

## Successful Alumni Return For Career Day

By ANISHA MOHIN (V)

On January 29, juniors and seniors attended Career Day, organized by the Pingry Alumni Association. 43 alumni came to speak about their various careers, including law, medicine, media and finance.

The day began with an address from the keynote speaker, Jonathan Karp '82, publisher and Editor-in-Chief of TWELVE, the Hachette Book Group. He spoke of his experiences, sharing both humorous anecdotes – like how “a funny, mildly inappropriate couplet” was a major reason he was admitted to Brown University – and more serious lessons, emphasizing how important it is “not to be held back by failure” when pursuing a career path.

Phil Ryan (VI) enjoyed the speech, saying, “I thought Karp was a good keynote speaker. I appreciated his humor and understanding of our fears about the future, be it about employment, failure, or anything else life throws at us.”

After the speech, students headed off to the first of their three chosen career presentations. With so many different options to choose from – applied science, education, entrepreneurship, finance, environmental, law, marketing, media, medicine, performing arts, psychological services, public service, sports marketing, and visual arts – students “had a difficult time picking what to attend,” Ryan said.

Each presentation lasted about forty-five minutes and was run by two or three professionals. The speakers elaborated on their jobs: the skill set they require, a typical day at the office, and some particularly



Anthony Bugliari '90 gives seminar on Finance.

notable events of their careers.

The five most popular careers were law, medicine, marketing, finance, and media. Each presentation offered perspectives on unique aspects of the same career.

During the Law A session, for example, one lawyer, Mr. Daniel Marchese '89 spoke about running his own civil litigation practice, while another, Mrs. Alina Malin Zoellner '83, shared her experiences as Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for the New York Times. Both Marchese and Zoellner advocated the importance of “being passionate and active” in law.

Students who attended the seminar on medicine learned about the careers of Dr. Gautam Malhotra '92, a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician for the New Jersey Healthcare System; Dr. Maureen Baxley-Murray '82, a physician at Franklin Pediatrics; and Dr. Anthony Clapcich '84, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics & Anesthesiology at the Children's Hospital of New York.

Jason Reitman (V) felt that, “The seminar really gave me insight into the life of a doctor. I learned a lot about a career path that I'm thinking about pursuing.”

The marketing professionals who attended gave insight into the world of traditional marketing, the area that Ms. Leslie Helmstaedter Tuttle '92, Ms. Elana Drell-Szyfer '87, and Ms. Michelle Cunningham '85 specialize in. Tuttle is the Brand Manager of Snack Bars at Kraft Foods, Drell-Szyfer is Senior Vice President of Global Marketing at Estee Lauder, and Cunningham is Director of Marketing at Bayer Consumer Care. Students also learned about nontraditional marketing from Ms. Lisa Hyman Sackman '90, partner and VP of Integrated Marketing at LeadDog Marketing Group and Mr. Edward Ward '85, Director of Entertainment Development at Mattel. Reitman (V) said, “Marketing was probably my favorite presentation. The speakers were both very knowledgeable.”

Mr. Nicholas Sarro-Waite '99, Mrs. Dana Baron '91, Mr. Anthony Bugliari '90, and Mr. Julian Scurci '99, were the speakers for the finance sessions. Baron, the Vice President of Goldman Sachs, and Scurci, Senior Associate of Investment Analysis and Capital Development, were the speakers at the Finance A session. Sarro-Waite, Vice President of Commodity

Courtesy of Communications Office

Risk Management Risk Associates, and Bugliari, Sr. Managing Director and Co-Head of US HG Credit Training, spoke at the Finance B session. Bozhena Lisko (VI) felt that, “It was inspirational especially to talk to the VP at Goldman Sachs. It was reassuring to hear that she managed to work her way up through the corporate ladder and that the same qualities that we are taught to value actually were important to her: diligence, people skills, just dedicating yourself to your job.”

Presenters for the media seminar, the most popular, included: Mr. Eric Davich '92, Mr. David Gelber '59, Ms. Jennifer Joel '94, Karp, and Mr. David Schwartz '95. Many different areas were represented, like television, books, and creative media. Gelber, for example, is the producer of “60 Minutes,” while Karp and Joel work with books: Joel is a literary agent for International Creative Management and often works with Karp. Davich is the Director of Content, Marketing, and Business Dev at Amie Street Inc., and Schwartz is a partner and Creative Director at HUSH Studios. Ryan said, “I really liked the diversity at the presentation.”

Overall, the event was a huge success. James Chin (VI) said, “It's really interesting to see successful Pingry alumni come back and share their experiences.”

## Musicians and POCC Alumni Honor MLK

By LIZ JOLLEY (IV)

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, held on Friday January 15, began with a YouTube clip of Dr. King's famous “I Have A Dream” speech. Diamond McClintock (VI), who was in charge of planning this year's assembly, explained that she “wanted to engage the audience as well as expose them to MLK's perspective.” She also felt that while “exposing the Pingry community to diversity is a great goal, she wanted to specifically show MLK as a man and not as a symbol of the civil rights movement to which he is usually linked.”

After much thought on how to make the assembly “entertaining but with a point,” McClintock decided to “incorporate musical selections.” She felt this would keep “the audience's attention, as well as allow them to reflect on the words of the songs or speeches they had heard.” Annie Vreeland (IV) agreed that “this year's combination of music, speech, and quick transitions made it much better than last year.”

After showing a film clip of the “I Have a Dream” speech, the Buttendowns and Balladeers sang the African American national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Next, alumni from the People of Color Conference read moving excerpts from King's letter from a Birmingham Jail, which was followed by two songs from our own talented musicians John Kwon (VI), Aaron Davis

(VI), Nick Rice (VI), David Martin (VI), Carter Luckfield (V), Nick Canavan (IV), and Michael Arrom (III).

The group performed Bob Marley's “No Woman No Cry” and John Legend's “Ordinary People.” Short and sweet, the assembly ended with another YouTube clip of John Lennon's “Imagine” music video. Students were left inspired by the lyrics, “Imagine all the people living life in peace.”

Alex Parker-Magyar (VI) admitted that his “favorite part of the assembly was John Kwon, not necessarily for his singing,” but rather because Parker-Magyar “just really dug his outfit.” Parker-Magyar also felt that Kwon “put out a nice vibe,” and that “the freshman who plays the piano [Michael Arrom] was really good.” Parker-Magyar's only complaint about the assembly was that “it needed more poetry.”

Freddy Elliot (IV), an alumnus from the People of Color Conference, felt that “this year's MLK assembly was a success” because “it gave the audience many new ideas to ponder.”

After the assembly, Elliot asked himself what he could do to make our community more aware of diversity. His proposal is to run “discussions about racial issues once a month during our form meetings.” He is also considering starting a club called “STRIVE, which stands for Students Tackling Racial Issues Via Education.”



Myles Bristow (VI) reads MLK's letter from Birmingham Jail.

Courtesy of Communications Office

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## 60% of Early College Applicants Accepted

By SHAAN GURNANI (V)

Of the 89% of the Class of 2010 who applied to college through the Early Action or the Early Decision program, 60% have been accepted so far. 80 students have earned 102 acceptances from schools across the country including University of Michigan, with seven acceptances, Villanova University and Rutgers University, each with five acceptances, and University of Chicago, University of Miami, and Pennsylvania State, all with four acceptances.

Early Action and Early Decision are the two main types of early application programs. Early Action and Early Decision both require students to submit applications months earlier than Regular Decision, but if students are accepted to a school through Early Decision, they must attend that institution. The Early Decision program is made up of two categories, Early Decision I and II, the former requiring an earlier deadline. This year, Early Decision I and II together were slightly more popular than Early Action, with 55% of the class ap-

plying through either of the Early Decision programs.

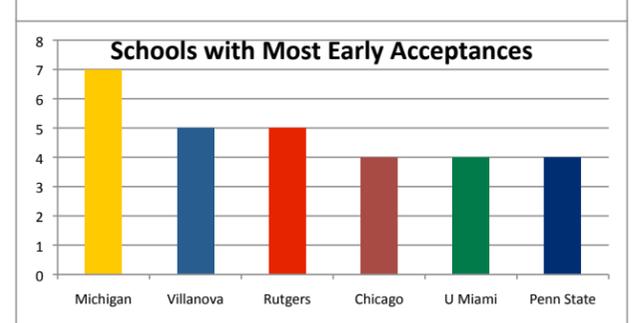
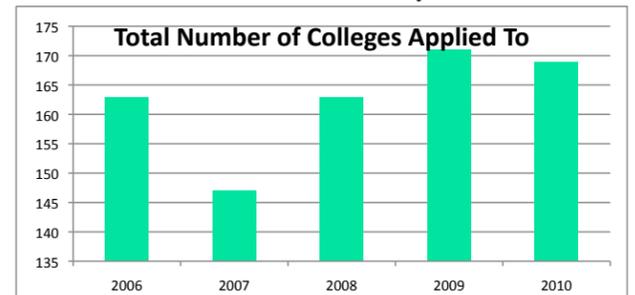
The most popular early schools this year were University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan, Yale University, Brown University, Stanford University, Villanova, Georgetown University, and MIT. Among the Ivy League colleges only Harvard and Princeton do not offer early decision programs (Yale offers single-choice or restrictive Early Action). This year, acceptances to these colleges were impressive; three seniors were accepted to Brown, Columbia, and U Penn, two to Yale, and one to Cornell.

According to Mr. Timothy Lear '92, the Director of College Counseling, “results this year are fairly consistent with past years.” In fact, since 2006, the percentage of the graduating class applying either Early Action or Early Decision has stayed within 83% in 2006 and 90% in 2007. The percentage of students applying Early Decision usually falls somewhere between 50% (as in 2007) and 57% (as in 2009). Finally, students this year applied to a total of 169 colleges,

which mirrors statistics in the past; the number hit an all time low in 2007 with 147 colleges and hit a high of 171 last year. Early Decision II results are pending, but a total of 19 students applied to 15 schools.

Although complete publication data is not available for 2010, the

average number of applications per student has increased steadily from 8.7 applications in 2006 to 9.3 applications in 2009. Along these lines, the number of students admitted through any of the early programs has also increased gradually from 70% in 2006 to 82% last year.



## EDITORIAL

## Not Another Stress Article!

Several weeks ago, during Jonathon Karp '82's keynote speech for Career Day, something caught my attention. While sharing his experiences as a major publisher in the book industry and giving advice to Pingry's juniors and seniors, he mentioned that earlier in the morning, he had read a copy of this year's Record. Quite understandably, I sat up in my chair to hear what he had to say. He commented on how one theme seemed to reoccur in this particular issue: Stress.

Admittedly, this is true. Anxiety and stress have been the ongoing concern of most students throughout this year. But, do not worry — this is not another newspaper piece about the pile of tests and papers we all have to swim through. In fact, it is the opposite. Something about having Karp address the issue out loud shook me up. If an alumnus as successful as he comes back 28 years later, and the first thing he notices is our complaints about workload, maybe we should take a step back from our convoluted schedules and re-examine the situation.

Karp's words inspired me to question the future legacy of the current student body: Do we want to be remembered as Class Stress? Or do we want to be remembered as something more positive, more meaningful?

As a second semester senior, it is only natural that I'm looking towards the future and reflecting on the past. Of my twelve years at Pingry, most of my experiences have been amazing, rich with knowledge, friendships, and nourishment from teachers and peers. And, as the prominent alumni of this institution reminded the juniors and seniors on Career Day, we all have bright futures ahead of us.

Thus, why should we focus on all the seemingly bad things when there are just as many, if not more, positive moments that brighten our Pingry experiences? Whether it is a parody of a Family Guy song performed by Brian Weiniger (VI) and Matt Beattie (V) or a dance-off between Charlie Laud (VI) and Myles Bristow (VI) in the middle of the senior couches, school memories can often bring smiles to our faces.

Our infamous complaint about stress, however, is not the only thing we've begun to attach to our backs. In the past two years, I have begun to notice that our student body has grown increasingly antagonistic towards the administration. I will admit that there is something very powerful and attractive about bonding together as a student body for a particular cause, whether it is centered on redeeming Sam Ricciardi's (III) poem or demanding a snow day. However, while this "students vs. administration" battle may fill us with an oddly warm feeling of angst, it is really quite meaningless unless we are able to get actual results.

Thus, we shouldn't try to be remembered as the class that fought the administration, but rather the class that persuaded and convinced the administration to create change. Channeling our negative energy towards something that may actually produce a positive outcome should take priority over creating a huge buzz of student complaints that eventually just fizzles out.

So, yes, as I walked off from Karp's speech to my first Career Day session, I was determined to rid the current student body of the stressed-anti-administration label we've become associated with. I thought about how much more meaningful it would be if we all strove to be the class that actually *did* offer a systematic proposal to change the snow day policy (how about having to call a snow day the night before instead of 4 A.M. they day of, huh?), or the class with the best SAC assemblies, or the class that held the most fundraisers for a natural disaster. I mean, we already have so much energy and time invested in what the school does and does not do; let's channel our remaining negativity and make some more optimistic labels. Maybe they'll stick and become our new trademark.

—Jennifer Soong

## Censorship Inhibits Self-Expression

By MAI LEE PICARD (IV)

I think all of us remember the poem that Sam Ricciardi (III) read in assembly a few weeks ago. Most of the student body thought it was witty, clever and all in all hilarious. Most of the faculty, however, did not agree.

Upper School Head Dr. Denise Brown-Allen's public apology after the poem set many people on edge. I'll admit I was a little confused by it. She took full responsibility for everything that went on in assembly and apologized for offending anyone in the audience. However, why was the apology even needed? The poem was not meant to offend; it was only meant to get a laugh.

A week after the poem was read, though, Dr. Brown-Allen took to the stage again to explain the reason for her apology. She tried to dissuade the commonly held belief that she only apologized in the first place because of the parents and guests that attended the assembly and heard the poem. Instead, she stated that it is her duty to stand up against the use of profanity and everything she believes is wrong whenever possible.

Dr. Brown-Allen's words definitely eased some of the building tension; however, was the poem really that wrong? Sure, Ricciardi used some swear words. But while these words are certainly not politically correct, are they really that offensive?

I don't think so. The words were not directed at or intended to hurt a specific person. They were meant to be nothing more than a joke. Maybe this is just part of the ever present "generational gap" between teenagers and adults, and that is why it is hard for the administrators to recognize the hilarity of the poem that all of the student body clearly understood.

Ricciardi's poem might have been thought of as inappropriate, but he was simply expressing his feelings. He was able to go on stage and say what no one else had the guts to say. Since when is that bad? Since when is it wrong to have that kind of courage? Everything you say will make someone else angry; that's a fact of life. If we all go tiptoeing through life, then what's the point!

If from now on Dr. Brown-Allen has to read every poem before it is allowed to be read at an assembly, wouldn't that

be censoring the thoughts of the student body? You would think that the point of the weekly poetry readings would be to hear the thoughts of the students. But if only certain readings are allowed, then you aren't hearing the true thoughts of the students, you are hearing the candy coated idyllic view of the students. This idyllic view might be better for presenting Pingry to guests, but isn't that also like lying?

Why should we as students not say what we are thinking just

because we are scared it will make an administrator angry? I know that is easier said than done, but in a way it's necessary.

The poem might have been offensive to some, and it might contained more inappropriate language than is considered socially acceptable, but it was a joke. It was meant to get a laugh out of the students, and it certainly achieved this goal. It was unexpected after the previous series of serious poems, but it was quite the breath of fresh air.



## Graduating Class is Infected with Senioritis

By TANVI GUPTA (VI)

A couple weeks into second semester, you might have noticed that the seniors look significantly happier than they did just a month or two ago. You might spot them speeding down the driveway with a bag from Panera in hand. They spend less time doing work and more time lounging on the couches. No, the reason for this seemingly sudden happiness is not a caffeine boost that all the seniors decided to take one fine day in January.

This euphoria-causing phenomenon is something commonly known as "Senioritis." In essence, this term represents a second-semester senior experiencing a feeling much like... liberation. Applications have been handed in; now, all seniors have left to do is to wait for admissions decisions to arrive. It is safe to say that, right now, Senioritis is in full swing.

Admittedly, I have taken advantage of being a second-semester senior. This article is proof of it, as I am submitting it over a week after it was due. While I am not advocating missing deadlines and being lazy, I do have to say that by the time we reach our last semester at Pingry, we deserve to have some fun. Senior year is supposed to be our best year of high school, and sometimes that calls for a little slacking off, taking a break, and spending a night out with our best friends. After

all, we've experienced many late nights finishing schoolwork and writing applications and full days running around fulfilling our various commitments like sports, theater, art, and the variety of clubs that many of us lead.

Most seniors have put in endless hours of hard work into academics over the past few years, but this year, a new challenge arose — college applications. Many of us have given up numerous social activities and events in order to complete work. I'm sure that every underclassman has witnessed a senior stressing out, in pieces, or crying, sometime during the first semester. The purpose of second semester is to alleviate all the pervading stress and allow seniors to truly begin enjoying our final year at Pingry.

Now that we do not have the pressure of getting that "A" in chemistry, we can focus on learning for the sake of learning. I, for example, now have the opportunity to explore more in depth the courses that are of particular interest to me. I have been able to read full articles in The New York Times out of my own free will without worrying about the five minutes I might be taking away from my math homework. After all, isn't learning about asking questions when and how we want to? Doesn't intellectual curiosity play into the definition of a strong and passionate student?

It is not the end of the world if we have to hand in a paper one day late or take an extra day to study for a huge test. At the same time, even if you hear seniors saying, "Second semester! I'm never going to work again," the truth is that we are all going to continue working. We just aren't going to be in overload mode any longer. We are going to take breaks, and take them when we need them. I, for one, have been sleeping a healthier number of hours (eight) than I had been first semester (five). Senioritis, in moderation, is a relatively healthy part of our high school careers. It is extremely difficult, impossible even, to work at full efficiency throughout all of high school. At some point, we have to take a step back and breathe.

Meanwhile, we must stay within some boundaries and be aware of our limitations. Most of us do not find this a problem;

however, for some, too much fun can be an issue as well. Even if we are working at a slower rate, we should continue working. We should find in ourselves the motivation to learn and absorb information — after all, we still have college to go to in a few months! At college, our motivation to work will be the desire to ultimately find an interesting and exciting career,

a goal that is in many ways much more difficult than getting into college. Letting ourselves go too much right now could cause issues in the future.

So, seniors: don't stop working completely, but enjoy yourself, go to a party, and live up your last few months of high school to their fullest! We will be freshmen yet again all too soon...

## Annual Career Day: Once is Enough!

By ANISHA MOHIN (V)

Two weeks ago, the juniors and seniors attended Career Day. Even though the entire event — from the keynote address to each of the presentations — ran very smoothly, there was just one thing missing: one sixth of the senior class. No, the entire senior class was not mysteriously hit by a plague the night before. Many of them merely felt that having attended Career Day once already, there was no need to do so again.

As a junior, I enjoyed my first Career Day. I thought it was really inspiring to see all of the successful Pingry alumni come back and share their stories. Jonathan Karp '82, for example, was a columnist for The Record, and I found it fascinating to see how he put the skills he learned from this publication into use. And not only did I get to learn more about marketing, a profession I hope to enter someday, Leslie Tuttle '99 gave us free samples of Oreos and Big Nut bars — what's not to love about that?

But even though I left Career Day with some useful insight (and six Golden Oreos!), I don't feel an overwhelming urge to come back next year. I thought that three options were certainly enough to learn about all of the careers that I'm interested in pursuing. After all, even though I completely respect performers and artists, due to my complete lack of talent in that area, I don't see the point (for me) in learning about those careers. Similarly, someone who dreads math class every day probably has no interest in attending a seminar about finance.

Furthermore, many of the same alumni come back to present year

after year. Even though I enjoyed the talks I attended, I don't want to hear the same exact ones next year, despite Mr. Leef's urging that seniors re-attend the seminars that had captured their interest last year.

At the end of the day, we were handed a survey. One of the questions was whether or not juniors should be included in the event. I checked off yes, but that's because I believe only juniors should be required to attend Career Day. At the risk of reiterating one of the many stress Op-Eds that the Record has run this year, seniors probably still have enough going on without having to face the daunting question: "What are you going to do with your life?" After all, many of them are still stressing about where they're going to college in the fall.

Juniors, on the other hand, benefit the most from Career Day. College applications ask students to put down a major they may choose to pursue, and Career Day could certainly help influence that decision. After attending the "marketing," "law," and "media" presentations, I can articulate reasons why I could see myself being a professional in these fields. Also, it's a perfect time to give us some motivation. We are about to tackle two of the most difficult semesters of high school, and seeing these successful alumni is a reminder that if we continue to work hard, we, too, can achieve something great.

I don't doubt that next year, a large percentage of the senior class will mysteriously vanish on Career Day. But really, why wouldn't they? One time attending the program is definitely enough to take advantage of all it has to offer.



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# The Search for Creativity in a Stifling Community

By TAYLOR SMITH (V)

In 2006, speaking at the annual conference of the academic organization "Technology, Entertainment, Design," Sir Ken Robinson argued that schools educate students out of their creativity. He pointed out that most schools follow a typical "subject hierarchy," with English and math first, followed by the humanities, and finally the arts.

Robinson's speech is relevant to Pingry students because our school adheres to the extreme to this "subject hierarchy." We are told to first ensure that we are doing well in the "important subjects," and then, if we have time, to excel in an elective for fun. If a Pingry student excels at the arts but gets bad grades in his other classes, people say, "Oh, he can draw, but he's really stupid."

A person's worth is based on his or her performance in math and English, and, as a result, the arts struggle for a place of their own in our education. Although traditional classes occasionally foster creativity, they usually demand logical, left-brained thinking. Though English teachers sometimes assign students to write short stories, and math teachers may ask students to figure out how to solve a problem on their own, for the most part, we are more often asked to write analytical essays and memorize formulas for parabolas and circles. This means the arts are our main source for right-brained think-

ing. Without them, we may forget how to be creative.

My mom once asked her friend why she didn't send her children to Pingry. She responded, "Sorry, no meat grinder for my kids!" Her words show that Pingry has a reputation for taking bright, enthusiastic kids and transforming them into half-alive, essay-writing, SAT-taking automatons.

Speaking from personal experience, I have had my care-free creative attitude squashed out of me. In grade school I skipped down the school hallways, I sang without worrying how I sounded, I literally jumped out of my seat when I was excited about a class discussion. Then one day on the playground in third grade,

I was dancing around, and a boy looked at me like I had two heads and asked, "What are you *doing*?" "Dancing," I responded defensively. He replied, "But there's no music." Thus began my journey through the "soul-crushing" machinery of Pingry education.

Now, I'm an actress and see that same fear of creativity in myself. In middle school, when I acted, I was in a magical, otherworldly place. I was Little Red Cap; I was the Golden Goose; I could follow my impulses and not be punished for it. Now, it's nearly impossible to find that spark. It's not the fault of the Theater Department, because in drama class I'm encouraged to let loose my inhibitions.

I feel that such apprehension is rooted in the idea that, in high school, if you make one mistake or fail one test, you've committed a horrible crime, and now you'll never get into college, and you'll live in a box on the street. The result is that when I am acting, I'm not thinking about the character. I think, "What do the other kids think of me? Does the teacher think I am prepared enough? Am I articulating well? Does the staging look natural?" I'm often afraid to start for fear of embarrassing myself. The result is that I don't put on a performance that deserves to be watched. Without creativity, there's no value.

As Ken Robinson said, a purely left-brained education was desirable in previous

centuries, when the job market demanded left-brained thinkers. But in his view it's not helpful now. A college degree isn't worth as much because everyone has one, and the job market wants right-brained people who can invent fast-selling products and solve problems like climate change and world hunger.

Our responsibility, there-

fore, is to prepare ourselves for the *real* future by educating our entire selves, the creative side and all. Even as Pingry students, we can strive towards this goal by taking more creative electives, finding the courage to adopt a new approach to an open-ended assignment, or simply by taking the time to express ourselves outside of school.

## EDITORIAL

### Much To Do With Hate, but More With Love

At the risk of sounding like a whiny, hormonal teenage girl, which I am, I hate Valentine's Day. Now, before I get started, I know it is a taboo to discuss your love life in a school newspaper. It's really just a bad idea: the risks of future embarrassment are pretty high. Still, as I mentioned before, I am a whiny, hormonal teenage girl; therefore, practically all I think about is my love life. And I've already yelled about not having a boyfriend in front of an entire audience of Pingry students and faculty in the Drama IV Assembly earlier this year, so it's not like this is anything new.

As I said, I hate Valentine's Day. It's a reminder to those of us without significant others that we are alone, and for those of us with significant others, it is a hyped up, stressful gift-buying and date-planning frenzy. It is the only day of year specifically set apart to celebrate romance. Just one day out of 365 days designated for what is traditionally considered the most important human emotion: love.

This one day sheds light on the fact that relationships don't share the specificity of the past. They are oftentimes complicated, cloudy, undefined, and messy. There are distinctions between being exclusive, nonexclusive, official, unofficial, secretive, and of course, practically married. No longer are you "pinned" in the hallway and accordingly "going steady."

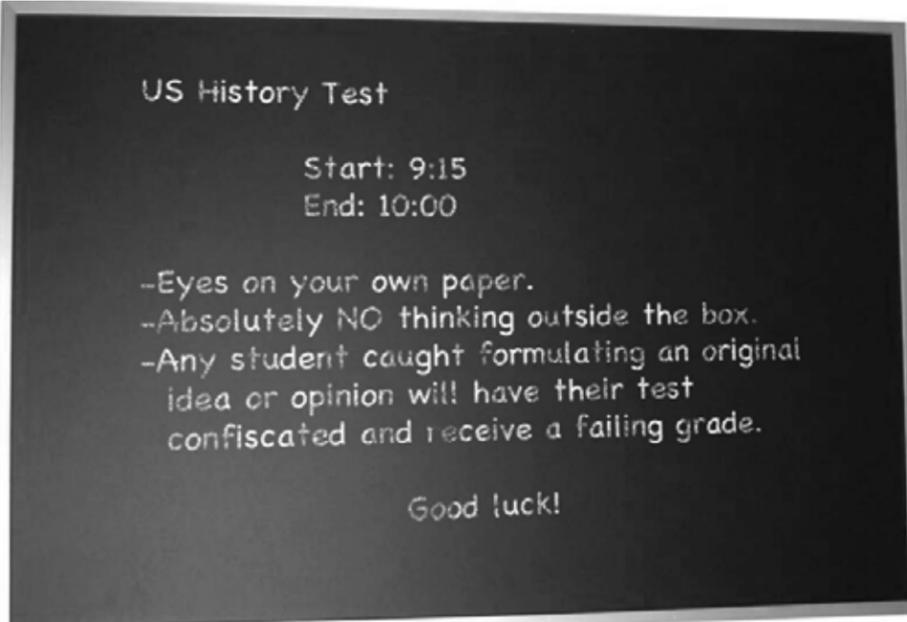
Instead, every potential relationship raises persistent questions. (And with current technology, such as AIM, Facebook, texting, BBM, and videochat, and, of course, the conventional phone call, there are a million modes of communication to constantly worry about.) Sometimes, it feels as though it is impossible to believe in a stable, lasting relationship, especially because in America 50% of marriages end in divorce. So what is there to celebrate? Why cause all of the unnecessary anxiety?

In Mr. Timothy Lear's Shakespeare class, we're reading "Romeo and Juliet." It's the second time I've read it, but only one of the countless times that I've seen a version of it, either in film or on the stage. It's the greatest love story ever told, and it only gets better reading it the second time. Not only is it fun to reread my freshman year scribbles that are scattered throughout my completely destroyed copy of the play and to watch the Baz Luhrmann version of the movie, which includes baby Leonardo Dicaprio, who was my first crush and still makes me googly-eyed, but now I can finally appreciate the young lovers' circumstances.

While their lives were extremely complicated for many reasons, most importantly the fact that their families were on opposite sides of an ancient grudge, there were some aspects of their conditions that are much clearer than if they had been trying to have a relationship today. Because they are in love, they decide to get married. There is no question as to whether they are a "Facebook official" couple or merely hooking up, with Romeo keeping Rosaline as his girl on the side. Moreover, their only means of communication are through word sent by their confidantes, mainly the Nurse, and in person. Juliet falls madly in love with Romeo without ever having to spend countless hours hoping that he'll call her or trying to discern the meaning of his text message (Although, it would have been extremely useful if she had the means to text him after taking the poison, "totally fooled everyone. LOL. Cya soon ; ). Luv ya!"). Suffice to say, if they had been alive in our day in age, their story would be vastly different.

Yet, I can't help but want what they have. My only worry that it can't exist in our world, where trashy people look for love on televised game shows and hasty marriages are sanctified in Vegas between drunken strangers. Even our holiday of love itself is an immeasurably commercial extravaganza that is based on the sale of chocolates and greeting cards. Maybe I'm cynical or maybe I'm an overly whiny, hormonal teenage girl, but I think Valentine's Day is a sham. Regardless, expect to find me on February 14th, hoping against hope that it isn't true.

—Jenny Gorelick



C.Laud (VI)

## Finding Talent Hidden in the Crowd

By MORGAN MCCOLLUM (VI)

I was more or less forced into attending the Louise Winston Memorial Cancer Benefit on January 15. My piano teacher, who also teaches freshman Michael Arrom, had asked me to go with her so that she could hear Mike perform. When my piano teacher says "jump," you say "how high," so I went. For the most part, I felt uncomfortable going. Being neither part of the Pingry Drama or Music Departments, I told my friends that I felt like I wouldn't belong.

Oddly enough, though, I am a musician. I've been playing the piano for ten years, and I think that makes me legitimate. I love it; I take lessons twice a week and cannot imagine my life without it. Yet I'd guess that very few members of the Pingry community even know that I play piano, and that is entirely my fault. I've never involved myself in Pingry's music programs.

Mainly, my motives in keeping my music private have been selfish: why would I give up what little free time I have at school to do something that I already do outside of school? Plus, I felt there were already enough pianists in the program; they didn't need me. Oh, and did I mention I hate performing in front of people? The list of my excuses could go on and on, but, to sum it up, for the past four years of my life, I've avoided involving myself with music at Pingry.

It was not really until this year that I began to fully notice the talent that Pingry's music department has nurtured. Several times this year I've been in awe of student musical performances: David Martin (VI), Aaron Davis (VI), Mike Aaron (III), and Nick

Canavan (IV) never cease to impress; juniors Sarah Muirhead and Kaela O'Connor's performance at the Balladeer's assembly left me speechless; Sean Salamon's (VI) conducting skills were incredible. The list goes on and on.

The Louise Benefit was no exception. I walked in dreading three long hours of performances, but instead found myself enjoying an hour and a half of serious talent. There was no weak link, no dull moment, and I found that I enjoyed every minute of it. And I, who actively avoids performing in front of any crowd, began to wish that I had participated, not just in the Benefit, but also in Pingry music. If I leave this school with one regret, it is that.

I'd like to reiterate that I am not a Pingry musician begging you to attend a concert or appreciate music more. I am like

the majority of students here who have groaned many times when assembly went on ten minutes longer because of a performance. I am embarrassed as a musician to admit that, but it is the truth.

I know that a night dedicated to the arts will never get as big an attendance as the night of a hockey or basketball game, and I admit that it would still be a difficult choice for me to make between a music performance and an important sporting event. I also know that some will mock me for writing an article advocating our art's programs. But I have been inspired this year by Pingry musicians, and I know that I am not the only one. I came home the day of the Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly, to find my brother, a freshman, with his guitar playing, "No Woman, No Cry."

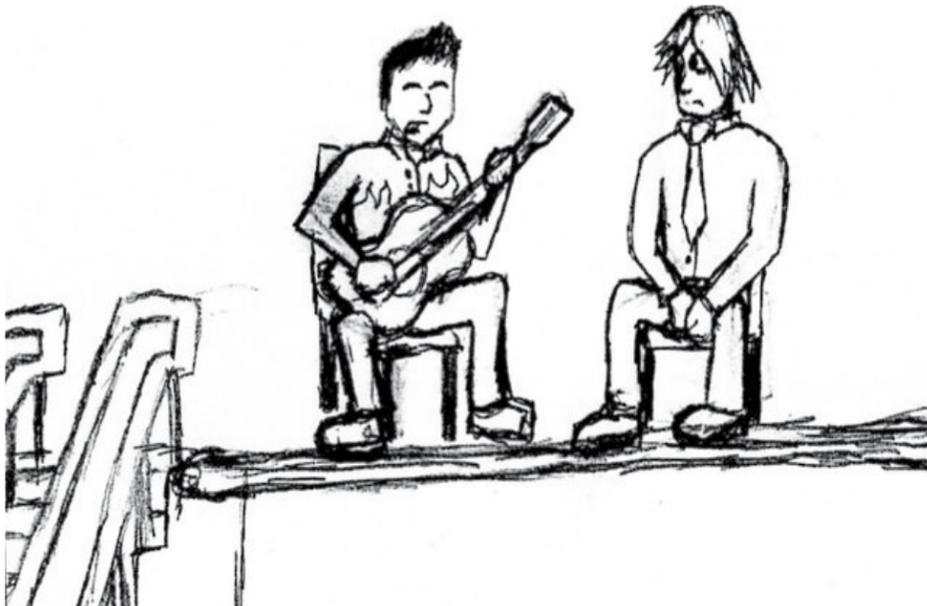
For all these reasons I strongly encourage everyone, that if

there are further performances like this Benefit concert, consider going. It is time for this school's music department to have a larger fan base.

I also encourage others to join the Music Department. I wish that I had had this epiphany four years ago, rather than five months before I am supposed to graduate. I remember as a freshman, most of my peers told me why I *shouldn't* join the music department. I wish now that someone had told me all the reasons why I should.

I also hope to see some new faces up on stage. I know that there is talent hiding in the crowd, which is exactly what I've been doing for the past four years. I promise, though, that I will not leave this school without playing on the stage at least one time.

I encourage all my fellow musicians to do the same.



R.Tyson (V)

Pingry Assemblies: Showcasing musical expertise, or the complete lack thereof.

# Joel '94 Finds Literary Field Rewarding

By LAKSHMI DAVEY (V)

When Ms. Jennifer Joel graduated Pingry in 1994, she had no idea that she would eventually become a literary agent. After completing her bachelor's degree at Harvard, she became an investment banker, a field that "heavily recruits undergrads." But, she yearned for something that would give her opportunities to be creative, something that involved her love of reading and storytelling, which she'd picked up at Pingry and at Harvard.

In high school she loved English and History. Joel "spent a lot of time in the theater" and played softball. She said that there were "a slew of teachers from Mr. John Hanly in 7th grade to Mr. Tom Keating as a senior" who positively impacted her high school experience and instilled in her a love of the liberal arts.

She went on to study history and literature at Harvard and cited the novel, "American Pastoral," by Philip Roth as one of the first things that showed her that contemporary publishing was as rich as the classics she'd studied in high school. Pretty soon she was using her contacts in the business (she'd been a banker for media and

entertainment companies) to get her a job as an agent.

She now works at International Creative Management, representing various writers as the "middleman." She reads manuscripts and finds publishers for the authors, trying to get them the best deal possible.

In her Career Day session on Friday, January 29, she emphasized the importance of being surrounded by "like-minded people" who keep pushing you to be your very best: a dependable network of contacts who can be tapped into when you need them. She said she would have never imagined doing this kind of work or even known about it as a Pingry student; the biggest obstacle working in publishing is joining it.

Her advice to high schoolers concerned about the future was to "be curious and be creative." She also said that "it's a harder time to be looking ahead but don't be afraid of making the wrong choice. Be open-minded, know the kinds of things you like to do."

Ms. Joel now loves her current job because she is pursuing her own passion. She demonstrates that pursuing your own passion may have a greater risk, but will return a greater reward.



Courtesy of Google Images

Hannah McFarland and Jennifer Joel '94 attend the Young Lions Book Award ceremony.

# Giving Back to Society: Matt Klapper '01 Works as Advisor for Mayor of Newark

By ANISHA MOHIN (V)

When Matt Klapper '01 was a high school junior, he was a self-proclaimed "film buff," producing and editing films whenever he got the opportunity. That year, the African-American Culture Club recruited him to make their documentary for the annual Martin Luther King assembly. Cory Booker, a Newark councilman, came to speak at the program, and, based on the strength of the documentary, hired Klapper then and there to make his first fundraising film for his 2002 mayoral campaign.

After producing the film, Klapper continued working at the councilman's office and began to pay "less and less attention to film." He explained, "I realized that what attracted me to film was the ability to call attention to important issues. But working in Newark was a better way to work with social justice. I loved it. Even though Cory ultimately lost that election, I loved every minute of it."

He has many other fond memories of his high school

career too, like "the first 500 feet of any cross-country race. It was the only time when I'd be near the leaders of the race, so I felt athletic, like there was actually a chance I could win." He also particularly enjoyed time spent with longtime faculty members Dr. Mike Richardson, Mrs. Patricia Lionetti, and Mr. Peter Delman.

After graduating, Klapper enrolled at University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained his B.A. in both American History and International Studies. Of his experience, he said, "I had a tremendous time at UPenn. I had some great classes, great professors, had a lot of fun, and grew a lot." In the fall of 2005, Klapper went back to working in Newark as a campaign staffer for Booker's second shot at mayor. When Booker was elected, Klapper stayed on as a member of his Transition Team. He began as a Street Fight Policy Advisor, but quickly progressed through the ranks, eventually becoming a direct policy advisor to the mayor.

Three years later, Klapper decided to leave his job tem-

By JASMINE OGHAN (V)

Christine Neely '76 works at PSEG Nuclear as the Director of Regulatory Affairs. After graduating from Pingry, she attended Union College, where she majored in English Literature. She then decided to change paths and go to law school. After earning her degree in 1983, Neely began to work as a lawyer in a private firm in New York.

The projects she worked on, however, did not require her to utilize her skills of planning and forethought. At the firm, she was dealing with problems that had already occurred, and "the battle of law was less interesting to [her] than finding solutions." Therefore, she decided to become a lawyer in the environmental section of the law department at PSEG Nuclear.

More than half of the power in New Jersey is nuclear power, a carbon-free energy source. The cultivation of nuclear energy, however, presents many challenges and risks. As the Director of Regulatory Affairs, Neely sits on the senior leadership team and is responsible for all regulatory relationships, including the environmental programs on site. She also

runs emergency preparedness programs with the state police, health departments, and local residents.

For Neely, the hardest part of her job is anticipating issues before they happen. "One of my major functions is looking at what's in front of me and then making a plan to respond to what may or will happen," she explained. The ability to stay calm in the face of a disaster is a valued skill in her line of work, as is attention to detail. Neely

finds the most rewarding part of her job to be the ability to work with "incredibly accomplished people."

Reflecting on her career path, Neely confessed, "As a student, I never would have thought that I would be where I am today, working at a nuclear power plant, but I love what I do, and I've had a successful career."

While at Pingry, Neely was interested in a wide variety of subjects, including science and literature. She always had a

natural curiosity and an eager willingness to embrace change and new possibilities; it was this love for learning that helped Neely to acquire knowledge about her chosen profession.

Furthermore, she feels that her education at Pingry played a major role in her success. As she explained, "It instilled in me a lifetime love of learning; one thing about my career is that I'm always looking for new challenges and new ideas, and that all started at Pingry."



Courtesy of PSEG.com

A New Jersey cooling tower mirrors PSEG's environmental efforts.

# Dr. Anthony Clapcich '84 Saves Lives at Children's Hospital of NY Presbyterian

By ROXANNE FEITEL (IV)

After graduating from Pingry and later Columbia College and medical school, Dr. Anthony Clapcich '84 went on to become the Director of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Anesthesia at New York-Presbyterian Children's Hospital.

While at Pingry, Clapcich was an advisee of English teacher Mr. Ted Li to whom

he attributes his writing skills. He also said former Pingry Chemistry teacher Mr. Ernie Shawcross had a strong impact on him. Clapcich said that Shawcross's enthusiasm for teaching inspired him to "impart that kind of passion" to his residents each day.

Dr. Clapcich said that his greatest memory of Pingry was "the sense of tradition and family" at the school.

He also appreciated that "no matter what clique you came from...everyone knew that education was important."

Clapcich decided he wanted to be a doctor "more than anything in the world" while growing up, and Columbia's pre-med program had a good reputation. This, as well as the opportunity to play for their soccer team, encouraged him to matriculate there.

Recognizing the "endless number of opportunities" medicine offers, Clapcich struggled to decide which field of medicine to enter. Because he wanted to work with children, Clapcich chose a field where he knew he would get to work with kids every day. Anesthesiology interested him because he wanted to "make decisions that count." Dr. Clapcich said he enjoys the excitement of his job, and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

On an average workday, Dr. Clapcich wakes up at 4:30 A.M., and spends varying amounts of time at the hospital. Usually, he

is in the operating room until the job is done. Sometimes, that means working a 24-hour shift. "Cases and situations change every day," he said.

His favorite part of the job is explaining to young patients what he has to do medically; because the drugs he uses are dangerous, parents are often scared about what the anesthesia will do to their children. Clapcich said he enjoys intense situations where there is "no room for fooling around or beating around the bush," and he has to get them through "in some sort of fashion to make it as pleasant and comfortable as possible."

Dr. Clapcich advised that current Pingry students "do something passionately" and enjoy it. "If you love what you do, then you aren't working," he said. As a doctor, Clapcich loves that everything superfluous "evaporates" until he's finished his job. It doesn't matter what you do, he said, but you must be happy doing it.



Courtesy of the Communications Office

Matt Klapper '01 greeting fellow alum at Career Day.

porarily and pursue a J.D. at Yale Law School, saying, "I realized that, if you want to be an effective policy-maker, you have to deal with lawyers. Understanding lawyers' limitations and inclinations is incredibly important to being an administrator in any government. Beyond that, rounding out a broader understanding of the law was important to me." He is now in his second year and plans to return to the mayor's office this summer.

He said, "I think the best

thing about Career Day was sitting down in a room with kids interested in public service, looking back and trying to convey to them that there are a million and one ways to serve. It's not just elected office or government or part-time volunteer work."

Klapper's parting advice to students was "not to think about what they want to be, but to think about what they want to accomplish – the 'be' will follow in the tail end of that."

## Current Seniors Return

Child Psychologist:  
Billy McFarland

Pro Football Player:  
Danielle Cosentino

Theatrical Director:  
Alex Mole

Homemaker:  
Sam Fisher

JCrew Spokesperson:  
Kate Conway

Church Minister:  
Aaron Davis

Courtesy of SAC Head Charlie Laud (VI)

## Gelber '59 Pursues Journalism As 60 Minutes Producer

By SHAAN GURNANI (V)

David Gelber '59, who graduated from Swarthmore College after attending Pingry, decided in his college years that not only did he want to "write about what was happening in the world," but he also wanted to change it. As a producer for "60 Minutes," the nation's leading television news magazine, Gelber is doing exactly that.

Looking back upon his years at Pingry, where he entered in the second grade, Gelber said, "I was definitely becoming who I would be." For example, he made a point to confront the headmaster about Pingry's quota system, which limited the number of students of certain ethnicities. Moreover, he "argued with Mr. Buffum, our history teacher, when he said that American imperialism was a great thing."

Gelber's favorite course at Pingry was Literature, taught by Mr. Herbert Hahn, who "was passionately committed to the material."

Although Gelber received admission to "one of those fancy Ivy League schools," he made the "wise decision" to attend Swarthmore instead, where he earned a B.A. in History. According to Gelber, "Swarthmore was then and continues to be an extremely challenging place, intellectu-

ally and ethically," and it was an interesting time in American history.

During summers, Gelber worked for the daily newspaper in Elizabeth, and his ardor for journalism grew. After graduating from Swarthmore, however, his parents' expectations got in the way of his being a reporter. Although his parents insisted he go to law school and he got into Cornell University, he "absolutely hated it."

"I felt completely out-of-synch with my classmates," he said. "They were lusting for jobs with corporate law firms, and I was obsessed with television images of US bombs ripping apart the bodies of Vietnamese peasants." He stayed in Ithaca "long enough to perfect my jump shot in the Cornell fieldhouse, and then skedaddled," never regretting his decision to pass up a career in law.

Gelber then "decided to work as a community organizer in Newark." Along with six or seven other young activists, Gelber "wanted to get [my] black and white neighbors in Newark to work together toward common goals." In the end, they helped to elect Newark's first black mayor.

Soon, Gelber decided he "wasn't all that comfortable living on the radical fringe." He wanted to be a part of the

"new wave of journalists, who wrote for The New York Times, The New Yorker and other respectable publications." He said, "I wanted to go to the places where the most important things were happening, and make the events there meaningful to people who might not otherwise care."

At the age of 34, Gelber "started working for big corporations in the TV business," almost by mistake. At a tennis camp in Western Massachusetts, Gelber met the news director for Channel 4 in New York, who offered him a job as an on-camera reporter. Although Gelber claimed, "I was terrible on camera," he survived "because I spent my evenings finding stories that were better than the dumb ones the assignment desk handed out in the morning." He also learned more about journalism.

As a producer for "60 Minutes," Gelber, along with about two dozen editors, comes up with interesting stories, reports them, helps write them, and works with an on-camera correspondent, usually Scott Pelley.

Gelber, who was the Career Day keynote speaker in 2008, said, "Since my time, the school has evolved in ways that are very gratifying to me. The school's leadership is first-rate, the student body is far more diverse, and it's very clear that intellectual probity and academic excellence are valued above all."

Gelber's urges students who want to enter journalism after college to "find your voice and then come around looking for work." He also suggested that students figure out a way to do something about climate change, "far and away the most serious threat to you, your kids, your grandkids and every one of us on this planet."



Courtesy of Facebook

## Charisma, Boldness, and Power Prove Key to Somogyi Miller '98

By ROXANNE OGHAZ (V)

Like many of us today, Pingry alumna Ms. Stephanie Somogyi Miller '98 was unsure about her career plans when she was in high school. While attending Pingry, she felt she was a "science person." In particular, she recalled the great time she had in Mr. Mike Lalley's Anatomy class. At the time, she even imagined herself becoming a cardiovascular surgeon.

After graduating from Pingry, Miller attended George Washington University where she studied international business and finance while simultaneously fulfilling Premedical requirements. However, she changed course and applied to law school in 2002. After being wait-listed, Miller began looking for work in New York City. She interviewed for a public relations agency, was called back several times, and finally received the job. That same day, she was accepted to law school. Nevertheless, she decided to continue in public relations

instead of enrolling, and stated, "I didn't choose [my career]; it chose me."

One of the obstacles that Ms. Somogyi Miller faced in pursuing a career in public relations was the sheer number of people in the business. "Overcoming it was daunting," she admitted, "but you have to figure out how you fit into the big picture and believe in yourself." She believes that one must have the innate characteristics of boldness, charisma, and power to influence others in order to succeed in the field. She added that "speaking proper English" is also an essential skill.

Above all, time and experience taught Miller the most about public relations. She first worked in a corporate agency and then in a small boutique. She found the lack of guidance, structure, and accountability at these jobs frustrating. From this, she learned "how important it was to have structure and a good company culture."

In launching her own public relations company, Ms. Somogyi Miller sought

to avoid the mistakes she observed at the previous agencies where she worked by "doing things differently and treating people differently." Her vision was a medium size company that would establish a productive working culture, where the quality of life of employees would be satisfactory and people would be treated with respect. Needless to say, she succeeded in her goal and is now president of Miller Hamilton Companies.

On a daily basis, employees are assigned specific tasks, among which are "reaching out to the media, writing press releases and pitches, managing clients, organizing photo shoots, editing, and designing." A project that especially stood out to her was jewelry store Cartier's 100th anniversary.

Finally, Ms. Somogyi Miller advised today's high school students to "take risks and have respect for those who come before you. Nothing great was ever achieved without taking risk. Do whatever feels right."



Courtesy of Mark Bryn-Brown Photography

Producer David Gelber '59 winning an emmy.

## Gordy Sulcer '61 Slam Dunks as President and Founder of First Choice Marketing

By DAN ABEND (IV)

Gordy Sulcer '61, who attended Pingry for five years, makes a tremendous effort to stay involved with the school and to use what he has learned in his career to benefit the faculty, student body, and any others that are members of the Pingry community.

At Pingry, Sulcer was a member of the swimming and soccer teams, an assistant editor for The Record, a member of Student Government, and president of his class during his sophomore and junior years. But it was after graduating from Pingry, when he attended Williams College

in Massachusetts, that he discovered his true passion: sports broadcasting and marketing.

Sulcer joined the Williams radio station as a sports broadcaster, and finding that he truly enjoyed this field, he decided to pursue it after college. He began working at CBS and eventually worked at sports programming and news stations across the nation. However, after years of working in broadcasting companies, Mr. Sulcer decided to take a risk and start his own sports marketing and sponsorship company, First Choice Marketing. This was difficult as he "did not have a lot of experience in corporate life,"

but he persevered, looking back to his previous on-the-job training. Slowly but surely, First Choice became a successful enterprise.

Today, First Choice sells sponsorships and does television production for a variety of sporting events including the annual Hambletonian Horserace, the Nations Triathlon, the New York Triathlon, and the New Jersey Tour of Champions. Sulcer is very happy with his job; his favorite part of what he does is "being able to work with all kinds of different people."

Sulcer's recommendations to high school students are to "look ahead, work hard, get internships, and

try different things."

Even with his busy life, Sulcer continues to be extremely active in the Pingry community, as a trustee, a member of the Alumni Association for 30 years, and an organizer of the annual Pingry golf tournament. He also helped to establish the Pingry Athletic Hall of Fame with Coach Bugliari and has shared his corporate wisdom at every Career Day since the event began.

Pingry has had a "terrific impact" on his life, he said, through his "experience on athletic teams" at the school and "relationships with Coach Miller [Bugliari] and other teachers and headmasters."

### For Career Day 2030

Roller Derby Girl: Julia Nosofsky	Astrophysicist: Emily Strackhouse
Sports Marketing Agent: Kate Dreyfuss	Environmental Advocate: Matthew Zubrow
Astronaut: Erin James	Military Strategist: Sean Salamon

Think you can top this list? Contact Charlie Laud at [claud@pingry.org](mailto:claud@pingry.org) for information about the Broken Wreckord.

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# Holiday Assembly is Another Hit for Student Activity Committee

By DANIELLE WESTERMAN

On December 18, 2009, the Student Activity Committee (SAC) treated the student body to their annual holiday assembly. This year, students and faculty alike gathered in the lower commons to watch the skits. According to Charlie Laud (VI), it took over a month and a half to prepare all the stories, skits, and jokes. The night before the assembly, the core of SAC spent hours at school setting up their stage and ensuring that the next morning would run smoothly. Seniors Luke Pounder, Alex Parker-Magyar, and Charlie Laud, the masterminds behind SAC, agreed that their favorite part of the assembly was the introduction, which included busting out of huge present boxes and saving Santa in his sleep. "We

set a high standard with the Rufus Gunther Day introduction," said Pounder, "so we figured we needed to do something just as imaginative and original."

Emilie Moy (IV) said her favorite part of the assembly was "definitely the Jeopardy skit." The contestants were Parker-Magyar, dressed as Coach Douglas Scott; Will Pinke (VI), dressed as Chemistry teacher Dr. Michelle Parvensky; Alex Molé (VI), dressed as English teacher Dr. Susan Dineen; and Laud, dressed as Spanish teacher Mr. Victor Nazario. Coach Scott wasn't offended by Parker-Magyar's impersonation of him: "It was very funny, and everyone knew that it was all in good fun," he said. "After being at the school for a while, I knew those guys were going to get me one day."

The First Annual Beard-Off was quite a success. Teachers as well as students participated in the contest, but they were no match for Will Pinke (VI). Pinke was the frontrunner in lushness and fullness during the week leading up to the contest. When he showed off the Stars of David on his cheeks, he was determined to be both the most creative and the overall winner of the competition.

Another favorite this year was Pinke's "How Dr. Desimone stole Chanukah," which was a spin off of "How Mr. Raby Stole Christmas" from the 2006 holiday assembly. Pinke told the student body how Upper School Director Dr. Brown-Allen, History teacher Mrs. Maddy Landau, and a motley crew of teachers stopped History teacher Dr. Alfred Desimone from destroying all the Chanukah candles. Noinin Gilbert (V) enjoyed this skit, saying, "Every teacher has their own little quirks. It was funny to see all their defining qualities being played on."

"The assembly was great this year," said Kristen Tripicchio (V). "You could tell they spent a lot of time working on it, and it definitely paid off," she said.



Glenn Friedman (VI) plays role of Santa. S. Barrinuevo (VI)

## Musicians Perform For Cancer Research

By CAROLINE MURPHY (III)

The Louise Winston Memorial Cancer Benefit was held on Friday, January 15th in the Macrae Theater. Junior Rebecca Youngdahl organized the event in hope of showcasing the many talents of current students while supporting important research.

Over the summer Youngdahl attended a program called Center for Creative Youth, where she was inspired to begin a leadership project in the arts. After talking about her idea with Mr. Jay Winston, the Women's Glee Club and Balladeers teacher, the idea for a benefit was born. She decided the proceeds would go to colon cancer research, a cause dear to her. The benefit was named in memory of Mr. Winston's mother Louise Winston, who passed away from lung cancer in 2004.

In the fall, Youngdahl contacted various students that she thought would be interested in performing in support of the cause. "I was honored to be asked to perform," said Lillie Ricciardi (VI) who sang in the concert, "It was something unique that I had never heard of before, and I knew that I had to be a part of it."

Youngdahl said, "Organizing was definitely difficult at times, but it was all worth it in the end

since it was a really fun night." The resulting 16 performances showcased students' amazing talents in vocal and instrumental music, dance, drama and poetry. Some of the presentations were even original creations by students.

"I think the benefit was such a success because I left it really flexible so kids were performing something they really wanted to do, not something I picked out for them," Youngdahl said.

Ben Hamm (V), who performed a scene with Sarah Muirhead (V), had "a lot of fun performing with my friends for a great cause."

At the end of the night, performers and audience members mingled outside the Macrae Theater discussing their night over home made treats. The event raised over \$3,100, and all the money raised went to colon cancer research at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Overall, said audience member Jeff Baum (V), "It was a phenomenal night because there were so many different talents being expressed."

The Louise Winston Memorial Cancer Benefit received a great deal of positive feedback from the audience members as well as the performers, and will become an annual event in the future.

## Etty Hillesum's Moving Story Shared at Diversity Assembly

By MARISA WERNER (IV)

On Friday, February 5, the Diversity Assembly featured Princeton Day School teacher and actor Susan Stein performing a one-woman theatrical play based on the diary and letters of Etty Hillesum. Through her letters and diary, Hillesum recounted her experiences in Amsterdam during the German occupation. Stein's adaptation of Etty's diary describes her preparation of journeying eastward to a concentration camp. Three days before her departure, she shares her emotions and the people she has been writing letters to.

Sitting on a wooden chair, next to a suitcase, Stein opened the assembly with Hetty's appeal to God: "On Tuesday the train leaves. But no matter where You place me, I will always long for this desk." The reason Stein commenced the assembly with this particular line was to emphasize Etty's passion and adoration for writing, as well as the way her writing helped her communicate with God.

As the play unfolds, Etty

explains that she must leave Holland in three days. During these final days in Amsterdam, she digs deep into her soul to try to understand why people of Jewish descent are being treated this way. Her diary allows her to express her opinions and emotions, acting as a friend since all her family is no longer with her. Etty's final excerpts show her struggling with her relationship with God and the meaning of her existence. Ultimately she reconciles herself to her fate.

The assembly ended in silence so that the audience could imagine Etty's thoughts and actions before her inevitable death.

As Stein explained after her performance, the diary came into print because Etty gave it to her friend, Maria Tuinzing, before she left Holland, asking her to publish it if she did not return.

At first only two of her letters were published, earning enough money to help Jews in hiding. After the war, her diary was published in Dutch, and then later translated to English.

Stein also explained how she was inspired to start her tour. She'd read Etty's diary soon after its original publication in English, but one day, several years later, she was in a car accident that changed her life. While on Route 287, a woman driving at least ninety miles per hour crashed into Stein's car. Astounded that she and her two sons had survived, Stein felt as if she were still spinning. Afterwards, as she recuperated in a hospital bed, Stein began to wonder about Etty.

She remembered that for the past 12 years she had been wanting to write a play based on Etty's diary but had never had the chance. After being released from the hospital she was determined to achieve her dream and tour the country, telling people about her amazing story of survival and how Etty had inspired her. Stein devoted the next few years of her life to her project. It didn't take long for her to complete reading Etty's diary, she explained, but it took much longer to write a play because she didn't know where to begin.

## 3 Juniors and 1 Senior Return From Memorable Semester Away Programs

By REBECCA SPICEHANDLER (V)

In addition to last minute, crammed in tests and the fun of Snowball, the end of the first semester brought with it the return of four students who had spent the last four months studying abroad. Juniors Lillian Holman, Tyler Gump and Robbie Hugin experienced the wilderness of the Rocky Mountains during their stay at the High Mountain Institute in Leadville, Colorado, while senior Remy Teicher spent her semester abroad at Oxbow, an art school in Napa Valley, California.

Teicher signed on with the Oxbow program as a way to explore art and further develop her artistic skills. She said, "I wanted to know how I learned; I wanted to get something more from education; I wanted to push my creativity; I wanted my intelligence to be apparent; I wanted to be celebrated for who I was." Her experiences have been a motivating force in her life and have changed how she views not only education but also her own personal growth. As Teicher explained, "I feel that I can now approach tasks differently. I am hopeful about my future, I feel incredibly intelligent, I feel strong, and I am free. I am limitless."

As students who have attended Pingry since kindergarten, Hugin and Holman signed up for the HMI program looking for a way

to rediscover themselves and meet new people. Holman claims her new group of friends "come from a diversity of cultures that I had never known before."

The mission statement of HMI is to encourage students' personal and intellectual growth through a connection to the natural world. The students gained a new appreciation for the wilderness and their personal strength through both days on campus and weeks spent on expedition. Throughout the semester, there were three expeditions, each lasting 10 to 14 days.

While their nights of camping and exploring the mountain scenery were truly informative, the students also learned to appreciate nature in a classroom setting. In courses like "Local Ecology" and "Literature of the Natural World," students discussed the wilderness and controversial environmental issues.

"I have to say the best part of the academics was the faculty," Holman said. "I knew every teacher by their first name, and these were teachers who really, truly knew me because of shared experiences in the field and on campus."

The students also gained a new sense of independence and responsibility, as they did daily chores like stoking the fire, sweeping their cabins, cooking, and doing laundry.

Each student came away from



Courtesy of Robbie Hugin (V)

Robbie Hugin (V) in the Rocky Mountains for his study abroad program.

the program with a radically different experience and measure of personal growth.

Holman said, "HMI taught me that I could do the impossible. The people and the program gave me support in a way that no community has done before. It's an amazing feeling to look back and go 'Wow! I climbed that pass or reached the top of that trail!' And the best part is that you had people there to cheer you on when you reached that goal. Believing you can do what seems physically impossible makes it easy to approach any new challenge that comes your way and makes you want to pursue adventure. I'm so happy to have that feeling."

Gump added that he learned from his experiences how to "be more conscious about my carbon footprint in the world."

Of her Oxbow program, Teicher said, "One of the greatest skills I have learned is how to prioritize my time. By managing my tasks in advance, I am able to live a less stressful life. Oxbow threw me out there by giving me less and less structure throughout the semester while ensuring me of my capabilities."

All participating students agree on two things: that they would recommend doing a similar program to any rising junior or senior, and that they would never trade their experiences for the world.

## Word in the Hall: What are your plans for Valentine's Day?



RANDALL JORDAN (VI)  
"Celebrating my birthday."



VICTORIA LEE (VI)  
"It's a surprise."



KEVIN SAMPAIO (IV)  
"Going to the movies with friends."



JUNIOR GIRLS AND MATT ZUBROW (VI)  
"Seeing 'Valentine's Day.'"



STEVE PALAZZOLO (V)  
"Crying in my room."

# Faculty Members Join Together for Annual Vampire Weekend's New LP Full of Risks

## Art Exhibition in the Hotsetter Gallery

By AMANDA HULSE (III)

From January 27 to February 5, the Hotsetter Gallery exhibited the work of some of Pingry's finest artists, the

art teachers themselves. Mr. Miles Boyd, Mr. Peter Delman, Mrs. Laurinda Stockwell, Ms. Margaretta Lear Svedman, Mr. Rich Freiwald, and Mrs. Jane Edwards all

had pieces on display. On Wednesday, January 27, an official opening took place for both students and faculty.

The exhibit showcased a wide range of mediums,

including pottery, pastels and works in metal. These included Mrs. Edwards's series of untitled works of acyclic on canvas, as well as Ms. Svedman's three pastel pieces, two still lifes and a work called "Tug of War."

Mr. Freiwald, who teaches Art Fundamentals, clay working and sculpture, displayed an untitled collection of pearls, clay, iron and aventurine pieces in addition to a series of lava glazed stoneware. His pottery, he explained, "represents a reflection for traditional and non traditional historical ceramics."

Photo and Portfolio teacher, Mr. Boyd, also had several minimalist pieces in the show that explored deterioration over time. In studying this theme, he actually created his metal works so that they would not permanently last.

Mrs. Stockwell's featured work included the creation "Fly Away," an untraditional silk screened work shown in a light box, as well as artwork she had created for public spaces, "Public Art Proposals and Commissions 2007-2010."

Hayley Advokat (III), said that she "really enjoyed the exhibit because it was a chance for our teachers to show what kind of art they like." She also "really liked seeing Mrs. Stockwell's lit up painting."

Lastly, the exhibit showcased four of Mr. Delman's paintings, all portraits on gold leaf. Inspired by a dream he had, the paintings featured angels and devils.

The Arts Wing, Mr. Delman believes, "is good for the soul." This exhibition in particular was great for students, because it enabled them to see what their teachers create outside of the classroom.



By ALEX FAGELLA (V)

In 2008, Vampire Weekend's self-titled debut album was a terrific success for the Ivy League rockers. Because of their catchy, original tunes, one could listen to the album for hours without getting tired of it. With much anticipation from fans, the band recently released a new LP, "Contra." While it does not live up to the near perfection of the first album, "Contra" is still a great collection of music that's easy and fun to listen to. On the surface, the elements that made this group so lovable to begin with are still present, but there are also some subtle changes.

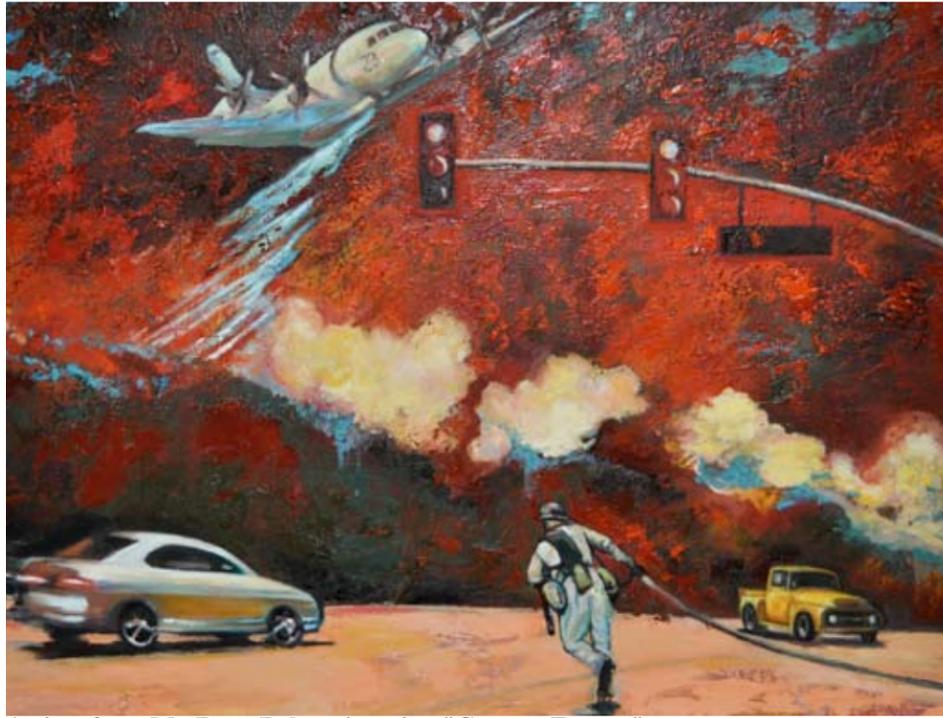
Vampire Weekend's music is hard to classify as a particular genre—it's a mixture of rock, easy listening, reggae, punk, jazz, and experimental coming together as what can only be described as the quintessential beach soundtrack. Catchy riffs on keyboards, guitars, horns, strings, and countless other unidentifiable instruments mold with falsetto vocals, are all held together by solid drumming and tantalizing bass lines. "Contra" takes musical risks by ignoring the standard four-chord formula of other pseudo-pop groups, giving the album a more experimental and "laid back" vibe.

Courtesy of Google Images  
"Cousins," the first single, is an accurate summary of the album. Free-flowing vocals battle with guitar melodies for supremacy, while out of control bass and drums give the song a carousel-like feel. Along with this, the breakdown at the end of the song shows how the band has matured—church bells lead the listener to the next track, "Giving Up The Gun."

"Giving Up The Gun" is driven by urban drums and lead singer Ezra Koenig's vocals and is accented with a glockenspiel during the chorus. As the song progresses, it culminates and truly hits a musical climax. By the end, it feels as if an entire orchestra has joined in.

While there is no song that really stands out as a smash hit, "Run" is definitely worth downloading. The catchy steel drums and Koenig's recognizable voice are complemented with a section of pop horns in the chorus. Overall, the song just has a lot of striking elements that, through careful mixing, come together to form a powerful musical experience. It's simple yet sophisticated—the type of song you can let your mind wander to.

"Contra" may not be as satisfying as Vampire Weekend's first album, but simply put: it definitely makes for a good time.



A piece from Mr. Peter Delman's series, "Current Events."

S. Gurnani (V)

## Seniors Charlie Laud and Luke Pounder Interview Etan Cohen

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

In continuing their interviewing series of "big" people in the movie industry, Luke Pounder (VI) and Charlie Laud (VI) interviewed screenwriter Etan Cohen. A graduate of Harvard College, some of his first works included scripts for "Beavis and Butt-head." Further on in his career, Cohen also worked on projects including "King of the Hill," "Recess," and "It's Like You Know." Some of his more famous works include "Tropic Thunder," "Idiocracy," and episodes for shows such as "American Dad." Cohen was also recently hired to help write the script for "Men in Black III."

How did you get started as a writer?

What is your writing process like? Coming from television, do you like writing with other peo-



Courtesy of Google Images

Screenwriter Etan Cohen with date at "Tropic Thunder" premiere.

When I was a freshman in college, I had an internship at MTV. I met a guy there who had written an episode of "Beavis and Butt-head." I was impressed, and he encouraged me to call the head writer if I thought I might have ideas for the show. I called him—Kris Brown—who was generous enough to listen to my ideas. He thought they were terrible, but he told me why and, to his surprise, I listened to him and called him again with a new batch of ideas. There was one in there that he liked enough to give me a shot at writing. He said if I did a good enough job, they'd buy it. I took a shot, they bought it, and that was my start.

ple more than writing alone?

You are exactly right. I've always thought of writing, especially comedy writing, as a group experience. Seeing a bunch of people laugh at an idea is a great feeling, and it's the only real way to know if what you've got is actually funny.

What's the best part about being a professional screenwriter?

I'm fortunate that my office is in my garage, 10 feet from my house. It's really one of the great luxuries of my job that I'm able to be at home most of the time.

Are you allowed to talk about any of your upcoming projects?

I'm working on two things that are a lot of fun: an adaptation of the board game Candy Land and "Men in Black III." I'll probably get in trouble if I say too much more about them... sorry...

Could you ever see yourself writing a screenplay outside the comedy genre?

"Men in Black III" was a minor step outside pure comedy for me—more of an action comedy. It's definitely fun to stretch a little bit.

Do you have any advice for aspiring screenwriters?

It's a tough question to answer. There are no set rules for success. What I've tried to do is approach it like any other very hard job: you need to put in a lot of hours and always try to get better at it. And since you never can really tell what other people will like, you just have to do work that you feel is good. That might seem a little corny, but you can drive yourself crazy if you worry too much about how others will react to your stuff.

## Oscar Watch 2010: From Life on Pandora to Football Sidelines

By CHRISTINE KUMAR (IV)

Once again, it's awards season for the entertainment industry, and as the fight for the golden statue grows, certain movies have caught the attention of critics and audiences alike.

One movie that has had a lot of buzz from critics is "Precious," which is based on the novel by Sapphire. The movie follows the challenging life of Precious, a young African American girl who is abused, pregnant, and has no hope. Mo'Nique, although known for her comedic roles in television, truly steps her game up by playing Precious's abusive mother. In fact, her performance is so moving that she won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress, beating out Julianne Moore in "A Single Man" and Penelope Cruz in "Nine." "Precious" was also nominated for Best Motion Picture for Drama, but "Avatar" unsurprisingly won the award.

"Avatar," directed by James Cameron, is this season's biggest blockbuster. Worldwide, it has made more than \$1,836,143,000. In addition to winning for Best Motion Picture for Drama, James Cameron won for Best Director. With the Academy Awards approaching, it is also expected to win "smaller" categories in the realms of editing and technology.



Courtesy of Google Images

"The Hurt Locker" and "Avatar" Fight for Best Picture Spot at Upcoming Academy Awards.

Another film that has received much critical acclaim is "An Education," the story of a young girl who comes of age after meeting an older man. Carey Mulligan, the lead of the movie, is said to be the breakout star of the year: in fact, Rolling Stone Magazine called her performance "sensational," and "star making." She was nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, but was beat out by Sandra Bullock of "The Blind Side."

"The Blind Side," another blockbuster hit, is the true story of Michael Oher, a homeless boy who was taken in by a woman and her family and eventually goes on to become a football star. Hailed as "the inspirational movie of the year," the film helped Bullock beat out Emily Blunt and Helen Mirren for the Golden Globe for

Best Actress in a Drama.

While blockbusters seem to be finding their way into the Oscar buzz this year, the smaller drama, "A Single Man," is still a strong contender. The plot centers on a gay professor who has to move on after losing his partner. Reaching the prime of his career, Colin Firth is said to have really immersed himself in the character, letting go completely to play the part. He will prove a tough Oscar competitor for Jeff Bridges who won the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Drama for his performance in "Crazy Heart."

Other big award contenders include "The Hurt Locker," "Up in the Air," "Inglourious Basterds," "Invictus," and "Amelia," but until the golden envelopes are opened, we can only speculate as to which movie will be crowned the Oscar king.

## Boys' Basketball Receives Fan Support

By ADAM JACOB (V)

Coming off an 8-13 season, the boys' Varsity Basketball team was looking to improve this year. Despite the loss of last year's key seniors, the team brought back a lot of talent. With a quick start to the season, the basketball team looks to finish this year at the top of the new Skylands Conference.

The team won four of their first five games and currently holds an 8-9 record, despite the loss of senior captain Will Pinke (VI) to an injury for part of the season. In Pinke's absence, the team is led by co-captain Scott Sowinski (V), with Dan Keller (IV), Harlen Shangold (V), Otis Osman (V), Bennett Rosenbach (VI), and Michael Supron (IV).

"The season started off going as planned when we were 4-1, but it's been a difficult streak and we need to get out of our slumps and get back to playing as a team," said Osman.

The basketball team's biggest win of the season thus far came against heavily favored Watchung Hills Regional High School, 44-41, led by Sowinski with 14 points and

Keller with 11 points. When asked what the win meant for the team, Osman said, "Watchung Hills was a team-unifying win where we showed that we all can do what it takes to get the win and be team players." Unfortunately, they lost their second game against Watchung.

With the creation of the Blue Army in the fall, fan support for each sport has also been critical for a lot of teams' success. At the basketball games in particular, the fans are so close to the court, their rowdiness and heckling creates a true home-court advantage. "Fan support has been great for our team and it is cool to know people support us. Also, the fans know the game and really help us have a home court advantage," said Osman.

With the end of the regular season near, fan support will be needed more than ever as the team enters the county and state tournaments. With great leadership and talent on the court, along with a boisterous crowd, this year's boys' basketball team looks to be a force in both tournaments... Possibly bringing back a title for a deserving student body.



B. Morrison '64

## Playing to their Potential: Girls' Basketball Improves Reputation

By KASIA AXTELL (III)

Led by Head Coach David White and assistant coaches Michelle Poole and Joe Schneider, the girls' Varsity Basketball team is off to an extremely strong start with a 13-2 record. After losing only one senior (Katie Parsels '09), Kelly Kurylak (VI), Maddie Garcia (VI), Beth Garcia (VI), Erika Lampert (VI), and Vicky Morgan (VI) have taken over and contributed greatly to the team's success this season.

With games so far against

Bound Brook, South Hunterdon, North Warren, Oak Knoll, Delaware Valley, Ridge, Somerville, Watchung Hills, Belvidere, Mountain Lakes, Manville, North Plainfield, and Bernards, the only losses have been to Mount St. Mary's and Watchung Hills, which, according to Morgan "was a letdown because I know that if we played to our potential we could have beaten them."

But with every loss comes a win, and in this case, there have been 13 of them. Among those



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## Winter Track Breaks Shuttle Hurdle Record

By ALI LOGERFO (V)

Competing against older and more developed teams in the Skyland Conference this season, the Winter Track team members have already broken both personal and school records. The results of their meets, although reflecting the difficulty they face in scoring against larger teams, have been impressive and provide encouragement for the rest of the season and for the upcoming Spring Track and Field season.

Despite losing important members in the past year, the Winter Track team has gained many new athletes who have quickly become accustomed to the chilly temperatures, unruly weather, and early morning bus rides. One of these is Billy Porges (III), who said, "I love being able to run during the winter and train for hurdles to prepare for the spring!"

The support of teammates and the coaches, Chemistry teacher Mr. Tim Grant and Mr. Bob Armando, motivates all members to run their fastest, jump their highest, and throw their farthest. Girl's captain, Mary Kate Martinson (V), thinks "the encouragement the runners give each other during races is the secret to success this season."

All members of the team look forward to continue setting and breaking new goals for themselves and their relay teams. Although the first meet of the year, the Bishop Laughlin Games at the New York Armory, was cancelled due to inclement weather, the team had success in the three following meets. Alexandra Logerfo (V)

set the Pingry girls' Winter Track high jump record at the team's first meet.

The relay teams have also proven very powerful, demonstrating the strength of the individuals as well as their teamwork. At the Non Public Relays, Helen Daifotis (V), Jasmine Oghaz (V), Roxanne Oghaz (V), and Emily Gilbert (VI) broke the Pingry girls' shuttle hurdle record with an impressive time of 40.32 seconds.

In the most recent meet, the Edwin M. Lavinio Relays at the Lawrenceville School, two school records were broken.

E. Gilbert (VI) Andrew Benito (III), Ben Balyntine (IV), Myles Bristow (VI), and Cole Jordan (IV), ran a fast relay, breaking the school's previous boys' 4x200m record. The girls' 4x800m relay team, Rebecca Curran (IV), Roxanne Oghaz (V), Terdoo Nwaoduh (VI), and Mary Kate Martinson (V), also broke the previous school record for their event. As Olivia Tarantino (V) explained, "Winter Track is all about setting personal goals and getting ready for the spring... and that's what we're doing!"

The small but strong team looks forward to competing in the four final meets of the season, fighting to succeed in the Skyland Conference Championships. Individuals look to set and break further personal goals and school records, aiming to participate in the Meet of Champions in February after the team's season has come to a close.



E. Gilbert (VI) Andrew Benito

## Boys' Varsity Hockey Ices Competition

By LINDSEY BISSENGER (V)

The Varsity boys' Ice Hockey team is off to one of its best starts in recent memory. Led by captains Peter Martin (VI) and Ryan Kiska (VI) and assistants Andrew LaFontaine (VI) and Brian Weiniger (VI), the squad has a 16-1-1 record, playing in the challenging Skylands Conference. The team's only tie was against Morristown-Beard, which is ranked number six in the state.

Presently, the team is ranked number nine in New Jersey according to The Star Ledger rankings. Adding to the squad's growing recognition, Kiska was named and honored as the New Jersey High School Athlete of the Week by The Star Ledger. The team has endured a tough schedule against many highly ranked opponents.

With its teamwork and strategy the team has had many victories including one against previously undefeated Montgomery 3-2. In this game, Big Blue fell behind by two goals; however, the team's determination paid off as goalie Martin held Montgomery scoreless for the rest of the game. Weiniger cut the lead with a late second period goal, followed by

Matt Beattie's (V) two goals in the third, which sealed the victory.

A concerted team effort has paved the way for this remarkable start. Among the boys who have made significant contributions to the team's success are Alex Russoniello (VI), who scored a hat trick against Hunterdon Central, as well as Pat Lackey (IV) and Nick Branchina (IV), who both scored important goals in the team's tough victory over Hillsborough.

Coach John Magadini's squad has outscored its opponents 61 to 14 to date and is gearing up for the second half of its schedule with tough matches against Pennington and Kinnelon.

Over a long season everyone must contribute in order to have this level of success. The team has benefited from a talented group of freshmen that includes Max Gottleib, Daniel Vayesberg, and Mac Hugin.

Hopefully Pingry students will continue to support this thriving team during the last month of the season. As Russoniello said, "It's great having fans come to the games. Seeing all the people coming to support our team just adds an incentive to win."



B. Morrison '64

## Varsity Fencing Builds Upon Last Year's Record

By NICOLE BLUM (III)

This year, Pingry fencers have focused the most on improving their technique. During practices, they work on footwork, blade work, and free bouting in preparation for meets. Because of the complexity of the sport, it is especially challenging to improve during the few months of the season. Fencers have focused more on the basics and on improving at fencing and less on winning every meet.

The coaches are English teacher Mr. Ted Li, Mr. Vasyli Stankovych, and Mrs. Tetyana

Stankovych. Mr. Li has worked with fencers on an international level for many years and Mr. Stankovych has two Olympic silver medals. The captains, David Martin (VI), Diamond McClintock (VI), Susan Contess (V), and Jason Reitman (V), have led the team with their individual wins. Improving from last year, the boys' team finished 30th out of 45 teams at the relay tournament that opened the season and the girls finished 40th out of 46 teams. The January 21st meet against Voorhees High School was close, but both teams unfortunately lost at 12-15. The Voorhees

boys' team is ranked third in the state and the girls' team is tenth in the state. Kevin Jian (V), Stephen Rienzi (III), and Arvin Alaigh (V) posted a 5-4 record for the boys' épée squad, while Susan Contess (V), Diamond McClintock (VI), and Ashley Feng (V) were unbeatable with 9-0 for the girls' saber squad. On foil, Kira Horiuchi (V) went 2-1. "Both the boys' and girls' teams were missing starters that could have affected the outcome," said Contess. Additionally, Susan Contess (V), Ashley Feng (V), and Jason Reitman (V) have qualified for the United States Fencing Association Junior Olympics. This February, the three Pingry fencers will be competing in Memphis, Tennessee.

Neither the boys' nor the girls' teams have produced the records they hoped to; the boys are at 2-10 and the girls are at 4-8. But with many close meets, they have already progressed along the season, including a huge win for the girls at their district tournament.



B. Morrison '64

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