

Former NJ Governors Kean, Byrne, and Whitman Participate in Panel Dialogue

By ALYSSA BAUM (IV)

On Monday April 30, the entire high school as well as many Pingry alumni gathered in Hauser Auditorium to listen to former New Jersey Governors Brendan Byrne, Thomas Kean, and Christine Whitman speak in a panel discussion. The governors answered a slew of student questions on topics ranging from national sustainability, to New Jersey's budget, to the fact that New Jersey's state vegetable is actually a fruit, the tomato. After Mr. Conard welcomed the governors, Sophia Feng (V) and Sam Ricciardi (V) led the panel discussion. The Record staff, the Green Group, the AP Government class and the Pingry chapter of Future Business Leaders of America all contributed questions.

Alli Dorneo (IV) thought it was "cool" that all three governors have a connection to Pingry. As it turns out, Governor Kean's son, New Jersey State Senator Thomas Kean Jr., is a Pingry alumnus, Governor

Whitman's daughter, Kate Whitman Annis, is the Director of Alumni Relations, and Governor Byrne is the grandparent of a current Pingry student, Matt Fromm (III).

Although they disagreed on some issues, the three governors were in general agreement on a few key points. First, they all believed that the current New Jersey government is trying to create a budget that will help the state, and ultimately the country, recover from the current economic crisis.

In terms of the upcoming election, even though the governors have different personal opinions on the candidates, they all agreed on several ideas: that the newly allowed Super PACs

are only hurting the campaigning process; that the political debates should be focused on the vital issues that are affecting the

that overall, "the work was worth the opportunity." He also hopes that after viewing these three former governors in action, "Pingry



From left to right, Governors Byrne, Whitman, and Kean at the assembly.

Courtesy of V. McGrath

country rather than more controversial issues such as abortion; and that voters need to remember that they are voting to elect a president, not a political party. All three governors encouraged Pingry students not to think about politics as being in their future, but as something that needs to engage them now.

Ricciardi, one of the mediators of the panel discussion, enjoyed being able to participate in the organization of the assembly, noting

students are encouraged to go into politics."

The panel discussion has received a lot of positive feedback from the student body. Mikaela Lewis (IV) said, "I thought the assembly was interesting and I enjoyed hearing the governors' answers to the questions that were asked." Jonathan Zeitels (III) agreed, saying, "I really liked the assembly because it was a rare opportunity to listen to former government officials."

Eustace Conway Speaks for Earth Day

By CAROLINE MURPHY (V)

On Friday, April 13, students and faculty gathered in Hauser Auditorium for the third annual Earth Day assembly. This year, the Green Group arranged for Mr. Eustace Conway to share his story and encourage students to get in touch with nature. Mr. Conway is a unique naturalist and the subject of the novel "The Last American Man" by Elizabeth Gilbert.

The night before the assembly, Mr. Conway joined a group of students and teachers for a homemade supper at the new Green Group picnic tables. The students had a chance to speak with Mr. Conway individually before a group discussion took place. Emily Kamen (V), who participated in the night's activities, thought the group discussion was the most interesting part of the night. "He talked a lot about how society is changing and what that means for the future," she said.

At the assembly the next morning, Mr. Conway introduced himself as "an unusual speaker" for a place like Pingry, because his lifestyle is so different from that of most people in the community. He explained how, at the age of 17, he moved out of his suburban home and into the forest because he saw so many problems with

modern society. He lived in an Indian teepee for 17 winters, and was completely self-sufficient. He made his own buckskin clothes, created his own tools, and gathered his own food.

Mr. Conway spoke about the insight he gained about today's society from his experiences outdoors. He explained, "When you're in the middle of it, you don't always see everything. When I backed up, I could understand society better."

Following an animated and graphic description of his battle with a deer, Mr. Conway spoke about being in touch with the resources we use. He described the difference between knowing the products we consume and understanding them. He gave the example of buying your food in a supermarket versus growing food oneself. "When you grow food, you understand and appreciate its connection to other things in this world," he said.

According to Kamen, Mr. Conway was the best speaker she's ever heard at Pingry because he was so insightful. She said, "He conveyed the message that it's important to pay attention to your actions and the world around you

and your effect on nature."

Senior Sarah Williams said, "Mr. Conway's presentation was certainly unlike any other we've ever had at Pingry! He was very interesting, but some of his descriptions were a little too graphic for my liking."

Art teacher and Green Group advisor Mr. Peter Delman said, "I had been wanting to have him come to Pingry for quite a while,

but I was worried that he might not be well received." Mr. Conway did not disappoint, because Mr. Delman added, "I thought his speech was great because it was so obviously genuine and heartfelt. I especially liked the message about turning off the TV and getting out and doing something. The most important thing to do is to find out who you are and what you care about."

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K.Leib (VI)

Inside The Record



Courtesy of Pingry

R. Campbell (VI) and L. Jolley (VI) dance with guests at the Intergenerational Prom on April 3.

Schoolhouse Rock

Pingry grad Adam Gardner '91 brings his band Guster to school for a special one-night performance. P5.

Changing of the Guard

Mrs. Barbara Chilmonik takes over as the new Bookstore manager after the departure of Mrs. Sandy Kredeit. P5.

The Great Debaters

A recap of the exciting 2012 edition of the Robert H. Lebow '58 Memorial Oratorical Competition. P4.

Love What You Do

Caroline Murphy (V) offers an important life lesson gained from a visit to ECLC. P3.

All that Jazz

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Mags the Magnificent

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EDITORIAL

English Major? Better Get in Line

Coincidentally, on a plane ride back from a visit to a university I had been admitted to in California, I found myself reading Frank Bruni's latest Sunday New York Times Op-Ed piece, titled "The Imperiled Promise of College." After flying six hours across the country, attending a daylong Admitted Students event, and staying two nights in a hotel in downtown L.A., I encountered his opinion piece and felt my heart sink.

Bruni uses words like "grim" and "uncertain" to describe recent college graduates' fates upon entering the job market. Bruni points out that pre-professional majors like those in Accounting, Engineering, or Education are much more appealing in the post-grad turmoil than their liberal arts inspired counterparts; he mentions Philosophy, Anthropology, the Humanities, and Art History majors as the least fortunate according to recent data. (By the way, Humanities encompasses a whole mess of things, including History, English, Modern Languages, and Classics.)

Here I am, having worked tirelessly for the past four years to get into a good college, and now facing the unsightly reality: even if it was from Harvard, a degree in English probably wouldn't do me much good after graduation in the current job climate.

In the Pingry environment, it always seemed like getting into college was the ultimate goal. Once we were invited into that golden gate of opportunity, it appeared, we had it made, no matter our choice of study. But the truth outside Pingry's cozy bubble is not so idyllic, and the Associated Press's stat that 53.6% of recent college graduates under 25 are unemployed or underemployed stings like a slap in the face.

I'm conflicted because part of me so badly wants to repeat what I've always been told, and always believed to be true – "Do what you love and it'll all work out!" – but the cynical side of me doubts the veracity of that platitude.

However, I've realized that as Pingry students, even the English majors among us (myself included) might be better off than many of our future classmates once it comes time to job search. Thanks to the quality of education we've enjoyed thus far, as well as the ways we've been taught to embrace knowledge, think critically, and conduct ourselves honorably, we have both intangible and very real skills that transcend a packed résumé.

Maybe a Classics degree won't immediately lend itself to a six-figure salary, and it probably wouldn't hurt to take an Accounting class or two in college. But while doctors, engineers, and teachers are undoubtedly among the most critical members of the workforce, the rest of us who choose to pursue more abstract careers shouldn't be lampooned as "impractical." That diversity of ideas and dreams is what keeps America interesting.

The bleak unemployment statistic Bruni reported from the AP doesn't seem to offer much hope for college grads. But the "glass half full" perception of that percentage is recognizing that it means 46.4% of university educated 20-somethings *do* have jobs – and that Pingry's alumni have been given every opportunity to fall on the working side of the picket line.

—Roxanne Feitel

Begrudgingly Completing Our Community Service Hours for All the Wrong Reasons

By BEN KAMINOFF (IV)

If you sit through a typical morning meeting, you will undoubtedly hear a plea from Mrs. Hartz urging us to get involved in a wide range of community service opportunities. You would expect that students would jump at the chance to take part in one of these activities, but instead too many students appear unenthusiastic about community service at Pingry.

I base these statements on my own observations of how often Mrs. Hartz has to keep asking students to complete their ten required service hours until the last possible moment. Also, by the end of April, only days away from leaving for ISP for example, 64 out of 131 seniors had not yet completed their hours. Too often I overhear students grumbling in Hauser when we hear reminders about what we ought to be doing.

I know that we all have

a lot of priorities, but why can we not give up ten hours of our time a year to help someone less fortunate than ourselves?

As Pingry students, we are extraordinarily privileged to attend a renowned private school that will prepare us to tackle life's challenges. Unfortunately, many others in the world are not as lucky as we are in this respect. We have the power to help those less well off than ourselves, and I think it's important to use this power to do acts of community service because we genuinely want to help make a difference, not because we want to check off ten hours on our transcripts.

Over the past two years, I have gone on Bridges runs with the Bridges Outreach organization. A Bridges run is essentially a trip

to Lower Manhattan on a Friday night where we help provide clothing, food, and basic necessities to the homeless. The people who receive something from a run are always extremely appreciative of even the smallest donation.

After we hand out food on a Bridges run, we are given the opportunity to

"We should realize that because we have been given so much, much is expected from us."

talk to the homeless who are receiving the items. These individuals have been through a lot in their lives, but they can still relate

with the volunteers on a personal level. These people have shown me a different perspective, and have shown me what life is like outside the bubble of suburban New Jersey. Doing community service opened my eyes to unfamiliar ways of life and made me appre-

ciative of the things that can be easily overlooked in my life.

Every time I go on a Bridges run I feel like I have helped make a little difference in someone's life as a volunteer within Bridges. As we all know, the feeling of doing something for someone else is valuable, and getting that feeling is just one incentive for us to change our mindset about community service and choose to do it because we want to.

I am not saying that everyone should suddenly become totally devoted to community service, but realize that as a community we are privileged. Not to be cliché, but we should realize that because we have been given so much, much is expected from us. Community service is something that we should always be excited about, not something that we should just get done because we have some hours left.

Looking Forward to the Excitement of Junior Year, Rather Than Dreading it

By ALYSSA BAUM (IV)

Whether it is one of my parents' friends, my dermatologist, or a random person in the grocery store, whenever I tell someone I am a sophomore, I am consistently met with a response that goes along the lines, "Wow. Junior year is going to be stressful!" I find it amusing that so many people feel the need to tell me how I am going to feel next year, especially when most of them have not been in high school for the past 30 to 40 years.

I know there is a lot of hype over junior year—between SAT's, AP's, class work, and the daunting college process. I understand that I will be more stressed in 11th grade than I currently am as a 10th grader. Although

the workload will be tough, I do not think junior year should be approached with overwhelming trepidation.

There are many aspects of next year that I am actually looking forward to. Along with most of my classmates, I will turn 17 and get my driver's license. I have taken the bus to school since Kindergarten, and for years I have been counting down the months until I get my license. The ability to drive myself to school will be a major perk because I won't need to leave my house nearly as early or get home as late.

Although it may seem crazy, I am also looking forward to my classes next year. No, of course I am not excited about my increased homework or AP exams, but I could not help but be excited when course selection sheets were distributed in January. For the first time, it feels like I am in control of my schedule. I was able to sign up for more classes because I want to take them, not because they were required.

As a junior, I will also be able to have more leadership responsibilities in my extra curricular activities. Juniors and seniors tend to fill the leadership positions in most clubs, have the leads in the plays, and get the

majority of the playing time on an athletic field. Once the Class of 2012 graduates, it will be up to the current underclassmen to rise up and fill the void that the seniors leave.

Although the upcoming college admissions process seems foreboding and frankly a little overwhelming, I am also excited to begin portions of the college process. Next year, I will begin visiting colleges and exploring my options for life after Pingry, and it is exciting to think about the endless possibilities that

are awaiting me in the next phases of my life.

At least for now, I am trying to focus on the positive aspects of my junior year rather than the negative ones. Whatever your plans are for next year, I challenge you to tackle your obstacles with the same mentality. Life can be more enjoyable if we focus on the good things rather than obsess over the bad. In the struggles that lie ahead of you, try to look on the bright side and no matter how bad a situation may seem, try to find something positive that



KATE LEIB



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The Honors Bio Games: May the Odds Be Ever in Your Favor

By MATT FROMM (III)

The voice on your laptop shocks you awake. "It's 3:00 in the morning!" You've fallen asleep with your head on your laptop. The computer's voice scares you more than the "Saw" movies. No, you're not getting up to harvest the crops or start your newspaper delivery route. You're a Pingry School freshman toiling away on the Honors Projects. And you're trying to finish question three.

Every year, many freshmen with decent to above-average grades apply to the Honors Biology program. Among other things, the goal of the program is to "get students to do real science and real research, [and to] mimic the challenges of the scientific world," said Mr. Luke De, Pingry Biology teacher and head of the program.

Upon acceptance, students are assigned three challenging projects, given over the course of several months. Each project takes roughly two or three weeks to complete; you're given a few

days off between projects.

According to the class's website, the aim of the projects is to give you "the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the material" that's covered in Bio I. And, as you read the intro letter while you're chatting with your buddy on Facebook, you give each other electronic high-fives. It's all good.

Then, reality hits. You glance at the first project and realize you have no idea what you've signed up for. Mr. De said, "Kids generally suffer from minor aneurysms when they first receive the projects." More than a few kids were freaking out once they had a grip on the level of involvement these projects would require.

I just finished the second of the three projects, and, to be candid, they've been extremely challenging. One friend who did them last year estimated I'd spend an extra

half hour to an hour every night doing homework to finish the projects on time. (Next time, I will get advice from someone who is not a genius.) Without putting too fine a point onto it, you have to be willing to make some pretty serious sacrifices if you're going to take a whack at these things.

Unless, like my friend last year, you're a super genius, forget doing anything the weekend before a project is due or getting your nightly eight hours of shut-eye in the days leading up to the due date. One of my close friends got a total of 40 minutes of sleep the night before the last project was due. And that kid is not a slacker.

Plan for a two-week Facebook blackout. Now, you could argue that this is a good thing. However, you may also be giving up other things, like sleep, food, showering, and exercise. I had to spend much

less time on my other subjects over the course of the last few days as a result of my own procrastination, and I also had to skip my weekend sports clinics and worked through dinner a couple times. Yeah, it's intense, and on more than one question, you'll ask yourself: Are these projects really worth the "H" on my transcript?

For answers to that, I consulted a few participating kids, and I interviewed Mr. De. Going into this, I knew little about Mr. De. Now, I regard him as a scientific genius and a man of almost super-human energy who is fiercely devoted to teaching and passionate about research. Of course, there is a flip side to a having a man like this designing the projects. Translation: He makes 'em very hard. Mr. De says that he "[has] always believed that kids can handle some pretty intense information."

After interviewing Mr. De, I realized that students don't grasp the amount of time the teachers put into these things. Mr. De says that "it is an immense amount of work" to be responsible for them.

It irks him that some students don't go see the Bio teachers until they absolutely have to. And, he cautions that, "those who begin to research without thinking end up spending hours going in the wrong directions." Surprisingly, he noted that "students that rank the highest academically often do quite poorly on the projects," because they are forced to utilize a different skill set than they would in the typical Bio class.

In essence, Mr. De wants to "get kids to think about devastating human diseases in terms of moving 3D molecules." To do this, he becomes a student again and attends biology conferences, noting that, "I sit through boring lectures, and get preached at by people that I think I am smarter than. Then I have to stand up to the scrutiny of other teachers." He added, perhaps sarcastically: "I have the best job in the world."

Meanwhile, students' opinions of the projects varied greatly. From trying to tackle intronic RNA to struggling with crazy hard "superquestions" to being called "Honors Bio Victims," people had conflicting feelings about these projects. One anonymous student said, "These projects are absurd. I have better stuff to do than sit

here and try to, like, cure cancer." Said another, "Matt, enough of the interviewing. What the he** is number four asking?" One kid posted hopefully on Facebook right before the announcing of the Mega Millions lottery winners: "Maybe Mr. De will win the lottery [and retire] so we won't have another Honors Project!"

The upside, of course, is that you feel fantastic when you nail down a question. And these projects force you to become a better researcher and analytical writer. You learn that brevity is your friend. And, no small thing, you learn a ton: The projects examine molecular movement, cancer studies (i.e. certain kinds of mutations), and other modern-day biological questions.

But, like any great learning experience, all that knowledge comes at cost. You may fall asleep in your clothes and then forget to change for school the next day. You may forget to shower. You'll lose track of what day it is. The night I turned the second Honors Project in, I fell onto my bed and had the greatest 14-hour power sleep of my life.

When I woke up, I contemplated walking into town to buy Mr. De a lottery ticket.

Time After Time: What's Old is New Again

By KASIA AXTELL (V)

I can honestly say that I never expected to see the rapper Drake's face on the cover of an old-fashioned vinyl record, and yet that is precisely what I saw the other day during a shopping trip to Urban Outfitters.

Of course, seeing this made me think, isn't it funny how old, out-of-style things have a way of coming out of obscurity and finding their way back into our hearts?

Take vinyl records, for example. Anytime I go to Urban Outfitters, I encounter an enormous selection of old-fashioned LP records containing the music of artists that range from the classics, like the Beatles, Rolling Stones, or Bob Marley, to hip and modern, like Drake and Adele. In a day and age when an extremely convenient one square inch iPod is capable of holding more than five hundred songs, giant, clunky records are coming back into style.

The question is, why? They

are expensive (prices range from about \$10 to \$60 for new records, and rare, older records are typically worth tens of thousands of dollars), they are not easily portable, they take up a lot of space, and each album holds only a fraction of a fraction of what an iPod can. I understand that anything "vintage" is very much in style right now, but here's what confuses me: does vintage equal better?

Records are not the only blast from the past our society has received lately. Vintage clothes, shoes, accessories, and photographs have become extremely popular in the past few years, too. As a matter of fact, just about anywhere you look, somebody is advertising something vintage, and these items tend to be quite expensive.

So what is the deal? Why is it that stuff that simply looks vintage is so much more expensive than stuff that actually is vintage?

In all honesty, this whole vintage thing seems to me to be just a trend, and anything asso-

ciated with the word is bound to have a high value, considering the popularity and rules of supply and demand. But regardless, I find it fascinating how people — myself included — are willing to go out and purchase a bunch of brand-new clothes that look old when we really could just pay much less at a thrift store to get the real thing.

It is all a piece of a larger part of society that is both- ersome to me. We strive too often today to find what is cool and trendy, so much so that we will spend more money on something that is inconvenient if it is on something that is "in." Maybe it would be worth it for us to just express our true selves rather than try to fit in, and buy what we are actually interested in rather than what we are supposed to care about. It is a more fulfilling way to live, and it could even save us some money in the process.

Isn't it funny how old, out-of-style things have a way of coming out of obscurity and finding their way back into our hearts?

Applying What We Love to What We Do

By CAROLINE MURPHY (V)

During a recent visit to ECLC, I played a game of basketball with a group of the school's students. Afterwards, I had a conversation with one of the girls on my team, and she told me that her favorite sport is basketball, even though she admitted that she is not particularly good at it. She knows she is not the next Michael Jordan, but she plays anyway, because she has a lot of fun.

Our conversation stuck around in my brain for the rest of the day. I really internalized what the girl had to say and started thinking of the things I do because I genuinely enjoy them. For example, I love

to sing. I sing all the time: in the car, in the shower, and in girls' chorus. Am I a good singer? Absolutely not, but I do chorus anyway, because I have fun doing it.

Besides singing, though, I couldn't think of many things I do because I truly enjoy them. This got me thinking about the activities

Pingry students participate in and their reasons for doing so. At school, we don't always find ourselves joining clubs or teams for

our own pleasure, but rather because we want to impress colleges or follow our parents' wishes. We tend to focus on doing things to please other people, or limiting ourselves to activities we know we will succeed at."

we know we will succeed at. It is not a bad thing to have a few "checkmark" activities; they make us well-rounded people. But visualize your current college résumé. How many things on there do you do for yourself, and how many do you do because you want to please someone else? Some of our résumés may be packed with clubs and teams that will impress colleges, but it is important to try and find a balance between pleasing schools and pleasing ourselves. We should not let the college



S. Korn (IV)

admission process dictate our entire high school lives. As I talked to my new friend at ECLC, it was evident that basketball brings her a sort of pure joy, despite the fact that she can't even make a layup. She is not playing basketball to impress anyone else, rather she is playing because she wants to. I think everyone in our community can and should learn a lesson from her. After all, there is something to be said for taking part in activities that you actually enjoy.

Watching the latest New Jersey Governors assembly, I found myself more interested in the students on stage than the actual governors. I saw a couple of respected politicians in a friendly setting decide that they were more concerned with making subtle jobs at current party policies than consider actual solutions, while a group of students on stage presented incredibly thoughtful and inquisitive questions.

EDITORIAL

Great Opinions, Greater Egos

That assembly reaffirmed something that has grown more apparent to me as my high school years have begun winding down. This is not just a school of insightful and passionate people, it is also one of great talent, even out of the classroom. Our athletic, musical, and academic talents are well documented and easy to see, but the questions were a great example of our impressive social intelligence. Read through some op-eds in The Record or an issue of Vital Signs and you will realize how remarkable the students here are when it comes to having well thought out opinions on a myriad of social issues.

The talent is there, as are the minds. So it begs the question: why doesn't it always seem that way in conversations? What I am trying to say can be summed up perfectly by something a friend said to me a few days ago. Talking about our student body, he said, "Everyone here has great opinions. But they don't understand that other people are allowed to have theirs." As sad as it is, it makes sense. Honestly think about the last discussion about any serious topic that you have had with other students here, whether in class or during a free. Did someone walk away from that conversation thinking, "you know, I still have my own thoughts but you make a good point?" I would be pretty surprised if you answered yes.

Unfortunately, we have learned, maybe through our current political system or maybe just through our society, to operate under the assumption that as long as you research your opinion, nobody else's can possibly be worth a second thought. Either we ignore the other people completely, or the conversations descend into chaos as everyone tries to out-yell each other. Just ask my AP Econ class — we have had quite our fair share of shout-offs this year.

I do not expect everyone here to be incredibly open and willing to adopt new ideas. Honestly, that is just humanly impossible. But with all of our great potential, we cannot let ourselves become the jaded politicians either, more concerned with shooting each other down than finding the answers.

If you ask a current senior right now, as hard as it is to believe, they would let you know that high school goes faster than you would think. That is what makes this point extremely valuable right now. Being able to hear other opinions as well as we formulate them is an invaluable life skill, one that unfortunately is all too rare in today's society, and — as we all inch closer to college and the real world — one that we need to develop as soon as possible. Stop irrationally arguing and start listening now, or the next thing you know, you will find yourself graduating lacking the kind of social skill that can make all the difference in the adult world we're going to join.

—Dan Abend

Tuition Runs Out Day Prompts the Question: Where Does the Money Go?

By HUNTER STIRES (III)

When the signs for Tuition Runs Out Day went up in the halls of Pingry, many students were confused as to the message being sent about Pingry's budget. Does Pingry, an institution that is teaching the next generation of entrepreneurs, financiers, and captains of industry, not have its financial house in order? How is it possible that more than \$30,000,000 in tuition doesn't cover the entire school year? Where does all the money go?

The purpose of Tuition Runs Out Day was to symbolize the 80% mark of the school year when 80% of the budget, the tuition dollars, have "run out" and Pingry relies on the annual fund and the interest from its \$67,000,000 endowment to carry the rest of the weight. According to Ms. Tara Enzmann from the

Alumni and Development office, Tuition Runs Out Day was actually created "by the Senior Class Giving Committee this year to bring attention to The Pingry Fund and its impact."

Students had the opportunity to write thank-you notes to alumni and other donors for their efforts to ensure the continued financial solvency of our school and to make sure that we don't actually run out of money. Seniors were rewarded for donating with participatory neon yellow t-shirts and Pingry 150th Anniversary pins.

In order to understand Tuition Runs Out Day, according to Mr. Olaf Weckesser, Pingry's new Chief Financial Officer, it's necessary to understand some basic aspects of the budget. Every year, Pingry collects roughly \$33,000,000 in tuition, translating to about \$32,000 per student. While this may seem like an ex-

orbitant amount, there is actually a \$6000 deficit between the checks our parents write and the cost to educate each student. Tuition only makes up 82% of Pingry's revenue, which is why it is so important to clear up the misconceptions and raise awareness about the necessity of the Pingry Fund and other forms of donations.

"Our revenue comes from four places," Mr. Weckesser explained. "Tuition would be number one, then the donations to the Pingry Fund, followed by the endowment, and the fourth would be auxiliary revenue, which is the bookstore, renting of space, lunch, and summer camp." This all adds up to a net budget of about \$35,000,000.

It is also important to take into consideration that \$4,000,000 of the \$33,000,000 in gross tuition goes into the financial aid pool. Financial aid is considered to be

tuition that isn't collected, which means that the actual revenue from tuition is only \$29,000,000. As for facilities rental and lunch, neither of those two sources are pure profit, as some of that money has to go into maintenance and the costs associated with running the kitchen.

In terms of expenses, 67% of the budget is devoted to faculty and staff salaries and benefits. If a school is only as good as its teachers, then Pingry has to give competitive benefits to teachers to get them to come to Pingry rather than another school. According to Mr. Weckesser, "We have to set our salaries based on marketplace competition."

Tuition Runs Out Day undoubtedly achieved its goal of bringing attention to The Pingry Fund: 100% of the senior class had donated to the Fund by the end of April.

Successful Prom Held at Olde Mill Inn

By MARIEL KENNEDY (VI)

On Thursday, April 19 from 7 to 10 P.M., the 2012 Junior and Senior Prom was held at a new venue, the Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge. Led by Upper School Biology teacher Mr. Andrew Alfano and Upper School Physics teacher Ms. Jill Kehoe, the Prom Committee made all the preparations for the event.

In addition to Ms. Kehoe and Mr. Alfano, Prom chaperones included Dr.

ample time for dancing and socializing with friends," Betty Li (VI) said. In addition to the hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and desserts were served.

According to Julia Johnstone (VI), "One of the best things about this year's Prom was the different spaces we had access to." In addition to a ballroom filled with standing tables, couches, and the dance floor, there was a separate room where students could serve themselves food as



K. Topor (VI), H. Meiring (V), and N. Witte (V) at the Junior/Senior Prom. C. Rotatori (V)

Denise Brown Allen, Mrs. Ronalee Newman, Mr. Tim Lear '92, Mr. Jon Leef, Mrs. Ridie Markenson, Dr. Megan Jones, Ms. Ananya Chatterji, Mr. Tim Jaqua, and Ms. Lisa Fung-Kee-Fung.

Unlike past years' sit-down dinners, this year's Prom food, which included calamari, eggplant rollatini, pasta, and dumplings, was in the form of self-serve heavy hors d'oeuvres prepared by Executive Chef Walter Leffler.

"While there were long lines for some of the food, the informal arrangement of the meal allowed for unstructured fun and gave

well as an outdoor space with seating at the venue.

The music for the event was provided by DJ Dave Hicok, who played a mixture of popular tunes. "It was the first Pingry dance that I can remember where the DJ knew how to keep people dancing the whole time by successfully mixing different songs," Ryan Campbell (VI) said.

Overall, students responded positively to the changes made for this year's Prom. Mr. Alfano said, "The event overall went very smoothly. All of the students looked fantastic. We think it was a big success."

For the first time ever, the competition ended with two first-place winners: Ricciardi and Claire Chen. Zhou placed in second.

Students were impressed with the articulation and humor each speaker presented. "I enjoyed Sam's speech

because it was really powerful and entertaining," Derek Hsue (IV) said. Natalie Gilbert (IV) enjoyed Butrico's speech, because it "caught my attention and made me laugh because I remembered the day she swapped classes with her twin sister, Erin."

Intergenerational Prom Rocks Pingry

By CHARLOTTE ZEE (IV)

This year's Intergenerational Prom was held on Tuesday, April 3rd in Pingry's cafeteria. The night was filled with dancing and mingling while student volunteers helped to serve food and engage in conversation with the senior citizen guests. "It was really fun talking to the senior citizens and getting to know them more," Stephanie Yeh (IV) said. "It was nice to see them socializing, and it seemed like they had the time of their lives."

The highlight of the Intergenerational Prom was the music. The performers included members of the Balladeers, Buttndowns, and Cabaret singers while the Jazz Band kept the music going throughout the night. "It was really cool to perform in front of an audience of mixed ages," singer

were seen dancing to the music both with one another and with student volunteers. Jazz Band member Gabby Stern (III) said that she "enjoyed performing for the senior citizens because it seemed like they had a lot of fun."

Community Service Director Mrs. Shelley Hartz put a lot of effort into making the Prom happen and ensuring its success. Through her hard work, she guaranteed that the night ran smoothly and that all 200 of the guests were always enjoying themselves.

Although she enjoyed seeing the senior citizens and students interacting with each other, the highlight of Mrs. Hartz's evening was "the set-up, when we turned our cafeteria into an evening filled with hearts and flowers." As the night progressed, the volunteers formed connections with the guests, something Mrs.



A. Haik (V) and S. Reddi (V) pose with a guest at the Intergenerational prom. Courtesy of Pingry

Ryan Campbell (VI) said. "I was happy to see that the guests were familiar with some of the songs that were performed."

The senior citizen guests

Hartz was pleased to see. "I could tell the evening was a success by looking at the smiles on the faces of both our guests and our students," she said.

Oratorical Competition Ends in a Tie

By MAULIN HEMANI (IV)

This year, the annual Robert H. LeBow '58 Memorial Oratorical Competition was held in Hauser Auditorium on February 24. The competition featured six student speakers - Anna Butrico (IV), Claire Chen (V), Stacey Chen (IV), Sophia Feng (V) (the 2011 Competition



Mr. Crowley-Delman and Mr. Jim Smith '58 with the six finalists. Co-winners C. Chen (V) and S. Ricciardi (V) are at right. Courtesy of Pingry

winner), Sam Ricciardi (V), and Ashley Zhou (V) - who were chosen from a pool of 20 students that tried out in the first round.

While the subjects of the speeches varied from speaker to speaker, each combined an important central underlying theme with emotions, examples, and humor.

Each contestant approached the contest differently, with several memo-

rizing their speeches and moving freely about the stage. Others, including co-champion Ricciardi, presented with notes in hand.

Butrico's speech, titled "Identical Identities," addressed the topic of identity from a twin's point of view. Claire Chen's speech, "Of Cacophonies and Sympho-

ny," explored the importance of "actually listening" and paying attention to others. Stacey Chen tackled the idea of "true love" and the danger of idealizing it in her speech, titled "Toxic Love." Feng's speech, "Why We're Here," and Ricciardi's, "Slime," both discussed the value of uniqueness. Zhou's speech, "A Plateful of Expectation," concentrated on the idea of parental expectations.



Congratulations to the senior inductees into the Cum Laude Society!

Back row: A. Hanna, S. Gelman, E. Xiao, D. Ober, A. Mehta, S. O'Keefe, R. Campbell, E. Kong, D. Sun, C. McLaughlin, J. Ross

Front row: J. Johnstone, E. McCormick, M. Kennedy, M. Morash, V. Campbell, M. Ennis, F. Ma, R. Curran, R. Feitel, S. Park, M. Werner, E. McFarland, E. Lang

Adam Gardner '91 and His Band Guster Perform in Celebration of Sesquicentennial with Dr. Jon Sarkin '71

By ROXANNE FEITEL (VI)

In one of the unique events celebrating Pingry's sesquicentennial anniversary this year, the band Guster, including lead guitarist Adam Gardner '91, performed a concert alongside artist Dr. Jon Sarkin '71 in Hauser Auditorium for an audience of alumni, parents, current students, and faculty on March 30.

Gardner, who is a founding member of Guster, first came to Pingry as a ninth grader in 1987. "I loved it instantly," he said, adding that Pingry "played a major role in who I am as an adult...far more than college." He attributes this positive experience to a number of teachers, specifically Mrs. Pat Lionetti, Mr. Al Romano, Mr. Dean Sluyter, Mrs. Gail Castaldo, and Mr. Jim Little, who advised the Men's Glee Club in those days. Gardner was a Buttendown, a member of the Glee Club, and a Peer Leader while in high school. "Buttendowns were a huge part of my musical experience for sure," the guitarist

and singer said.

After high school, Gardner matriculated to Tufts University, where he met his future band mates Ryan Miller and Brian Rosenworcel. During their time at Tufts, the band attracted a devoted following on the Boston alternative music scene under the name "Gus." They didn't become Guster until after graduating, when they realized they weren't the only band calling themselves that. Soon after their freshman year, they began touring, managing their own bookings and travel throughout college.

Since its formation, Guster has made a name for itself with its unique blend of pop, folk, and indie rock, punctuated with unusual percussive beats featuring bongos, cymbals,

and other drums. Gardner acknowledged that the band

hits have made frequent appearances on radio stations in recent

years. Their 2010 album, "Easy Wonderful" peaked at #22 on the Billboard 200, while 2006's "Ganging Up on the Sun" debuted at #25 and went on to win Album of the Year at the Boston Music Awards.

When it came time to produce a music video for "Do You Love Me," the first single off "Easy Wonderful," Gardner reached out to fellow Pingry alum Dr. Jon Sarkin. The two had met coincidentally at an event at the Met, where they were paired together in hopes of attracting a younger audience to the museum through Guster's music and Dr. Sarkin's exuberant artwork.

Gardner and Dr. Sarkin agreed that it was a "natural fit,"

and said that the connection between Guster's music and Dr. Sarkin's art was "inspiring" and "uplifting." To Dr. Sarkin, the artwork he produces depicts the music Guster plays, while their music gives sound to his art.

On stage for the perfor-

mance at Pingry, Guster played acoustically while Dr. Sarkin painted alongside the band. The informal concert format included Gardner's personal stories about his days at Pingry along with requests from the audience, and a special encore in which the band members donned Pingry t-shirts.

Caroline Dreyfuss (VI), who attended the event, said, "I really enjoyed having the opportunity to see Guster play live in such an intimate setting. It was a fun show, especially when Adam Gardner told stories about his time here." Junior Justin Sullivan, a current member of the Buttendowns, said, "Being a music student at Pingry, it was amazing to see what our Music department has produced. The concert was cozy and so cool."

Gardner said he was "so pleased" to be a part of the sesquicentennial celebration, adding, "It's an honor." The next stop on the 150th celebration schedule? Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey will speak at Reunion Weekend on May 19.



Dr. Jon Sarkin and Adam Gardner '91, far left, perform an encore with Guster.

Courtesy of J. Bratek

"has been misunderstood from the get-go," whereupon fans and critics tried to pigeonhole their sound into a single genre. "People think they know your band because they've heard one song on the radio," Gardner said.

Indeed, Guster's infectious

years. Their 2010 album, "Easy Wonderful" peaked at #22 on the Billboard 200, while 2006's "Ganging Up on the Sun" debuted at #25 and went on to win Album of the Year at the Boston Music Awards.

When it came time to pro-

Mrs. Chilmonik Upgrades the Bookstore

By KASIA AXTELL (V)

Students who have walked in the bookstore recently to grab a snack or a drink have probably noticed a new person in charge. Mrs. Barbara Chilmonik replaced Mrs. Sandy Krediet as Bookstore Manager in February.

Before coming to Pingry, Mrs. Chilmonik worked for the Hunterdon County Division of Housing, where she helped find safe and affordable housing for low income, disabled, and elderly cli-

ents. A certified social worker with a Bachelor's degree from Moravian College, she has two children with her husband of 31 years, ages 27 and 25. Her husband, John, is the Maintenance Supervisor at the Short Hills campus.

Mrs. Chilmonik loves working with people, and when she learned that the position of Bookstore Manager was available, she knew it would be the perfect job for her.

Since Mrs. Chilmonik's arrival, plenty of changes have taken place in the Bookstore, and both Upper and Middle School students are thrilled. She recently established a "suggestion box" and is taking the many suggestions she has received seriously.

For example, one student recommended adding an extra table to the Bookstore to accommodate more students, and it did not take long for Mrs. Chilmonik to make that happen. Another student proposed selling root beer, which has since been made available for purchase and has proven to be a hit with the student body.

The exciting news is that there are still more improvements to come. "Every week, I try to add something new or implement a suggestion," Mrs. Chilmonik said. "I will be adding new products all the time. In particular, I am looking for some healthy, tasty options. We recently added more baked chips, as well as some organic snacks."

Beyond the new snacks and drinks that she will continue to stock, Mrs. Chilmonik also plans to bring in some great new apparel next fall. In May, she will



meet with clothing companies like Champion, Patagonia, and Under Armour to discuss options for new Pingry spirit gear.

"I am really enjoying being here at Pingry. Getting to know everyone has been a lot of fun," Mrs. Chilmonik said. "Everyone has been so welcoming, and I really enjoy coming to work every day."



S. Park (VI)

Poetry Festival Inspires Creativity

By STEPHANIE YEH (IV)

On Friday, April 27, the annual Justin Society Creative Writing Festival took place. The festival promotes an appreciation for contemporary poetry and fictional writing within the Pingry community.

As in previous years, English teachers Dr. Susan Dineen, Ms. Alisha Davlin, and Mrs. Victoria Grant organized the event. This year's festival featured the poets Carlos Andres Gomez, Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai, and Lauren Schmidt.

Carlos Andres Gomez is a spoken word poet who returned to the school for a second time, after his poems captivated the community last year. The two-time National Poetry Slam Finalist from New York inspired students with his work, which included the poems "What are Words For" and "Gifted."

Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai, also a spoken word poet, has performed at events throughout the country, including a recent one in the White House. Ms. Tsai, who hails from Chicago, mixes her upbringing and Chinese heritage into her work. During the assembly, she shared three poems including "Weapons of Mass Creation" and "Real Women I Know."

Lauren Schmidt, a poet and Creative Writing teacher, recently

published a collection of poems after being inspired by her experiences at a local homeless shelter. Ms. Schmidt's poems "Manny" and "Kenneth's Purse" told the stories of actual people that she had met at the shelter.

In the first part of the day, the poets presented poems in an all-school assembly in Hauser auditorium. The poems were personal and dealt with current aspects of popular culture, as opposed to the thought-provoking and scholarly poems that are commonly studied in English classes.

After the assembly, the poets held a question and answer session with English classes and students who had opted to attend. The poets shared additional poems, and were able to provide information about their backgrounds and advice for getting started as a writer.

The festival concluded with optional creative writing workshops with each of the poets. Sonalika Reddi (V), who participated in a workshop with Tsai, said, "She really inspired us all creatively. I learned how to write in a more artistic manner."

Overall, the festival altogether was seen as another success. Johnny Pflieger (VI) said, "I've been to six of these now, and I've never once been disappointed. It was great as usual this time around."

German Foreign Exchange Students Depart Multicultural Assembly Makes an Impact

By ANNA BUTRICO (IV)

From March 29th to April 15th, Pingry hosted three German foreign exchange students from Hölty-Gymnasium, a public high school in Wunstorf, Germany. Jonathan Freinberg (VI), Elizabeth Herman (IV), and Andrew Zola (V) hosted Ann Kristin Klose, Julia Borsuk, and Max Balzereit respectively.

For three weeks, Ann, Julia, and Max attended classes and participated in athletics. They also visited New York City, where they explored landmarks like Ellis Island, Battery Park, the Empire State Building, and Central Park. The students also saw a matinee performance of "Mamma Mia."

The Upper School has a long-lasting tradition of hosting German students, who are according to Mr. Norman LaValette, Head of the Foreign Language Department, "an invaluable link to everything Pingry students do in our German program." German students had to communicate

with Ann, Julia, and Max, making "connections that are potential opportunities for both groups to continue to visit each other, learn each other's culture, and improve their language skills," Mr. LaValette said.

"In the beginning, I think the differences between ways of life were hard for Julia to adjust to," Herman said about the student she hosted. "Julia said that she would never do things like leave her bags in the hallway and expect it to be there when she returned." Mr. LaValette adds, "All three of the students we had were struck by the pace at Pingry and how hard Pingry students have to work. I think the German students and their student hosts learned a lot about each other and themselves through this experience."

Overall, the German students had a great time visiting. "Pingry is great—the pupils and teachers are very nice," Ann Kristin Klose said. "I enjoyed my time in New Jersey and will never forget the wonderful track practices that I was allowed to take part in."

By VINITA DAVEY (V)

Comprised of a diverse range of performances, including a martial arts demonstration, Indian dancing, and a Lebanese song, this year's Multicultural Assembly encompassed a wide span of cultural backgrounds.

The assembly opened with a video created by the Student Diversity Leadership Club (SDLC) that was edited by Justen Haynes

(VI) called "True Colors." It featured a slideshow of images of over 60 students and faculty members holding up messages that they wanted to share with the community. Some students chose to address common stereotypes, while others wanted to express pride in their identities.

The video was followed by AFS student Lara Abou Amar (V) singing a song by Lebanese singer Fairuz called "Give Me



6'4" junior J. Galiardo was among those featured in the SDLC video.

the Flute and Sing," accompanied by Mr. Jay Winston on the piano. After Abou Amar's performance, Serina Chugani (II) danced to an assortment of Indian songs, incorporating elements of both classical dance as well as Bollywood into her performance. Next, sophomore Isabel Kim performed Korean martial arts while music played in the background, and then Jessica Gluck (IV) and Naomi Wong (V) presented the work of Kathleen Zhu (IV), the winner of the SDLC-sponsored art competition entitled "Diversity: What does it mean to you?" The piece, a poem written by Zhu, is entitled "Lamentations of a Gay Boy."

The next performance was an energetic group dance to five

Korean pop songs by Steve Sun (V), Isabel Kim (IV), Jennifer Guo (IV), Tracy Lin (IV), Gladys Teng (III), Sara Wang (III), and Tiffany Yu (IV). Closing the assembly was Natalie Gilbert (IV), who sang "Imagine," by John Lennon, accompanied by Michael Arrom (V) on the piano.

The video and performances received positive feedback from the community. Rabia Khan (IV) said that she "enjoyed the assembly, and liked that the so many different cultures were represented this year." Isabella Barrionuevo (IV), who participated in the video, added, "I really loved taking part in the video, because it gave all students an opportunity to have their voices heard."

Cabaret Delights Audience

By ANDY ALDER (IV)

This year's Cabaret, a night of student musical performances, was held on March 29 in the Lower Commons. Student volunteers sold \$10 tickets by the front entrance, with the profits going to a good cause. "Cabaret raised almost \$1,000 for two charities that Pingry volunteers with: the Covenant House in Newark and Cancer Support Community in Bedminster," Community Service Coordinator Mrs. Shelley Hartz said.

"Motown" was the theme of this year's Cabaret, and the singers chose songs that they thought best represented this musical style. The night started off with Ryan Campbell (VI)'s spirited rendition of "Twistin' the Night Away" by Sam Cooke. "I knew it would be so much fun to dance and sing to it in front of an audience with such a talented band to back me up," Ryan said.

Yumi Casagrande (V) was up next with "I'll Be There," a famous hit by the

Jackson 5. Later, Hannah Kirmser (VI) sang "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay" by Otis Redding, after which

with a beautiful rendition of "Lately" by Stevie Wonder. Up next was Gavi

Shandler (IV), who sang "Who's Loving You Now" by Smokey Robinson. "She sang so beautifully and crisply, I missed my cue because I was listening to her," Nick Canavan (VI), a member of the Jazz Band, which accompanied many of the performances, said.

Caroline Zee (VI) ended the night with "Think" by Aretha Franklin, and as she sang, the other Cabaret singers joined her by performing the back-up lyrics.

Mr. McAnally felt that there was a "magical feeling" to all of the music, and he was "greatly impressed." Mrs. Hartz added, "I think the audience really loved the evening. The songs were great to listen to and because they were well-known songs, the audience could sing along or clap to the beat." Mr. McAnally went on to describe the night as "one of the best Cabarets that Pingry has done," while Canavan agreed that it was "a night to remember."



R. Campbell (VI), D. Allen (V), S. Chen (IV), Y. Casagrande (V), and V. Campbell (VI) at Cabaret. Courtesy of S. Chen

Natalie Gilbert (IV) and Ben Behrman (V) teamed up for an electrifying performance of "Superstition" by Stevie Wonder. They were followed by Will LaCosta (V), who serenaded Mrs. Hartz with "Let's Get It On" by Marvin Gaye. "I was happy to participate," said Mrs. Hartz. "That song is one of my favorites and I sing it out loud every time I hear it on the radio."

Next, Stacey Chen (VI) and Dorian Allen (V) sang an old favorite, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," by Nikolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson. Justin Sullivan (V) followed, changing the mood

Drama IV Students Perform in Final Pingry Production, "Love's Labour's Lost"

By MATTHEW MARVIN (IV)

For the annual Senior Play, this year's Drama IV class performed an updated musical version of one of William Shakespeare's earliest comedies, "Love's Labour's Lost," on the evenings of April 12, 13, and 14. The class incorporated five Cole Porter songs and placed the story in the timeframe of 1920's France, while still managing to use the majority of the original Shakespearean text.

"At first we were sort of reluctant to do Shakespeare, but after reading a series of different plays, Mr. Romano decided on "Love's Labour's Lost," Maisie Laud (VI) said. "The wit of the play matches the lyrical wit of Cole Porter and George Gershwin very well."

"Many in this group of seniors had the skill set to do a musical version of a

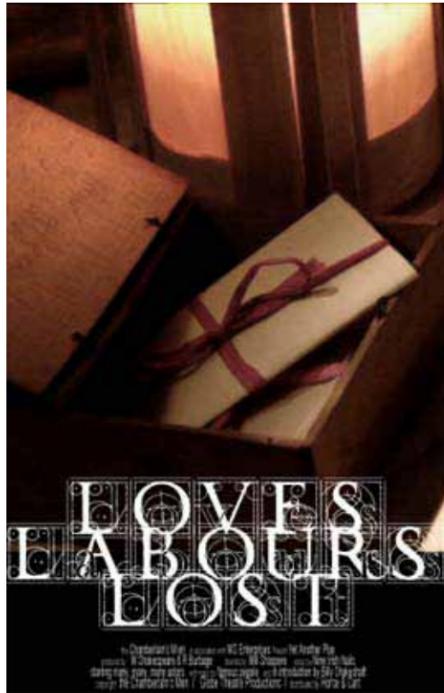
Shakespeare play. I wanted to add songs that had a style in terms of the lyrics and the actual music that would match the rhymed verse of the play," Mr. Al Romano, who teaches the class and directed the play, added.

In the show, Andrew Hanna, as the King of Navarre, falls in love with the Princess of France, played by Molly Greninger, while his noble companions — Longaville, Dumaine, and Berowne — played by Cameron Edwards, Alex Mango, and Ryan Campbell, fall in love with Maria, Katherine, and Rosaline. Marissa Von Nessi, Tori Campbell, and Molly Schulman portray the latter.

Meanwhile, Sam Gelman and Andrew Gorelick, playing Don Armado and Costard, pursue Jaquenetta, played by Caroline Zee, while Laud portrays Boyet.

The Drama IV students

dedicated the production to Dr. Mike Richardson and Mrs. Pat Lionetti for having worked tirelessly to keep the cast and crew so balanced throughout rehearsals. While the play was the seniors' final official Pingry performance, it was a great way for them to end their high school drama careers. "It was a culmination of the acting training students have received from Drama and from the co-curricular produc-



Courtesy of Google. There was a nice sense of closure," Mr. Romano said.

Lace and Tangerine Popular for Spring Fashion

By GABBY STERN (III)

There are some new fashion trends to be on the lookout for at the department stores this season.

Stores will be heavily advertising lace apparel, like lacy shirts, sweaters, skirts, shoes, and dresses. "This spring, lace is appearing — and appealing — on everything from tank tops to peep toes," Aly Walansky, columnist for LovingYou.com said.

Prints are also going to be big this spring and summer.

There will be plenty to choose from, including oversized clothing with floral and geometrical patterns. Megan Gustashaw, of Glamour magazine, said, "Even crazy prints, such as parrots, will be available."

Also popular this season will be all different kinds of skirts, an item that is always a big seller around the summer months. Catherine Moellering, Executive Vice President of the trend forecasting firm Tobé Report, said, "What works in skirts' favor and makes them fun is that this

is not strictly a luxury business." Colleen Sherin, Senior Fashion Director at Saks Fifth Avenue, added, "They offer a way of mixing more casual and dressy pieces."

Meanwhile, when it comes to colors, Pantone, a leading color-predicting firm, claims that tangerine is in for the spring. A statement from the company read, "Sophisticated, dramatic and seductive, Tangerine Tango marries the vivaciousness and adrenalin rush of red with the friendliness and warmth of yel-

low." That being said, other bright colors and even some pastels were found on the runway of the New York Fashion Week Spring 2012, so anticipate all of these shades hitting the stores.

Lastly, a wide variety of dresses will be in style this season. Casual, elegant, short and long styles are already filling up store windows.

With bright colors like tangerine, lots of lace, and a wide variety of skirts, this spring is sure to be an eye-popping fashion season.

Avy Clare's Exhibition in Hostetter Gallery Evokes Nature

By LEXI CHANG (IV) and KATHERINE CURRAN (IV)

On Wednesday, April 11, students came to the Hostetter Arts Gallery for cookies and lemonade to celebrate the opening of the nature-based art exhibit by environmental artist Avy Clare.

The exhibit, which ends May 4, consisted of seven works including a video, live plants, and images of nature. The video, which, according to Clare, "juxtaposes the rhythms of nature to those of human activity in an urban setting," displayed contrasting images of people walking in the city and images of nature.

One of the most impressive works in the gallery, "the centerpiece in the show," according to Environmental Arts teacher Mr. Peter Delman, was a series of hanging trees on transparent material. Clare said she created the series of trees as a reaction to the depressing news stories she had heard repeatedly on the news.

Clare also teamed up with

Emily Kamen (V) to develop a piece for the show that displayed different earth samples from around the Pingry cam-

purpose to their work and was really good at getting students to focus on what was the idea behind what they were doing."



The show's centerpiece depicts a series of hanging trees on a transparent material. S. Park (VI)

pus and a map that showed where the sample of each type originated. In fact, Clare has visited Pingry and worked with the Environmental Art students numerous times. According to Mr. Delman, "She helped students develop a

Students and faculty who took a look at the exhibit were impressed with what they saw. As Justin Sullivan (V) put it, "Avy Clare is extremely talented, and it was awesome to be able to go see her work displayed in our school."

Mongolian Ping Pong Furthers the Odyssey

By BEN KAMINOFF (IV)

On the evening of Thursday, April 5, a group of students and faculty viewed the fourth installment in the Odyssey Film Series, "Mongolian Ping Pong." The movie is a critically acclaimed film that documents the slow modernization of the Mongolian steppe, a land that has remained largely unchanged since the reign of Genghis Khan.

Produced by Chinese film director, Ning Hao, "Mongolian Ping Pong" follows a group of boys after they encounter a rare object from the civilized world—a Ping-Pong ball. At first, the boys believe that they have found a "glowing pearl," but after one of their fathers wins a television, they discover that the mysterious white object is in fact the "national ball of China." Throughout the film, the boys learn about life outside the depths of the blissful grassland that they call home.

Mr. John Crowley-Delman '97, the coordinator of the Odyssey Film Series, said, "Like all of the other films in the series, 'Mongolian Ping Pong' highlights young people, who are struggling with

their identities and on a journey." He added, "My goal in showing this picture was to complement the others in the series, but approach the theme of 'Odyssey' very differently—this film features young boys who, although they may not know it, are torn between their traditional culture and the overwhelming forces of modern society."

Before the showing, English teacher Ms. Alisha Davlin gave a presentation about her recent trip to Mongolia this past summer. "I really enjoyed hearing Ms. Davlin speak about her trip—it was a great way to understand the aspects of Mongolian culture that are portrayed in the film," said Andy Alder (IV), who attended the screening.

The student reaction to the film was positive, with the consensus being that not only was it a good movie, but it could be translated into the classroom. "The film provided me with unique insight on the gradually changing Mongolian steppe, as its people steadily accept modern technological and social advances," Theo Rabke (III) said. "It gave me the opportunity to concretely understand something that we are currently learning about in History class."



Tangerine looks popped out at Spring 2012 Fashion Week. From left: runways of Sophie Theallet, Steven Alan, and Doo-Ri. Courtesy of Glamour.com

Mr. Magadini Inducted into New Jersey High School Hockey Hall of Fame

By ANDREW DELLAPINA (V)
Last month, Pingry's very own Mr. John Magadini was inducted into the New Jersey High School Hockey Hall of Fame.

"Mags," as players and students affectionately call him, began his coaching career at the Essex Hunt Club before his players recruited him to coach at the Delbarton School. After a successful career there, he came to Pingry, whose team he has coached for the past fifteen years.

Coach Magadini's teams have recently found success in the form of two consecutive Skyland Conference Championships, the first two championships ever for Pingry Hockey. In addition, he has brought the team to three consecutive Prep B finals and six consecutive winning seasons, compiling an extremely impressive 102-39-11 record since the

2006-07 season. Ever modest, Mags claims, "It's the guys I've coached that made this happen, not me."

Despite his humility, Coach Magadini has played an integral part in the development and success of his

players. His strong determination and desire to win rubs off on his players, and the Pingry boys' Varsity Hockey team always seems to step up its play at the end of the season when the stakes are highest.

Mags has had a knack for success since his playing days, when he won an NCAA national championship at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. As the fourth seed, his team played the powerhouse Minnesota Golden Gophers in the national championship game and won in overtime.

Although it is already celebrated by members of the New Jersey High School Hockey Hall of Fame, Mags' coaching career is far from over, and he is already hard at work preparing Pingry's boys' Ice Hockey team for next year's challenges, ready to tack on to his already impressive achievements.



Courtesy of Pingry Communications

Boys' and Girls' Golf Tee Off for Spring

By LORI KIM (III)

The boys' and girls' Varsity Golf teams, led by captains Jacob Green (VI), Logan McGowan (VI), and Kyra Topor (VI), are working towards a strong close to their 2012 season.

The girls' team, coached by Music teacher Mr. Sean McAnally, practices at New Jersey National Golf Club and is expecting to improve last season's record of 2-5. After coming in 4th place at the SCIAA Tournament on

to the experience."

Meanwhile, the boys' team, which practices at Twin Brooks Country Club, is off to a very successful start. Their current record is 7-3, and according to Head Coach Joe Forte, the team is "trying to win their division in the Skyland Conference and qualify for the State Sectionals." He added, "I enjoy watching the golfers working hard and improving the skills necessary to become successful while having fun and becoming a team."



Team captain J. Green (VI) hits a shot from the fairway.

April 16 and beating Bridgewater-Raritan on April 17, the team's current record is 1-5.

Junior Varsity player Kavita Patel (V) is optimistic about the remainder of the season. "Golf has been a great way to unwind after a stressful day," she said. "We have the opportunity to bond with our own teammates as well as players from other schools during matches, and I think that really contributes

The boys placed 8th at the SCIAA Tournament, steered by their top players, Matthew Dannenbaum (III), George Zachary (IV), Jacob Green (VI), and Logan McGowan (VI).

The boys' and girls' teams both welcomed many new golfers this year. "It was a great experience, and my favorite part is all the free golf," Sam Schuman (III) said of being new to the team.

Girls' Softball Embraces Young Team

By ALLIE McMANUS (IV)

Despite their current record of 2-7, the Varsity girls' Softball team is enjoying their season and pushing forward under the leadership of returning coaches Mr. Chip Carver and Ms. Jill Kehoe, captains Madi Taylor (VI) and Jaime Ferns (V), and new coaches Mr. James Overton and Ms. Lauren Atlas.

"Although the team's record may not be reflective of our abilities, the girls have a lot of heart and we really come together as a team," Ferns said.

Additionally, the new coaching squad has brought a dose of fresh optimism to the squad. "The coaches are patient, supportive, and lots of fun, and they

have taught us so much," Taylor said.

After losing five seniors last year, the team has become one of the youngest in their division. "Three of the graduated seniors were outfielders, and new, less experienced players have had to step up to take their places," Ferns explained. That caused a transitional period early on in the year that the team had to hurdle over.

Right now, the girls are preparing for their biggest games of the season, against Delaware Valley Regional, Warren Hills, Somerville, and Voorhees. "We have begun to find a fire within us that has helped us do some amazing things in games," Taylor said. She "can't wait for that drive to continue and to see where it takes us."



H. Advokat (V) makes an out at second base.

Girls' Lacrosse Reaches New Heights

By STEPH WILF (V)

With a current record of 7-1, the Varsity girls' Lacrosse team is racking up the wins this season. Currently ranked number 14 in the state, the team has already beat Hillsborough and Ridge, two of the Star Ledger's "Top 20" teams, and will play a rematch later in the season against the team that tarnished their otherwise perfect record, Hunterdon Central.

Along with coaches Carter Abbott, Meredith Finkelstein, and Maura Tierney, captains Emily Damstrom (VI) and Annie Vreeland (VI) are happy about the outcome of the season so far and feel confident about the team's future. "We have an awesome team dynamic, which is one of the many reasons for our success," Vreeland said.

The team refuses to sit back on their success for the rest of the year. They are still updating their game plan in practice and perfecting their playing

style so that they can end the season on a strong note. "The girls are working hard right now, learning new concepts and putting them out on the field," Coach Abbott said.

Though they are not quite content yet, the girls are still proud of what they have accomplished thus far this season. "We are taking Pingry girls' lacrosse to a whole new level this year," Liz Jolley (VI) said. "We're here to win every game."

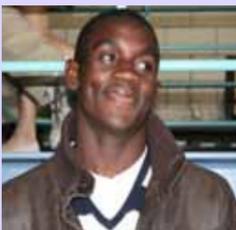
That includes games in the county and state tournaments, which are approaching quickly. Though they will likely enjoy a bye in the first round of Counties due to their stellar record, the team will be working hard in the meantime to prepare.

"Counties are always the most exciting games to play in because we know the other teams so well," Ashley Hough (VI) said. "We'll probably see Ridge, Bridgewater, or Montgomery, all of whom are our fierce rivals. The whole team is really looking forward to it."



C. Delaney (VI) outruns her defenders in a game against Ridge.

Seniors: How will you be spending your ISP?



FREDDY ELLIOT

"Making Bank at Goldman Sachs."



CAILEE CASSIDY

"How girls usually spend ISP. Doing photography."



JAMIE OGDEN

"Hanging with Shiltsy (Mr. Shilts)."



DYLAN KEY

"Organizing a charity Dodgeball Tournament."



LIZ JOLLEY

"Cooking and photography."

Boys' Tennis Team Looks to Improve

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (III)

The Varsity boys' Tennis team, led by captains Brian Li (V) and Michael O'Reilly (V) and Head Coach Ms. Lisa Fung-Kee-Fung, are shooting for a successful end to their spring season. Currently, the team's record stands at 3-8, but Li said that he "expects that record to improve."

When asked about the current makeup of the team, Li said that despite their record, the team remains "very positive," and that "all of the team members are all fine players." "The team has a great dynamic and is thoroughly cohesive," Coach Fung-Kee-Fung agreed.

The team has set goals for how they would like the rest of the season to turn out. "We want to win everything,

including the matches and the Somerset County and State championships," Li said. Coach Fung-Kee-Fung agreed with Li about winning, but she also had some goals that did not revolve around their record. "I'd like each one of my players to be mentally and physically exhausted when they come off the court," she said. "Win or loss, the team should be satisfied with the result."

When asked what areas of the team have room for improvement, Li said, "I hope that we have more fun together as a team on and off the court." Ms. Fung-Kee-Fung's suggestion is that she would like the players to work hard and make sacrifices as needed for the remainder of the year. "If you are determined to be successful, you will achieve success," she said.



J. Chartouni (III) hits a forehand.

Baseball Off to Best Start in Years

By SOFIA DEAK (IV)

Led by captains Dan Keller (VI) and Lee Barker (VI), the Varsity boys' Baseball team is off to a promising start this season. Seeded sixth in the county with a record of 10-3, the coaches are confident that the team can continue to have a successful season.

The team attributes this season's success to the coaches' leadership. "Mr.

Corvino and Trem are really supportive and motivational," Mitch Suzuki (IV) said of History Teacher Mr. Ted Corvino '94 and Math Department Head Mr. Manny Tramontana. "They have really helped all the players develop in some way on the field."

The team's enthusiasm and unity also play a role in their success. Sophomore player Charlie Duryee said, "We are all motivated,



Captain D. Keller (VI) goes to bat.

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

Varsity Boys' and Girls' Track Teams Aim High for Sectionals and States

By KIM CHEN (III) and ROXANNE FEITEL (VI)

The Varsity Boys' and Girls' Track and Field teams

— led by Head Coaches Mr. Mark Sepkowski and Mr. Tim Grant, captains Kate Leib (VI), Emily McCormick (VI), Maggie Morash (VI), Cole Jordan (VI), and Cameron Gensch (V) — have the potential for a great season, despite the loss of several players in a few areas.

To help account for the loss of players, many new members joined both teams this season. "We've already had some freshmen step up in hurdling and throwing," Morash said. "I'm looking forward to seeing our team develop."

There is plenty of faith in the team and the captains. "Both Cole and Cam are great leaders,"

freshman Russell Beckerman said of Jordan and Gensch. "Cam gives good advice, and he can also lighten up a situation."

This year, the team is motivated and has high expectations. Leib maintains that the team "always trains with the goal in mind to win Section-

als and then States." Morash agreed, and she added, "We won sectionals last year, so we know we're good enough. We just need to train hard and

leave it on the track when the big meets come around." In addition to Sectionals and States, a highlight of the season for those boys' and

girls' relay teams who qualified was participating in Penn Relays, a two-day event that takes place at the University of Pennsylvania each year. From April 26 through April 28, the boys' 4x100, 4x400, and 4x800 as well as the girls' 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams competed against other high school racers in their respective events.

Two relay teams made Pingry history at Penn Relays this year. First, the boys' 4x800 team, made up of Michael Supron (VI), Tanner McMahon (VI), Liam Mullett (IV), and Stewart Wood (IV), achieved a Pingry first by qualifying for their event. "It's really hard to qualify for," Supron said. "We were excited to have made the cut."

The boys' 4x400 team also made history by earning Pingry's first medal at Penn Relays. Supron, Cole Jordan (VI), Andrew Benito (V), and Matt Chan (VI) earned a silver medal for their time of 3:32.28, coming ahead of nine other teams in the race. Jordan later tweeted, "Rocking that 2nd place at Penn. First medal in Pingry history."



L. Mullett (IV) carries the baton in a relay race.

Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Stays Competitive Against Fierce Opponents

By NICOLE BLUM (V)

Led by captains Dylan Key (VI), Chris Albanese (VI) and Alex Castle (VI), the boys' Varsity Lacrosse team has put together a competitive season thus far against a tough schedule.

The team's current record is 5-5. Their April 4 overtime loss against Hunterdon Central, who was at that time ranked sixth in the state, and recent games against strong opponents like Bridgewater-Raritan, ranked number one in New Jersey, illustrate the high level of competition they have faced thus far.

Even against the strong teams, Pingry has been very competitive. The team has often played well during the first three quarters of their games but found themselves short by one goal in the last quarter. Of the ten

games they've played so far, four have been decided by one goal, with only one of these

to bounce back from the close losses and finish games." Varsity Head Coach Mike

side, which boasts six seniors, "there is a lot of depth this year."



Sophomore E. Key dodges a defender on his way to the goal in a game against North Hunterdon.

working hard, and playing great together. We have all improved mentally and in our skill work." Currently, the team's focus is on the Somerset County Tournament. The tournament has been notoriously dominated by larger schools in the area like Hillsborough and Immaculata, although

ending in a win. "That's been our biggest test so far this season," Key said. "We need

Pingry has made finals appearances in 2003 and 2006, but this year the boys are cautiously optimistic about their chances of winning.

"Everyone on the lineup has prior varsity experience, and with such a strong group of players, we are all very focused on our goal of winning the county tournament," Keller said. "With hard work, we can definitely get there."

Webster and his two assistant coaches, Augie Kerschner and Ian Kelly, have "brought a lot of good insight with them that has helped every player improve," according to Albanese. In addition, Junior Varsity coaches John Crowley-Delman '97, Howard Shirley, and Tony Garcia have been helping the team out in practice as they work towards a successful close to the season.

In practice, the team is currently working on keeping a high tempo to their offense. Key said that on the defensive

The team's leading scorers are Albanese and Evan Key (IV) on attack, while Castle has continued to be an indispensable asset in goal. Meanwhile, midfielders like Taylor Wright (VI), John Dugan (V), and Jamie Ogden (VI) have been important to the team with their consistent play.

As the season progresses, the team hopes to win more games, especially the prominent ones, so that they can end the season with a winning record. Albanese added that he would "love to ultimately win a state championship."