentor. Over the last seven years, Pingry’s S.M.A.R.T. Team students have presented at science conferences in Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Washington D.C., New Orleans, and Anaheim and had the opportunity to meet great scientists including Roger Komberg (2006 Chemistry Nobel laureate) and Bruce Alberts (Editor-in-Chief of *Science*).

After Mr. Hata’s departure from Pingry, Mrs. O’Mara will take turns running S.M.A.R.T. Teams with permanent substitute teacher Mr. Andrew Alfano. Mr. Alfano, who earned his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Maryville College in Tennessee, has assisted Biology and Introduction to Research classes this year. In Introduction to Research, a laboratory-based course offered to juniors and seniors, students learn the fundamental concepts of molecular biology and develop an understanding of laboratory techniques and skills. Mr. Alfano will probably teach Introduction to Scientific Research next year.

In December 2007 Mr. Hata married a molecular biologist who finished her Ph.D. research at the Severinov lab at The Waksman Institute at Rutgers Universi-



S. Gurnani (V)

ty and then successfully defended her thesis in front of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2009.

Mr. Hata and his wife are moving because she is starting her post-doctorate fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C. At the Sidwell Friends School, Mr. Hata will continue to teach Freshman Biology, and he will be in charge of starting up a molecular Biology research class.

Susan Contess (V), a student in Introduction to Research this year and a member of the 2008-2009 S.M.A.R.T. team, said “I had a two great years with Mr. Hata; he’s a great teacher and I’ll miss him a lot. Still, it’s really

cool that he’s going to teach at the school that President Obama’s daughters and other diplomats’ kids go to.”

Steph Hanchuk (V), who was on the 2008-2009 S.M.A.R.T. team, said, “Although Mrs. O’Mara was our main team advisor, Mr. Hata clearly knows his stuff and he was definitely a great mentor. He will be missed.”

Mr. Hata said, “I enjoyed my eight years at Pingry and I am excited for my new job at Sidwell.” He added, “I will certainly remember faculty members, especially the members of the Jacobin Club, and the select students who inspired me, and hope to keep in touch with them.”

# Hearst to Work at Lacordaire Academy

By ANISHA MOHIN (V)

After seven years as Dean of the Upper School, Mrs. Joan Hearst is leaving Pingry and will assume the position of Dean of Admissions at Lacordaire Academy in Montclair in the fall. As faculty advisor to Blue Key and the Honor Board, Mrs. Hearst has been an integral part of the community and will be missed greatly. James Chin (VI), who was a member of Blue Key for four years, said, “Mrs. Hearst is great at coordinating everything for Blue Key. Being a part of it was really fun.”

Mrs. Hearst has also impacted the students and faculty through the Honor Board. As the advisor, she enforced the Honor Code and advocated integrity. She also organized many creative assemblies for students and parents to bring the honor code to life.

“What I will miss most is advising the honor board students,” Mrs. Hearst said. “Teaching honor board members how to serve on a judicial board in a small school was definitely rewarding for me.”

Anjana Ganti (V), spoke for other members when she

said, “Being on Honor Board has been a learning experience, and Mrs. Hearst was a great guide.”

During her time at Pingry, Mrs. Hearst has accumulated many great stories to tell. “My favorite memory is when I took the Honor Board to a program at West Point,” she recalled. “As I drove up to the entrance, I had not paid attention to the MANY huge signs that said: ‘Civilians enter through the right gate, all military enter through the left gate.’ Yes, I drove with the honor board students in the van through the left gate. The West Point military assigned to the post ordered me out of the car, then ordered me to open my trunk, then ordered all of the students to show ID. Then, he asked me, ‘DIDN’T YOU SEE THE SIGNS?!’ The students and I laughed all the way home!”

Mrs. Hearst added, “Another one of my favorite memories has been being an advisor. Over the years, that’s something I have truly

enjoyed.”

Colleen Roberts (V), Mrs. Hearst’s advisee, said, “I really enjoyed getting to know Mrs. Hearst over the past three years. She has always been open to working with student government on issues that can improve student life. In advisory, she was always able to make us laugh, relax, and re-power so that we could get through the toils of junior year. After getting to know her more this year I realized how much Mrs. Hearst does for Pingry. She’s amazing. I don’t think we will find someone able to fill her shoes.”

Caroline Dreyfuss (IV) said, “It’s sad to see such a beloved administrator leave. Lacordaire Academy is definitely lucky.”

While Mrs. Hearst has enjoyed her time at Pingry, she is excited about how her new job will reduce the stress of commuting. “I presently have a 300 miles a week commute,” she explained. “My new job will be five minutes from my home!”



S. Gurnani (V)

The Pingry Record would like to bid farewell to Ms. Alison Harle and the departing members of the Lower School faculty and staff, Ms. Jean Knee and Mr. Rudy Romano.

# Students Set Off On Personal Explorations

*Continued From Page 1*

in plaster gauze.

Also looking to gain a better understanding of the challenge and execution of full three-dimensional forms, **Christian O'Donnell** undertook a clay-working project. With the guidance of Mr. Freiwald, O'Donnell produced a variety of unique pottery, including a large-scale coil pot and a pot with a totem pole-like design.

## Digital Art

In accordance with his interest in architecture, **Phil Ryan** created a three-dimensional computer assisted design (CAD) portfolio composed of both commercial and residential architecture. The plans for the buildings contained layout, basic design, a comprehensive amount of electrical systems, and detailed textures.

## Theatre

Passionate about drama and writing, **Amy Gopinathan** and **Erin James** worked together to write a play titled "The Understudy." The play, which had an amusingly farcical nature, illustrated the lengths to which actors are willing to go in order to strengthen their performances on stage.

To familiarize themselves with all aspects of the theatrical world, **Sean Salamon** and **Lillie Ricciardi** directed, produced, and performed in a production of "The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," a tasteful and hilarious musical about a group of unique children attending a school spelling bee.

Interested in becoming an actress, **Remy Teicher** went to open auditions and attended acting classes in New York City. In addition, she took dance classes to help improve her movement on stage.

## Other

Looking to combine their interests in dance, visual art, music, and poetry, **Terdo Nwaoduh** and **Myles Bristow** organized The Revolution 2010 Hip-Hop Benefit talent show to highlight the evolution of Hip-Hop as a movement. All proceeds were donated to the Red Cross to support the relief efforts in Haiti.

## FILM Movie

To examine American film and pop culture trends, **Alex Parker-Magyar** and **William Moore** analyzed the films of recognized directors like Scorsese, Coppola, Tarantino, and Anderson.

Inspired by the recent success of the Pingry Hockey Team, **Alex Russoniello** and **Pierce Fowler** made a documentary to demonstrate their passion for the sport and to pay homage to the stand-out 2009-2010 season. The documentary was composed mainly of team member interviews.

Hoping to explore his passion for videography, **Chad Butler** put his efforts into making a video montage of Pingry's sports teams. He studied professional sports

## Photography

**Nick Rice** explored his creative side by completing a large-scale photography project with a focus on exper-



J. Soong (VI)

**One of the final pieces Jenn Soong (VI) completed.**

videography and also learned techniques from film teacher Mr. Peter Delman.

**Jonathan Ciriello** and **Brian Zhou** filmed their own episode of the hit TV series "Myth Busters." Like the hosts of the show, they scientifically tested an urban legend to see whether it was plausible or just a myth.

Interested in the progression of American film, **Randall Jordan** and **Glenn Friedman** viewed 16 movies from the 1950s to the 1980s. They then critiqued each film and observed each era's cinematic qualities.

To expand their experience in filmmaking, **Charles**

imental display techniques. He used lighting, physical materials, and sound to create dynamic and interactive pieces.

To improve her creative skills, **Emily Gilbert** experimented with different types of media and used a variety of different cameras, including a pinhole camera and a Zeiss Ikon camera. The use of methods and media that were completely new to her allowed Gilbert to expand upon her understanding of photography.

**Meghan Hager** and **Paige Farley** created dynamic photo shoots, hoping to produce pictures that drew in their audience. Hager focused mainly on digital photography while

taking photos of friends and other volunteers. She focused mainly on fashion and beauty photography, hoping to use the photos to gain an internship.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Andrew La Fontaine**, **Erika Lampert**, **Kelly Kurylak**, **Peter Martin**, **Nic Meiring**, and **Suzanne Ritzdorf** worked with the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation to organize the JTB Walk-a-Thon, an event aimed to promote awareness of and raise money for Hypertrophic Myopathy. As they learned more about the cause, they improved teamwork and planning skills as well as those required in the field of public relations.

For their ISP, **Blake Vessa** and **Emily Strackhouse** attended specialized classes and learned how to make beaded jewelry. They then sold the jewelry and donated all proceeds to the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation.

To help animals in need, **Beth Garcia** and **Katie Ogden** worked at the Plainfield Animal Society. They socialized and trained puppies and kittens so that they might be adopted into better homes.

Volunteering for the Morris Habitat for Humanity, **Alexandra Cheng** assisted with construction sites in Dover and Morristown. She worked as both a builder and assistant to the site manager.

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

**Yamini Nabar** delved into the world of creative writing, working on both poetry and prose. She gained inspiration from various literary works while continuing to read and work on the literary magazine Calliope.

**Courtney Hulse** immersed herself in great works of literature. She focused on compact novels of recognized authors and wrote reviews on each book she read.

Looking to explore the



The cast of "Putnam" performs the "Goodbye" song.

Courtesy of S. Barrionuevo (VI)

**Laud** and **Luke Pounder** wrote an original script. The film focused on the lives of three seniors as they faced the trials and tribulations of their final year in high school.

Farley used the more traditional film photography.

In order to expand her photography portfolio, **Sofi Barrionuevo** spent her ISP

lives of persecuted minorities throughout American history, **Nancy Eckenthal** read various books that document the struggles of these groups. She undertook this project be-

cause she herself is a member of two minority groups.

In order to explore her culture, **Neha Srivastava** learned Hindi through Rosetta Stone. She hopes it will be useful in the future as she plans to pursue international affairs and business.

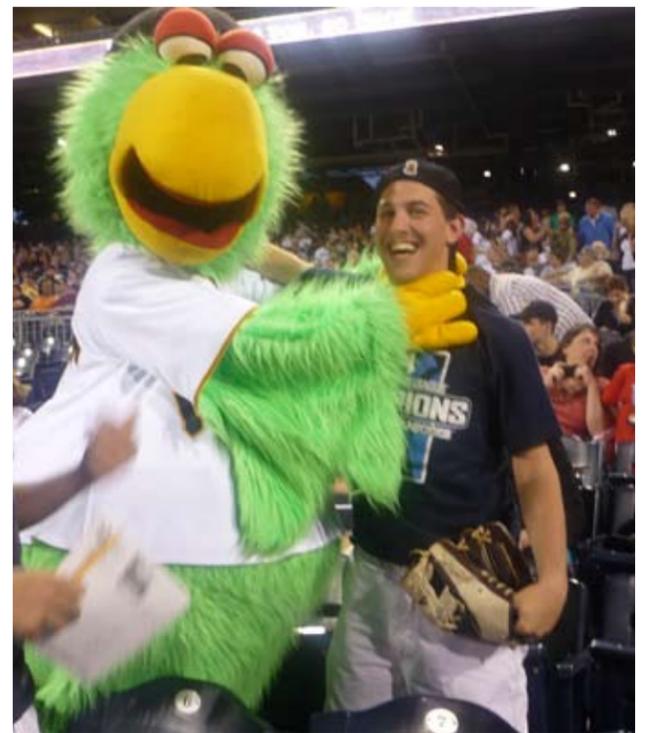
## FITNESS/SPORTS

Hoping to combine fitness and community service, **Becky Krakora** trained for a triathlon and spent the rest of her time volunteering at the Union County Literacy Volunteers office at the Plainfield Public Library. Her goal was to get back into competitive athletics after being injured for seven months and to give

in baseball by visiting local stadiums and embarking on a weeklong trip to see five baseball games at five different stadiums across the country. They compiled their data, journal pieces, scorecards, and programs to chronicle their ISP.

Following her passion for squash, **Kristin Scillia** interviewed squash coaches and international pros from different countries and backgrounds. She then compiled the interviews and wrote a story to submit to the editors of Squash Magazine who are interested in publishing the article.

**Gabriella Scrudato** learned how to kickbox.



Courtesy of M. Polans (VI)

**Maxwell Polans (VI) enjoys a local baseball game.**

back to the community at the same time.

**Chloe Blacker** and **Charlotte Small** tried out various forms of exercise to see how each sport affected their bodies. They learned about the different ways to cross-train and how training enables an athlete to compete in his or her sport more effectively. They also studied the diet and nutrition plans that an athlete needs in order to stay in shape.

To learn about Brazilian jiu jitsu (BJJ), **Billy McFarland** traveled across the east coast to interview famous BJJ practitioners and take classes at their gyms. He blogged about his experience and used the interviews to write an article for submission to various jiu jitsu and fitness related publications. In addition, he studied the process of how a new sport is adopted into the Olympics and wrote a proposal on how to do so with BJJ.

**Brandon Moy** and **Sam Miller** tested different fitness programs to see if the science behind them was true or false. Their investigation focused on the areas of muscle strength, flexibility, and cardio. After testing out each program, they evaluated how they felt and created a blog to track their progress.

**Sam Fisher**, **Maxwell Polans**, and **Spencer Polans** pursued their interest

She did a combination of exercises, took lessons, and did some military training in preparation for the service academy she will be attending in the fall.

## INTERNSHIPS

*Catering and Event Planning*

Working with Elegant Taste, a catering company in Chatham, **Louisa Lee** and **Caroline Ward** learned about running a small business and developed cooking skills. In addition, they learned about the art of entertaining, which culminated in a dinner party.

To explore a possible career opportunity, **Cassidy Reich** shadowed Ninety Acres pastry chef Ms. Jessica Knik. She learned how a restaurant kitchen operates and worked on her baking skills.

**Vicky Morgan**, hoping to further her interest in the culinary arts, worked with Mrs. Ellen Taylor, the director of the Ninety Acres Culinary School. She spent her time both in the kitchen and as a waitress in order to get a full experience.

**Danielle Cosentino**, **Alison Dadouris**, and **Rainie Opel** learned how to cook, waitress, and manage a restaurant. They worked at Due Terre restaurant in Bernardsville and were guided by the owner, Francois Rousseau.

# For Independent Study Projects During May

Also looking to learn cooking and business management, **Ali Rotatori** and **Catherine Golding** assisted Jim Wilson, the owner of "Simply to Go," which provides ready meals for those who do not have the time or patience to cook. The experience also provided them with entrepreneurial skills, namely those involved in marketing and advertising.

**Nayantara Joshi** and **Tay-**

owed a trauma surgeon.

In accordance with her interest in biology and health-care professions, **Laura White** worked as an emergency medical technician (EMT) at the Liberty Corner First Aid Squad. In addition, she shadowed Dr. James Chimenti, a neurosurgeon at Raritan Valley Surgery Center.

**Anthony Parisi** worked with Dr. John Golfinos, a

to demonstrate the concepts.

**Bennett Rosenbach** taught math to fourth and fifth graders at the Lower School. He aimed to give back to the Pingry community and teach a subject he truly enjoys.

Influenced by his older brother's ISP, **Freddy Porges** taught Mrs. Carolyn Gibson's fifth grade writing class and Mrs. Barbara Martin's fourth grade English class at the

were located in China.

For her ISP, **Kate Dreyfuss** worked with Marketing Director Kendel Ratley at Le Poisson Rouge, a performance space in New York City. She wanted to explore a field that dealt with music but did not require performing.

## Research

**Bozhena Lisko** experimented with the scanning electron microscope (SEM) at Princeton University's McAlpine Laboratory. She used this tool to observe the failing mechanism of PZT ribbons on flexible media when stretched.

## Politics

**Matthew Zubrow** pursued his academic and vocational interests by interning at J.P.Morgan Chase & Co. in Washington D.C. There, he worked with Peter L. Scher on policy advocacy, writing press releases and policy briefs as well as monitoring key votes and relevant political statements made in Congress.

## Other

**Jacklyn Temares** shadowed Margo Morrison, a jewelry designer who owns a studio in New York City. She helped out with sales and also observed the design process.

To explore art in the corporate world, **Elisse Park** interned at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. She worked primarily with Education Coordinator Vanessa

the café near the mansion that is run completely by volunteers. Bennett and Kreisbuch also worked in the office and guided visitors.

## OTHER

**Calvin Jones** and **Nick Gilligan** planned and executed hiking expeditions throughout New Jersey and surrounding states. To enrich their hiking experience, Jones and Gilligan also read literature and watched movies about hiking and treks into the wilderness.

**David Hamilton** and **Dylan Westerhold** built a beaver dam leveler to prevent flooding caused by beaver dams. The device, which is in no way harmful to the animals, tricked the beavers into thinking that the water was backed up and therefore prevented them from rebuilding their dams once they were destroyed.

AP Physics students **Alex Daifotis** and **Claeson Dillon** built Estes Model Rockets of various sizes and designs. They utilized such techniques as analyzing energy output, the study of kinematics, and calculus-based motion equations to explore the real world applications of the physics material they covered during the year.

**Simon Greene** used his experience with woodworking to create two Adirondacks chairs for the senior couch area. He also inscribed one of the chairs with the names of every member of the 2010 senior class, creating a lasting memento that

mechanics and experience what it is like to work closely as a team.

Interested in engineering, **Will Evenson** and **Alysia Tsui** built a trebuchet, a device used to throw a projectile object. Through their ISP, Evenson and Tsui learned about the engineering principles that are involved in the creation of a trebuchet, which include construction, consistency, and function.

**Stephanie Fung** spent two weeks in New York City, where she shadowed native city-dwellers and took a variety of walking tours in order to gain different perspectives of the city. She chronicled her time in New York by taking pictures and creating a blog.

In search of a worldly experience, **Nicky Haik** and **Aaron Davis** embarked on a two-week road trip across the country. They stayed with family and friends along the way to get a better sense of the culture of each particular area, and they set up a Twitter account and took photos to chronicle their journey.

**Julia Nosofsky** and **Kara Marciscano** traveled throughout New Jersey and New York to tour a variety of different museums. They also created a blog to record and describe the rich and diverse cultural attractions they visited.

**Alex Molé** and **Chris Christensen** explored the rich culture of New York City and shared their experiences through an informational blog. They used the blog to essentially create a virtual walking tour of the city for students in high school.

Sharing a passion for smoothies, **Jon Brenner** and **Will Pinke** went on a quest to perfect the art of smoothie making. They taste-tested various recipes and studied different methods of creating their favorite drink. Their research culminated in the establishment of a smoothie lounge at Pingry, and all proceeds were donated to the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation.

**Scott Keogh**, **Tyler Smith**, **Chris O'Connell**, and **Tyler Zoidis** designed and sold clothing in memory of their friend Warren Kimber IV '07, who started the clothing company DeC apparel.

**Alex Scavone** investigated the town of Manville in northern New Jersey. She captured the town's ambiance through photojournalism and journalistic writing.

**Andrew Logerfo** and **Brandon Brier** reviewed local restaurants and composed reviews for each. They also compared the cuisine at such places with the Pingry cafeteria.

**Brian Green** crafted a syllabus and English plan based off the critically acclaimed graphic novel, *Watchmen*. His project included discussion notes and essay topics, and he explored the philosophical elements behind the novel.



Courtesy of A. Davis (VI)

**Nicky Haik (VI)** and **Aaron Davis (VI)** visited the Grand Canyon on their road trip.

**Ior Guiffre** worked with Janet Antico at Bella's Bakery in Millburn, preparing and selling baked goods. Joshi also interned at Vanity Fair Magazine and gained experience in the publications industry.

**Regan Fink** interned at Fantasy Creations, a party planning business, in order to learn management and design skills. In addition, she volunteered at Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center, and took exercise classes at the YMCA in Cedar Knolls.

## Medicine

Interested by the difference in techniques used by the various physical therapists she has seen, **Katlyn Casey** shadowed Dimitry Polyakov, who she believes has been the most effective. She learned much about the human body and why recovery plans are unique for each patient, even if they may have the same injury.

**Nahema Carty** spent her ISP in an abbreviated version of medical school. For four weeks, she took classes, then shadowed a resident and spent a day at Dr. Dominga Padilla's private practice in Paramus.

Inspired by doctors who have helped him in the past, fostering his interest in science, **Robby Allen** explored the career of medicine. Guided by Dr. Stuart Rice, Allen observed surgeries and read relevant material supplied by the doctor.

To determine whether she wants a career in medicine, **Jasmin Neal** gained firsthand experience at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. She was shown the hospital's many departments and shadowed

neurosurgeon at New York University Hospital. He witnessed Dr. Golfinos' daily schedule and learned about multiple diseases and the surgeries carried out to cure them.

## Education

Inspired by teachers she has worked with throughout her education, **Maddie Garcia** assisted in Mrs. Mary Ogden's first grade classroom at the Short Hills campus. She helped the kids with their tasks, read to them, corrected assignments, and set up activities.

Hoping to combine his interests in sports, math, and working with kids, **Martin Bawden** taught physical education and math at the Lower School. He used this experience to see firsthand whether he might be compatible with a teaching career.

Encouraged by the success of the Upper School Math Center that she founded, **Tanvi Gupta** taught seventh and eighth grade math at Mauger Middle School. She helped with the teacher's daily lessons and aided students who needed more explanation.

For his ISP, **Spencer Topf** assisted Mr. Brian LaFontaine, the Lower School physical education teacher. Among his tasks were setting up activities, instructing the kids, and helping out with field day.

Interested in science and its practical applications, **Ram Sinha** acted as teaching assistant to Physics teacher Mrs. Ronalee Newman. He and Mrs. Newman created lesson plans, and with her guidance, he taught Waves and Optics and created labs

Lower School. His goal was to end his Pingry career where it started — at the Short Hills campus.

Looking to combine her interests in art and education, **Diamond McClintock** served as a middle school art teacher's assistant at St. Philips Academy in Newark, NJ. She facilitated the growth of the children's artwork while using her experience with the youth as inspiration for her own pieces.

## Theatre

**Max DeChiara** and **Jenny Gorelick** interned at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey at Drew University. DeChiara worked in the education department, and Gorelick worked in general administration and business.

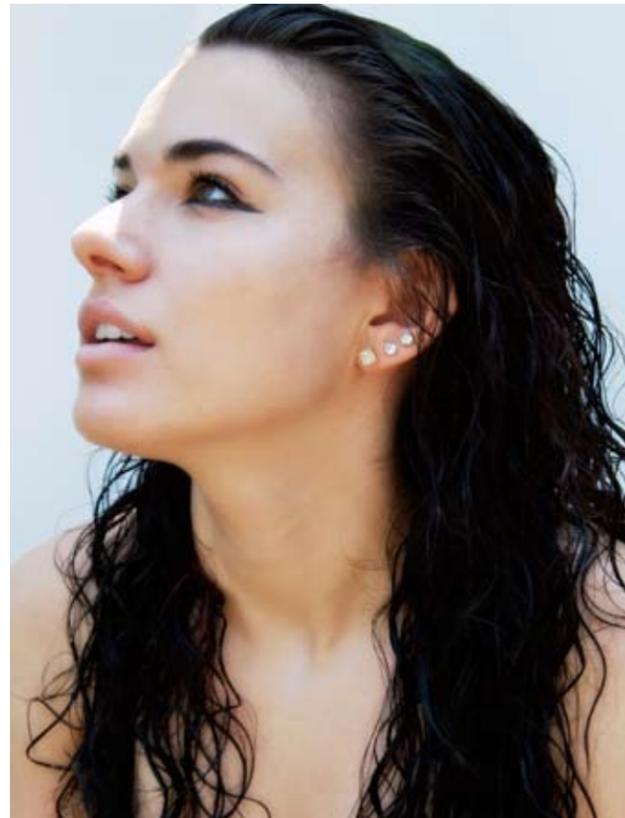
## Photography

To gain experience in photography, **Liane Gole** and **Morgan McCollum** interned with professional photographer Joanie Schwarz. They learned special lighting techniques, Photoshop skills, and business and management.

## Business and Marketing

**Dan Muller** interned for Gordon Sulcer, the president of First Choice Marketing, a sports advertising firm. He focused on both the marketing and management sides of the business.

Exploring the world of international business, **Carina Chan** evaluated a prospectus for a Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) deal and determined the risks and benefits of completing the deal. Her mentors included Mr. Yan Gu, her United States contact, and Mr. Wenhui Xie and Ms. Mindy Ming, who



S. Barrionuevo (VI)

**A beauty shot of Remy Teicher (VI)** by photographer **Sofi Barrionuevo (VI)**.

Batista, researched artists and art periods, and designed projects for themed classes. She also completed an internship at Estee Lauder.

**Julia Blumenstyk**, **Natalie Battista**, **Katie Bennett**, and **Johanna Kreisbuch** helped with the Mansion in May project, a fundraiser for the Women's Association of Morristown Memorial Hospital. Blumenstyk, Battista, and Kreisbuch took shifts at

will be a welcome addition to the Lower Commons.

**Mike Acosta**, **David Kerr** and **James Chin** worked together to build two motorbikes with different engines and parts in order to determine the effects of each motor and to evaluate the relative success of each part. This hands-on experience with mechanical tools and motorbike parts allowed them to broaden their knowledge of

## Drama III Brings Improv to the Stage

By ANISHA MOHIN (V)

On Friday, May 28, Drama III took the stage for their annual year-end assembly. Despite the absence of Sarah Muirhead (V), a key member of the class, and the subsequent last minute addition of Averill Morash '09, the performance was hugely successful.

The assembly began with modern-day adaptations of Shakespeare, including "Macbeth in the Age of Twitter," which featured the entire class. The scene condensed "Macbeth" into about two minutes to satirize today's fast-paced technological lifestyle.

Kaela O'Connor (V) and Ben Hamm Conard (V)'s scene allowed the audience to choose the ending to the present-day interpretation of "Romeo and Juliet." The majority of students voted to portray Romeo as gay, thus ending the pair's romance. Jason Reitman (V) said, "I thought the audience participation part of the scene was really cool. It was a really funny scene, too."

Next, Jeff Baum (V) and Morash performed "Marriage Counseling," a take on how Macbeth and his wife might act if they were to see a couple's counselor today. Muirhead was supposed to be Baum's scene partner but could not perform due to illness.

Fortunately, Morash stepped in and performed the scene after

only an hour of rehearsal. Baum said, "Performing was very interesting because I had never done that scene with anyone other than Sarah before. That said, Averill was a great scene partner and the scene ended up great for something that we had just rehearsed together the morning of the assembly."

Afterwards, the performance segued into pure improvisation. The name of the game was "Freeze and Justify." First, two of the actors began an unrehearsed scene. Then, Drama teacher Mr. Al Romano tagged out one of the actors out and another stepped in, with the objective of completely changing the direction of the scene.

This continued until every member of the class had participated at least once. Danielle Westerman (V) commented, "All of the improvisation was hysterical. I really liked Julia and Kaela's scene about Justin Beiber."

The class was extremely excited about the outcome of their performance. O'Connor said, "I thought it was great that everyone saw us improvise up there. Although we don't do it that often in class, I love to improvise, and I'm happy that our school could see what we came up with." Lakshmi Davey (V) added, "The assembly far exceeded our expectations, and we're really glad that everyone liked it."

## Congratulations, New Stud Gov Members!

Form VI	Form V	Form IV
Student Body President: Will Bartlett	Class President: Marisa Werner	Class President: David Soled
Class President: Colleen Roberts	Vice President: Andrew Hanna	Vice President: Cameron Kirdzik
Vice-President: Tim Lee	Tori Campbell	Brian Costa
Matt Damstrom	Ashley Hough	Amanda Hulse
Chloe Carver	Margaret Morash	Caroline Murphy
Nic Fink	Johnny Roberts	Rahul Rakhit
Danielle Westerman	Dylan Sun	Sam Riccardi
Andrew Young		

## "Bye Bye Birdie" Wins Audience's Hearts

By AMANDA HULSE (III)

The annual middle school musical, put on by the Pingry Drama Department, was performed May 20, 21, and 22. This year the musical was a performance of the 1960 Broadway production "Bye Bye Birdie," originally written by Michael Stewart with lyrics by Lee Adams.

The show is based on Elvis Presley's induction into the army after receiving his draft notice in 1958. The show follows Conrad Birdie, played by Julian Sandulli (I), whose story parallels that of

Presley's, as he and his manager, Albert Peterson, try to generate one last bout of publicity before Conrad enters the army. They plan to have Birdie kiss one last lucky fan before going overseas, and perform his new song, "One Last Kiss" for her.

This marketing ploy leads the duo to Sweet Apple Ohio, where they are greeted by a gaggle of adoring fans, most prominently the Teenage Trio: Sarah Beckmen, Julia Friend, and Diana Masch, and Ursula Merkle, played by Aigner Mizzelle (II). The musical also follows

the romance between Albert Peterson played by Matthew Marvin (II) and his secretary, Rose Alvarez played by Christina Riccardi (II).

There was a great showing of actors from each grade in the musical this year, and Riccardi, one of the leads in the show, was really happy about how everyone got along together.

"We have all bonded like a family," she said, "and we have so much fun together. I never thought I would get along with the sixth graders...but then I learned to love them all, just as if they were my own brothers and sisters."

Riccardi was also very complimentary of the older students who worked as the stage managers of the play, Eleanor Johnson (IV), Jack Hickey (III), Katie Ogden (VI), and Jenny Gorelick (VI). She said that they are all "so fun, and are super patient and cooperative making sure they don't freak out at us middle schoolers."

In addition to the large cast of students, the performance also featured actors from the middle and lower school faculty. Mr. Tony Garcia, Mr. Jeff Lesciandro, Mrs. Mary Ogden, and Mr. Ramsay Vehslage played

parents of Sweet Apple Ohio, and Mr. Phil Cox and Mrs. Alexandra Schwab played the mayor and the mayor's wife, respectively.

There was great feedback about the production both from inside the cast and from those who saw the musical. Marvin, a cast member, thought that, "the kids in our cast were extremely talented and ready to do anything for this production. Every kid worked so extremely hard to make this production the best it can be."

Kaitlyn Friedman (III), who saw the musical opening night, thought that "the actors and actresses did a great job of portraying their characters. They were extremely believable and completely committed to the scenes. The songs were very well done and very funny. The actors and actresses are very talented and put on a great show."

The cast and crew of "Bye Bye Birdie" dedicated their hard work on the production to middle school teacher Mr. Jeffery Bartsch, who will be leaving the faculty next year. They cited their thanks for Mr. Bartsch on the program, calling him "a beloved history teacher, Ultimate Frisbee coach, and friend."

## Pianist Najarian Embarks on European Tour



Courtesy of C. Najarian (IV)

By MARISA WERNER (IV)

On May 22, Christina Najarian (IV) was announced winner of the

New Jersey Talented Youth Music Association (NJTYMA) talent search. Unbeknownst to most, Najarian, an accomplished pianist,

has competed and performed multiple times at venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall.

Because of her fabulous performance, Najarian will embark on a European Tour. There, she will perform at United States Embassies in countries such as Russia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Hungary. Najarian has also received the opportunity to perform at the world-renowned Moldovan Organ Hall.

She owes her win to years of practice. Najarian practices between two and seven hours a day in order to memorize her pieces and master her technique and sound quality. The standards for NJTYMA were extremely high: the audition required her to learn five very challenging pieces by memory, each between six and eight minutes.

Two of the five pieces were required to be written by traditional American composers, one had to be from a contemporary Moldovan composer, and Najarian was allowed to choose the last two. Her repertoire consisted of two pieces by Griffes, one piece by Schumann, one by Beethoven,

and one by her favorite composer, Rachmaninoff.

French teacher Madame Gail Castaldo stated, "Christina did Winter Track, so I assumed that she would do Spring Track. However, she explained that she was doing piano competition and would have no time for sports in the spring. She told me she had to memorize five pieces of music and perform them at a concert."

Madame Castaldo continued, "When she returned the weekend after the competition, she told me she had won. One day that week, I asked Christina to play for her classmates in the auditorium so they could hear how beautiful her music sounded."

After the performance, the students were left stunned and amazed. Rebecca Curran (IV) said, "Christina's NJTYMA win is truly incredible and well-deserved. I am extremely proud of her." Kate Leib (IV) added, "I was flabbergasted. I never knew Christina was such an unbelievable pianist."

Najarian's great success in music today is attributed to her hard work, consistency, and dedication. She began playing the piano at the age of eight, and she participated in her first piano competition at the age of nine. With the encouragement of her teacher, Ms. Gloria Chu, Najarian was able to exceed her own expectations and quickly advanced to more challenging endeavors.

Prior to this amazing feat, Najarian had received three first place wins at the Russian Music Festival, one second place and two third place wins at the Music Educators Association's annual audition, and the five year "high honors" award in the New Jersey Music Teacher's Association (NJMTA) competition.

Even though she has earned many designations, the NJTYMA win is the most prestigious she has ever received.

## CONGRATULATIONS, PEER LEADERS!

### Boys

Jeff Baum  
Avi Bhavnani  
Jared Cohen  
Nic Fink  
Henry Gadsen  
Ben Hamm-Conard  
Wade Homer  
Tim Lee  
Jason Reitman  
Ben Rogers  
Thomas Schermerhorn  
Eric Schoenbach  
Harlan Shangold  
Eric Stock  
John Vavaro  
Andrew Young

### Girls

Lindsey Bissinger  
Chloe Carver  
Emily Combias  
Lakshmi Davey  
Julia Dowling  
Ashley Feng  
Lilly Holman  
Shannon Hughes  
Ariana King  
Kathryn Kolb  
Mack Roach  
Colleen Roberts  
Rebecca Spicehandler  
Kristen Tripicchio  
Danielle Westerman  
Rachel Williams



Courtesy of Communications Office

Stephanie Lipper (II) and Sawyer Freeman (6) portray Kim Macafee's parents.

The Pingry Record would like to congratulate Lillie Ricciardi (VI) on winning the Papermill Playhouse Rising Star Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Beggar Woman in "Sweeney Todd," this year's Winter Musical.

# Psychology Students Undertake Unique Experiments and Surveys

By NAHEMA CARTY (VI)

Each year, for about 15 to 20 years, school psychologists and AP Psychology teachers Dr. Mike Richardson and Mrs. Patricia Lionetti have given their students the liberty to conduct their own psychology experiments. Over the years, the topics have ranged from eating disorders to peer pressure to stress among teens.

Whitney Weldon (V) and

Schuyler Bianco (V) conducted an experiment comparing the importance of appearance between students in public and private high schools. They hypothesized that in both cases, public school students would care more about their appearance and therefore take a longer time to get ready in the morning. They surveyed 48 Pingry students via written questionnaires and used an online survey created on Facebook© for

public school students around the area. They concluded that public school females care more about their appearance than private school females, and private school males care more about appearance than do public school males. Their study showed a positive correlation between the amount of time one spends on appearance and how important appearance is to someone.

Allison Dadouris (VI) and Sofi

Barrionuevo (VI) researched the effects of peer pressure on teenage drinking at Pingry. They hypothesized that "students at the Pingry School in Forms III and IV feel more pressure to drink alcohol than upperclassmen." They conducted a survey that asked students about their drinking habits: whether they drink with family, friends, or alone; how often they drink; why they drink, and so on. However, the results implied that juniors

and seniors seem to feel more pressured to drink than freshmen and sophomores. Thus, Dadouris and Barrionuevo concluded that their hypothesis "underestimated the behaviors of the underclassmen and compared them to [their] own underclassmen experiences." Additionally, while taking the survey, some students consulted their friends about what they should answer, which, according to Dadouris and Barrionuevo, "proved that peer pressure is an aspect not just in drinking, but in decision making as well."

Danielle Fusaro (V), Anjana Ganti (V), and Mary Kate Martinson (V) conducted an experiment on the effects of parenting on the social behavior of teens. They examined whether the strictness of students' parents had anything to do with the child having problems trusting other people. They surveyed various members of the Pingry community, first asking questions about how strict their parents were and then asking questions about the students' ability to trust people. After the experiments were conducted, Fusaro, Ganti and Martinson found that there was no correlation at all to the strictness of a parent and the ability of a child to be trustworthy.

Lindsay Burke (V), Shannon Hughes (V), and Kristen Tripichio (V) conducted an experiment on the effects of emotion and peer pressure on eating habits among grades eight to eleven. They hypothesized that girls would eat less due to emotions and peer pressure while boys would eat more because they are less affected by such things. In the end, they found out that girls are "clearly more self-conscious about their bodies and their weight," and boys are "less conscious of eating and care solely about satisfying their hunger."

Emily Strackhouse (VI) and Johanna Kreisbuch (VI) researched how popularity is determined among eighth grade girls. They surveyed 43 eighth grade girls, giving different scenarios and asking them to rank whether or not it made the person popular. The following are some of the scenarios:

- Anne has a walk-in closet full of clothes from Short Hills mall, and you've never seen her wear the same outfit twice.

- Lily is known as the class clown in all her classes. She pulls pranks on her teacher and always has funny comments; you used to go to public school and just saw your friend from town the first time since third grade. Her face

is now really oily and she has terrible acne.

- Dana talks to all the boys. She's had conversations with just about all of them, and most enjoy being around her.

The eighth grade girls were asked to rank these scenarios on a scale of 1 to 5 - (1) being not popular at all, (3) being neither popular nor unpopular and (5) being extremely popular.

The survey resulted in two very strong determinants of popularity: socialization with boys and girls and throwing parties.

Lastly, juniors Arvin Alaigh, Avi Bhavnani, Alex Fagella and Anisha Mohin conducted an experiment on the impact of alpha binaural beats on the Ganzfeld Effect. Heinrich Wilhelm Dove discovered that when two beats are played together, the brain recognizes them both as the lower one. These binaural beats have been found to alter moods, placing someone in a deep meditative state, reducing depression and inducing relaxation.

The Ganzfeld experiment was conducted by Wolfgang Metzger, who tried to bring out extrasensory perception (ESP) in his subjects by placing them in a comfortable chair, shining a red light on them, covering their eyes with two halves of a ping pong ball and playing through headphones.

Alaigh, Bhavnani, Fagella and Mohin combined these two methods of relaxation and hypothesized that binaural beats would enhance the hallucinatory and/or meditative effects of the Ganzfeld experiment. They gathered 17 subjects and tested both the original Ganzfeld experiment and the "new" Ganzfeld experiment with the binaural beats instead of white noise. After the original Ganzfeld experiment, subjects reported having "very distorted, elongated perception of time while others saw vivid images and heard music in their head." A few people even experienced mild paranoia. All the subjects reported feeling "extremely happy and awestruck" when the procedure was over. When the second trial - the one with the binaural beats - was conducted, ten of the original seventeen reported that their hallucinatory/meditative states were in fact enhanced. Some saw talking hallucinations, heard loud ringing and thumping noises, and felt chills or muscle spasms. Once again, all the subjects felt extremely happy and exhilarated, "as though they had reached some new level of meditation."

## JTB Hosts Fourth Annual Walk-a-Thon

By CHRISTINE KUMAR (III)

The fourth-annual Walk with Heart fundraiser for the John Taylor Babbitt foundation was held on May 16. Friends and family gathered at school to commemorate John Taylor Babbitt's death.

JTB Club leaders Suzanne Ritzdorf (VI) and Erika Lampert (VI) said, "The Walk-a-thon is growing; this year we had 360 pre-registered people which is double the amount from last year." Alumni, students, faculty and children all walked the two-mile cross country course and arrived back to school to refreshments and a raffle.

The raffle included a bicycle and a David Yurman bracelet, which was won by Matt Zubrow (VI). Before the raffle, the Babbitts spoke to the crowd showing their appreciation, and encouraging the walkers to visit the table with an AED to learn how to use it.

The JTB foundation was started in 2006 when Babbitt died of a heart arrhythmia that was caused by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy during a basketball game in his church. At the time, he was in fact a big part of the community - he played in the basketball, baseball, soccer and football teams and is remembered for his passion for sports. His death affected the Pingry and Chatham community greatly.

HCM, or hypertrophic cardio-

myopathy, is a hereditary disease that causes the heart muscles to thicken and results in the heart beating abnormally. Because HCM isn't well known and is often undiagnosed, the JTB foundation has been working in Babbitt's memory since his death to prevent sudden cardiac arrest.

Just this year, Gaines Adams of the Chicago Bears and Jeron Lewis of the Southern Indiana basketball team both died of sudden cardiac arrest. In response, ESPN has dedicated a program to HCM and its danger to young athletes, making HCM better known. A board member of the JTB Foundation was interviewed

for the program, giving the foundation more attention as well.

In addition to the annual walk-a-thons, the JTB foundation works hard to install defibrillators in all public places, to form JTB Heart Clubs in schools and universities, and to support research on genetic cardiac disorders. So far, the JTB Foundation has been able to install defibrillators in fields in the Chatham borough and township.

As a leader of the club, Kurylak said, "John was a friend of my brother's and when he passed I really wanted to get involved and help the Babbitts. This is so important to the community

because not only was John part of the Pingry community, so are the Babbitts. HCM can affect anyone."

When asked about the walk-a-thon, sixth graders Morgan Wahby, Nikki Zezz, Lizzie Abbott, and Sam Korn, said, "It was easy and fun, and anyone can do it." I am so privileged to be a part of such an event. The walk-a-thon was such a success," said volunteer Sarah Kim (IV).

Jimmy Tilson '09 summed up the event when he said, "I have come the last three years and have enjoyed the experience. It's a great cause, and it's nice to see all of my old classmates."



Peter Martin (VI) greets attendees at the JTB Walk-a-Thon.

Courtesy of K. Kurylak (VI)

## First Ever X-Games Replaces Spring Fling

By YVONNE JENG (IV)

On Friday, May 7, Student Government hosted the first annual X-Games. It was a competition between all of the Upper School Forms in various events, including an inflatable obstacle course, a hot dog eating contest, dance off, a rap battle, slip and slides, Quiz Bowl, a dunk tank, volleyball, and capture the flag.

At the beginning of the function, students were given X-Games t-shirts to wear, and

many soon began enjoying the activities. Chloe Sorvino (V) said, "I had a lot of fun with the slip and slides and watching people on the moon walk." History teacher Mr. John Raby participated in the fun by getting into the dunk tank. Steph Carr (III) said, "I thought the dunk tank was hilarious, especially because a number of different students went up, and it was great to see all their reactions when they hit the water."

The hot dog eating contest,

which Will Evenson (VI) won, was a big hit as well. Harry Skinner (IV), who competed for Form IV, said, "It was fun and someone had to beat Will, but I wasn't the right guy." After eating pizza, everyone gathered together on the track to watch the rap battle and dance-off.

Alex Fagella (V) and Cole Jordan (IV) both competed in the rap battle, improvising their raps on the spot and earning laughs and cheers along the way. Stephen Friedman (III) said, "The rap battle was the best part."

The dance-off was a competition between James Chin (VI) and Myles Bristow (VI), Jordan and Victor N'Daiye (V), and Will LaCosta (III) and Justin Sullivan (III). Bristow thought the dance off was funny and added, "I just wish there were more dancers in the school."

After the dance off, a miniature Quiz Bowl competition was held. Two or three students from each Form were chosen to answer questions about Tetris, video games, and other topics. Regan Fink (VI) said, "The questions were good, but the way they accepted answers was confusing and kept changing."

The evening also included two games of capture the flag: freshmen versus seniors and sophomores versus juniors. Mike Hoyt (V) said, "I thought capture the flag was a lot of fun and it seemed like a great way for bonding between the grades." Additionally, a vol-

leyball net was set up for those who wanted to play. Brian Zhou (VI) said, "It was cool to play volleyball with a different crowd than usual."

The inflatable obstacle course, in which friends could race each other, was another popular activity. John Varvaro (V) said, "It was really awesome and I raced my friends a bunch." Another highlight of the night was the live music performed by David Martin (VI) on the drums and Nick Rice (VI) on the electric guitar. Martin and Rakesh Bhisham (VI) also DJed the event.

Lauren Salazar (III) said, "The guys who performed were really good and I thought the live music was an energy and spirit booster. It livened up the already-fun night." The event ended with the movie "Zoolander," but most people had already left.

Will Kelly (IV), a sophomore student government representative said, "Overall, it was definitely a success. A lot of people showed up and everyone seemed to have fun." Junior Class President and next year's Student Body President Will Bartlett (V) agreed, saying, "From the hot dog eating contest to the rap battle (props to Cole and Alex on that), everything far exceeded my expectations, and hopefully the attendees agree." He added, "Get used to all that fun, Pingry, because that is just foreshadowing what will happen next year."



Courtesy of A. Rotatori (VI)

John Kwon (VI) and Nick Gilligan (VI) compete in the moon bounce.

### Congratulations, Honor Board Members!

#### Seniors

Kathryn Kolb - Chairperson  
Lexi Bocian-Reperowitz  
Anjana Ganti  
Steve Palazzolo

#### Juniors

Andrew Hanna - Secretary  
Cecilia Uche  
Margaret Morash  
Rebecca Curran

#### Sophomores

Michael Beck  
Stephen Rienzi  
Cameron Kirdzik

## Seniors Interview Good Neighbor

Courtesy of CHARLIE LAUD (VI) and LUKE POUNDER (VI)

For the final installment of their interview series, Charlie Laud (VI) and Luke Pounder (VI) talked to the members of Good Neighbor. According to their YouTube page, Good Neighbor is a "Los Angeles based sketch comedy group" which is comprised of members Beck Bennett, Kyle Mooney, Nick Rutherford, and Dave McCary.

Where did you guys meet?

Kyle: Dave and I met in elementary school...

Nick: We all met at USC.

Beck: Then Nick, Kyle, and I all made the school's improv and sketch comedy group "Commedus Interup-

tus together" our first year at school.

What was that experience like?

Kyle: Before us, the guys never partied, but we did two big sketch shows a year, and Dave would help us out and make videos for us.

Nick: We were kind of like Bagger Vance. We really shook up the place.

What were some of the earlier sketches in "Commedus Interruptus" like?

Beck: Disgusting.

Kyle: Does this have to be high school safe? (laughs)

Dave, are you an official film student or just someone who likes to work with the camera?

Dave: I dropped out of film school to follow my dreams to someday get into film school.

Who were some of your biggest influences when you were starting out?

Kyle: "Saved by the Bell," "SNL."

Nick: I loved "Salute Your Shorts."

Beck: Bill Murray, Bob Odenkirk, Zach Galifianakis

Dave: Famous film editors of the world.

When did you guys decide to do digital sketches, and what was one of the first ones you remember doing?

Nick: We were shooting shorts for the sketch show we put up at the end of every college semester, so we didn't really have a YouTube channel or anything like that at first. We mostly showed videos live. One of our first sketches was "My f#\*king best friend." Also, Battled Earf was the name of our group that we did these 24-hour film festivals with. You would get a title and have to turn in a short film 24 hrs later. We would make these really epic stories that were impossible to complete in time.

How many of these 24-hour films did you make?

Kyle: We did four.

Beck: We also won an award for Best Romantic Comedy, and it was about two dudes and a robot that fell in love.

With you guys being based in LA, do you have any interesting stories to share? Like a brief encounter with an inebriated James Earl Jones?

Kyle: Yeah, I had a funny run in with John Stamos. We were waiting in the lobby of this studio, and I was super nervous because I was getting interviewed for an internship. John comes in, and I get even more nervous because I'm like "That's John Stamos!" in my head. He looks at me for a second, then he goes to the bathroom for like five seconds. He comes back out, gives me a nod, goes back into the bathroom, comes out, sees the man at the door he's supposed to meet, starts struggling to get the door open because it was jammed, and we make total eye contact. And I just say, "Having a little trouble with the door?" He said, "Ha, yeah," and then he left.

Which one of you performs stand-up comedy?

Dave: Nick is a very active stand up comedian...

Nick: ...like Dane Cook.

Dave: Nick hosts a show every Thursday and performs in other people's shows all the time. He performed last evening with Doug Benson.

Nick: I did a show that Chris Rock popped in on in NY too. That was amazing.

What advice would you give to aspiring comedians and filmmakers out there?

Kyle: Find people who inspire you.

Nick: Just put stuff out there. Keep making things, and you keep getting better and better. Never stop.

Beck: Watch comedy, practice it, learn it, and put it up as much as you can.

Dave: Don't let your parents tell you what to do.

All right. Thanks for your time. Best of luck.

Nick: Thanks.

Beck: Toodles.

## Ruffles and Whites For Your Summer Closet



Courtesy of Google Images

By NOININ GILBERT (V)

I always like the "hippie flare" that comes with summer fashion, and luckily, it's a big part of the look this year. It is all about keeping the clothing basic and comfortable with accessories that pop.

At their cruise-wear shows this year, both Chanel and Louis Vuitton showed monochromatic neutral clothing with bright accessories. A common color on both runways was lime-green, which showed up everywhere from sunglasses to earrings. In the Marc Jacobs collection, ruffles were all the rage. As always, Jacob's genius pushed the limits, but, like Chanel and Vuitton, his colors were very conservative.

Bringing this summer's runway looks to the street is simple. The palette for your basic dresses, shorts, and tops should be very neutral, like khakis and bright whites. Make sure your clothes are loose and flowy to keep with the hippie vibe. You might even feel the need to pull out your favorite

headscarf, but make sure that it is neon bright. All of your accessories should pop off of a clean and neutral background.

Your nightwear look should have a similar vibe, but with a little more glitter. Any sequins from last season are still in. Sparkles never really go out of style, but this summer, a sequin top or jacket is right on track. For the cooler nights, the tweed jacket, again, in a neutral color, is big this summer.

In terms of shoes, wear little to no heel during the day. Chanel showed clogs with all of their outfits, so put on your favorite pair and you'll be ready to go.

For men, there's a definite throwback to James Dean's style. As seen at the Marc Jacobs Men's Show, clean and chic with straight-legged jeans is in. To keep warm, leather jackets are all the rage.

So, in terms of colors, tone it down, but pump it up with some great accessories, and you'll be all set to show off some great outfits this summer!

## All-Campus Exhibit Showcases Talent



J. Soong (VI)

By ROXANNE FEITEL (IV)

This April, Pingry's first all-campus photography show was announced. Students and faculty in the Upper and Middle Schools were encouraged to submit their photography for a unique exhibit. Since May 6, the collection of photographs in both color and black and white has been on display in the Lower Commons for everyone to enjoy.

Submitters were allowed to enter up to three photographs among the seven categories: people, animals, action/motion, landscape/cityscape, portrait, and architecture. In these categories, 248 photos were submitted. Of these, 58 belonged to faculty, 162 to upper school students and 28 to middle school students. With more than double the entries of any category besides people, cityscape/landscape was by far the most popular selection. The submissions were not judged by any teachers and were supposed to serve just as an interesting exhibition.

Mr. Miles Boyd, Director of the Art Department, organized the exhibit with Mrs. Laurinda Stockwell and Mrs. Jane Edwards. He said that this idea was something he

had been thinking about for a long time as "a way to get more art into the school" and involve the people who can't otherwise display their photos. Because photography is so universal and approachable to everyone, he said, more people can participate than if it were a different medium. He admitted he was very impressed by the quality of photos that were submitted this year from many unexpected people.

At Pingry, Mr. Boyd believes we tend to stick to the curriculum and it can be difficult to find ways to express ourselves outside the classroom. "This is a different experience for Pingry," he said. The show parallels the curriculum, but its accessibility attracts people "who would enjoy it, but don't necessarily have time to explore photography."

Next year, Mr. Boyd hopes to open up the show to parents and alumni, and have wider participation from the Middle School. He also would like to move all of the photos online so that members of the community can view them more easily. He said, "This is an attempt to remain current and give people the opportunity to utilize knowledge they already have."

## From Action to Animation: A Preview of Six Upcoming Box Office Movies

By ALLIE LOGERFO (V)

The upcoming summer months promise movie-lovers many exciting new films. Filled with intense action scenes and great animation, these motion pictures are sure to please even the pickiest viewer.

One highly anticipated movie, "The Expendables," is looking to prove itself as a successful adventure film. Packed with action-filled scenes, the movie is about a team of mercenaries on a mission to overthrow a South American dictator. The men come across obstacles of deceit and betrayal, complicating their mission and putting an innocent life in danger. Director and actor Sylvester Stallone is looking to draw many viewers to the box office on August 13. Hopefully, the star-studded cast of Stallone, Jet Li, Jason Statham, and possibly Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis will make for a top film.

Another action-packed film, "Inception," is arriving in theaters July 16 with a thrilling plot and established actors. "Inception," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ellen Page, Cillian Murphy,

and Michael Caine, tells the story of Dom Cobb (played by DiCaprio), who uses his dangerous skill in extraction to steal valuables making him an international fugitive. The big question posed is: Will he accept a chance at redemption?

Action film lovers, especially comic book and Wild West junkies, also have "Jonah Hex" to look forward to. Opening June 18, this violent action-adventure will be a much-needed old fashion Western "shoot 'em up." With supernatural pieces and comic book roots, the film should attract a varied audience.

For those looking for something a little less intense and violent, there are plenty of chick-flicks, comedies, and animated films. On June 30, David Slade brings the third installment to the Twilight Saga, "Eclipse," to theaters. With a huge fan base, the movie series will generate even more hype with this romantic, action-filled chapter. Returning heartthrobs Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner hope to woo all of their fans once again.

Many also have high hopes for "Grown Ups," starring Adam Sandler. Let down by last sum-

mer's film, "Funny People," Sandler fans hope to be impressed by the comedian's performance in this summer's film, in theaters June 25.

Finally, for all those who are

still children at heart, don't miss out on "Toy Story 3," the third adventure with Woody and Buzz Lightyear, which hopes to end the beloved Disney series with fireworks.



Courtesy of Google Images

# Chloe Blacker Looks Forward to Playing Squash at UPenn

By CAROLINE MURPHY (II)

Chloe Blacker (VI) was introduced to squash as an eight year old by her dad. By her senior year at Pingry, she finished seventh in the Junior US Squash Nationals in Girls Under 19. Throughout these years, Blacker has embarked on an athlete's journey, developing into a serious player that neither she nor her parents could have anticipated.

In addition to her obvious talent, Blacker's success is due to her effort and dedication. "Of course I had to work at it a lot and practice frequently," she said, "usually five to six times a week during the fall and winter season."

Blacker earned four Varsity letters in Pingry Squash, playing number one for three years, and her final record this year was 17-1. Blacker also won the NJ State High School Championships twice. According to sixth grade teacher and squash coach Mr. Ramsay Vehslage, "Her leadership on the court has been matched by a tireless commitment to the team off the court as well. Chloe

is always willing to help her less-experienced teammates to develop their skills, and her enthusiasm and energy have been crucial to the development of our entire program, both boys and girls, over the past four years."

Blacker's talent caught the eye of several colleges, and she was recruited to a number of top-notch schools. In the end, she chose to attend the University of Pennsylvania, which has a Division I squash team. Blacker feels that Penn offers a good mix of academics, location and athletics.

Blacker said, "I really liked that Penn had its own campus but was within a city at the same time. I wanted a school that could challenge me in athletics and academics."

In addition to the demanding environment, she is also happy with the squash program.

"I loved Penn so much when I went on my official visit, and I thought the squash team was fun and supportive. The coach was also my favorite, and I got along with him so well," she added.

Blacker is especially ex-



B. Morrison '64

cited for next year's season because Penn's Women's Squash finished second in the country this year. She hopes to be in the top five players next year, but she

knows it will be a challenge. "It's hard to say since all the girls are so talented and dedicated to the sport," she said. Although she is excited about college, she said, "I'm going to miss my friends so much, and I will also miss the Pingry Squash team. I have had so much fun over the past four years being a part of it."

# Peter Martin Continues Soccer Career at Macalester College in Minnesota Next Year

By TYLER GUMP (V)

Few Pingry athletes have enjoyed as much success in their high school careers as Peter Martin (VI). Playing lockdown defense for a Pingry soccer team that won a state championship is quite an accomplishment; however, this task wasn't enough for Martin. Although he is being recruited for soccer, he is better known for his feats on the Varsity Ice Hockey team as Pingry's goaltender. For four years, Martin kept the puck out of the net with incredible dexterity, shutting out teams like it was his job.

Looking back at his magnificent high school career, he remarked, "Everything just seemed to be perfect."

Hailing from Summit, Martin came into his freshman hockey season with high hopes that were more than realized. Martin recalled that during that year "the team won 19 games, which at the time was a school record." Starting a majority of the games that season, he was already establishing himself as a team leader, ready to lead Pingry hockey to new heights.

Over the next three years, Martin did just that, leading Pingry to arguably its best four-year stretch in school history. When asked what his proudest achievement was during his illustrious career, Martin replied, "It was during my senior season when we won 20 games. I was very proud that I co-captained the team that broke a previous school record which I had helped set. It was a special moment."

Among the numerous accolades he acquired during his tenure are the Team MVP Award as a junior, and the Hobey Baker Award, for leadership, as a senior. But more than his awards, accomplishments, and even his outstanding net-minding ability, Martin will best be remembered for his leadership and personality.

As Martin's teammate, Matt Beattie (V) explained, "On the

hockey team, Pete was probably the one that everyone looked up to. He was well-liked and admired not only for being a great goalie, but also for being an excellent captain and a great motivator."

Alex Russoniello (VI) agreed, adding, "Besides being a great goalie, he's a great guy."

Martin will be playing a college sport next year, but it won't be hockey. Martin was recruited by Macalester College, in Minne-

sota, to play soccer, a tribute to his versatility. When asked about his future at Macalester, he replied, "I am not certain what soccer will be like at the next level, but I am very optimistic. I think I have gotten better every year of high school, so hopefully that continues into college. I expect there to be great camaraderie between the members of team, and I look forward to being welcomed as a member of the Macalester soccer family."

It is sad to say goodbye to Martin, a remarkable athlete, leader, and person. But perhaps bittersweet is the more accurate term, for he helped to lead The Pingry School to a better place and will continue to do so at Macalester and beyond. When asked to describe his athletic experience, he thought long and hard before finally settling on the following reply: "I enjoyed every minute of it." So did we.



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The Pingry Record would like to congratulate all the athletes who have been recruited to play sports during the next four years of college! We're sorry we couldn't feature all of you.

Congratulations to Coach Tim Grant for being inducted into the New Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame.



Courtesy of pingry.org

## Danielle Cosentino to Play Field Hockey at Columbia University

By ANDREW YOUNG (V)

Danielle Cosentino (VI), captain of the girls' Varsity Field Hockey team, is looking forward to starting a new chapter of her life at Columbia University this fall. The top scorer of her team, Cosentino will be graduating with an impressive number of sports records. As part of the Pingry Field Hockey squad, she has been a Conference finalist since her freshman year and has made it to several County and State rounds.

With a change in conference this year from Colonial Hills to Skylands, Cosentino and her teammates played against much larger schools, but Cosentino still ended up getting both the second team All-Conference and the second team All-County awards. Cosentino also is the recipient of the Somerset County Scholar Athlete Award this year.

Cosentino attributes her success as an athlete to her dedication and perseverance and to playing for one of the strongest Field Hockey school teams in the state. She remembers the many trips that she made with her school team,

including the trip to Holland in 2007 where the team trained with the male Dutch national team. "The team dynamic is great," Cosentino said, "and everyone is really close."

Cosentino also attributes her success to joining the Spirit Eagles club as a sophomore. With the club, she traveled across the country to participate in tournaments. Playing indoors during winters, Cosentino took part in the National Indoor Tournament in Virginia both her sophomore and senior years. According to Cosentino, Spirit Eagles not only helped her develop and hone her skills, but it also helped her with the college recruitment process.

Cosentino was recruited early by Columbia as a student-athlete. When asked why she chose to go to Columbia among several other schools that were eager to recruit her, Cosentino said, "I chose Columbia because I wanted to go somewhere that combined strong academics, a fun environment and internship opportunities, and Columbia does all of those." She added, "Plus, I love New York City." As for her future career path,



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she intends to study either medicine or finance.

Cosentino started the college application process early. By her junior year, she had already gone to several college camps and was known by the coaches of leading Field Hockey teams. By the spring of her junior year, she had narrowed down the list of schools and had visited the schools

to which she was seriously considered applying.

At the end of her junior

year, Cosentino attended a field hockey camp in Massachusetts known as College

Connections, where college coaches get together to watch hundreds of girls play in skill sessions and games. Returning home, Cosentino immediately received emails from coaches favorably impressed with her. Regarding her final college choice, Cosentino said, "I pretty much knew in June, but I didn't officially decide and commit until late July. I only applied to Columbia."

Her advice to other Pingry student-athletes intending to apply to top colleges is to "join a club team to build upon the skills you learn at school and always try to put yourself out there and play in front of coaches as much as possible. Going to camps, tournaments, and showcases helps. It is also important to email coaches before you go to them in order to let them know you are going to be there. Any type of contact with a coach will help."

## Field Hockey Player Charlotte Small Recruited by Brown

By NICOLE BLUM (III)

Ever since eighth grade, Charlotte Small (VI) had been looking at different college field hockey programs. Academics came before sports, and in a recent interview, Small said, "I knew that I wanted to play field hockey in college. My goal was to be able to play at the Division I level."

Last July, Small was able to narrow her college search down to two or three school offers, and after attending five field hockey camps over the summer, phoning coaches each day, and visiting schools several times, she committed to Brown University. At Brown, she aims to focus on improving her game and making herself the best she can be. Making the transition from captain on the Pingry team to a potential leader at

Brown will only make her put in more effort. "I have to work my hardest with everything I do so that I can keep learning how to improve my skills, strength, agility, leadership, and ability to work well with my team," Small said.

Small began playing field hockey in third grade, attending a clinic run by a high school near her home in Pennsylvania. After going to all of her older sister's games, Small believes that her sister's own dedication "probably made [her] partial" to field hockey from the beginning.

While living in Pennsylvania, field hockey and soccer were Small's favorite sports. However, once she moved to New Jersey for her freshman year, she had to decide which sport she wanted to continue to play competitively, as both were played during the same

season.

"I knew I wanted to be just like [my older sister] and play [field hockey] in high school and college," said Small. If she hadn't chosen to play field hockey, Small admitted, she would most likely have had time to play other sports or try other activities. Even so, she has no regrets: "Being able to focus on field hockey has allowed me to really grow to love the sport and enjoy every chance I get to play it," she said. She also credits it with teaching her how to balance her time, concentrate on her priorities, work on a team, and keep an optimistic mindset when others may be down.

The highlight of this past season was her role as captain, which gave her the chance to inspire her teammates at the same time she realized her dream.

## Villanova University Welcomes Soccer Player Scott Keogh



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By MARISA WERNER (V)

This year's senior Scott Keogh was recruited to play soccer at Villanova University next fall. Keogh first began his soccer career at the age of four and played for recreational teams in his town. As he got older and developed a passion for the game, he started playing for travel teams in Scotch Plains. At age twelve, Keogh began to play for Match, his first club team. He then switched to Jersey Crew United, and finally to PDA, where he still plays now. An avid teamplayer on the club teams, he was also selected for six international select teams and played as a guest for two professional English youth teams in Watford and Portsmouth.

Recalling his Pingry soccer career, Keogh stated, "I think that I had a very successful soccer career at Pingry. I played all four years for Coach Bugliari, and we won four county titles, three conference titles, two state titles, and Star Ledger team of the year trophy."

His favorite Pingry soccer moment was his freshman year, when he assisted Eric Hynes '08 for the winning goal against Delbarton. He stated, "I had always heard that we had a huge rivalry with Delbarton

and knowing that I helped in defeating them my first year on the team was amazing." As a freshman, Keogh played defensive midfield because, at that time, a senior was playing "his" center back spot.

His other most remembered Pingry soccer moment was this past year, at the Voorhees game. During this game, Keogh scored three goals and helped the team win 6-1. He said, "Since I play center back, I rarely get the chance to score." This was an unbelievable feat for Keogh.

Fellow soccer player KC Eboh (IV) stated "Scott Keogh is a god."

Keogh's final year playing for Pingry was by far the most fun. Randy Falk (V) came up with a "new and funny" chant to encourage Keogh at important games. Keogh, who was captain along with seniors Tyler Smith and Andrew Lafontaine, immensely enjoyed it.

He stated, "Being captain meant I was in charge and

didn't have to take orders from anyone. I felt a sense of pride wearing the captain's arm band because I knew what responsibilities came with the title." Keogh cherished this new responsibility of being emulated by other members of the team.

Freddy Elliot (IV) stated, "Keogh is one of the most talented players to take the pitch. His mixture of intelligence and awareness makes him one of the best. It was an honor to play with him, and I expect to see him doing big things in the future."

As far as future plans, Keogh said, "I'd love to start and play most of my freshman year at Villanova, but I'll have to wait and see if I can make that happen. My ultimate goal is to sign a professional contract in England, so I might study abroad my sophomore year and play with a professional team again. But if that doesn't work out, I would just like to help win Villanova a national title and play all four years there."



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The Editors would like to thank Mr. Bruce Morrison '64 for taking sports photographs and allowing the Record to use them.