

The Oracle

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Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

May 2016

Teachers see iPads as both useful and distracting

by Kayla Snyder

At the start of the school year, Shaler Area implemented a 1:1 initiative in the high school coined Project ACE that allows each student to have his/her iPad. The administration pitched the idea that the iPads would provide students with an accessible tool to help them become more technologically advanced.

According to the Shaler Area Middle School iPad handbook, where iPads were first distributed, "The integration of iPads as an instructional tool will provide teachers and students access to information, creativity, collaboration, and functionality with one device."

Superintendent Mr. Sean Aiken said that the iPads would help students compete in a global market place.

"The more experience and exposure our students can have now to technology that's available, puts our students in a more competitive place," Aiken said. "Moving forward our students and teachers need to grow with the use of the iPads and technology."

Now that the initial introduction of the iPads has become a thing of the past, both students and teachers have become more accustomed to them, several teachers have found both positives and negatives to the devices.

English department chair Mr. Chris Gaul said that when used properly, the iPad can be an important and useful for the student.

"The biggest thing about the iPad is that it's a

"With any tool, there are certain applications or instances where it's okay, but it's not a one size fits all, magic carpet ride through learning."

**-- Mr. Chris Gaul
ELA Department Chair**

tool and we need to understand that it's a tool," Gaul said. "With any tool, there are certain applications or instances where it's okay, but it's not a one size fits all, magic carpet ride through learning."

However, the device can quickly become a distraction for the student.

"Like any other tool, students have their own system, students should be able to use the tool as they see fit," said history department chair Mr. Matt Hiserodt. "But with that freedom comes a lot of abuse too. The amount of non-school related work I see students doing on these things is pretty ridiculous."

At first, teacher opinions were more optimistic about iPads because the theory and rationale make sense, however, there are many underlying issues which make the iPads difficult in the classroom.

"In an ideal world, where [both faculty and students] were knowledgeable about its use and where it was used for academic purposes, that would work, but we don't live in an ideal world," said science department chair Mr. Dennis Dudley.

The argument that the iPad benefits certain content areas more than others has also been discussed. In Science classes, it may benefit students more to be able to view a simulation via an application whereas in an English class the benefits may be limited.

"When you have a book, you can't flip the page and see what's going on your tap baseball game or who's gone ahead and Instagrammed you. People who sell apps want you to use apps so they make them as engaging as they can."

Unlike Shaler Area, Fox Chapel has decided to give up on its 1:1 initiative at the high school level. Intermediate/program principal Dr. Daniel Lentz said that there was no significant evidence that students learn better when they have a personal device.

"We agreed that it would be nice for our students to have their own device available to them and would definitely prepare students for the real world," Lentz said. "Without evidence that it was going to raise student achievement, we decided against it."

However, coming previously from schools that have 1:1 initiatives in place, Aiken feels the initial shock will eventually wear off and students will begin to use the iPads properly in the future.

"Initially the iPads may be a distraction because there is a novelty of having a device with you at all times," Aiken said. "At first it's a distraction, but you have to work through it to become a functional tool where teachers use is more often and students use it more appropriately."

Fashion Show fiasco

by Kim Yurasits

In Honor of prom, the Art Honor Society here at Shaler has been planning a fashion show to showcase prom dresses to help inspire some of the students. The show is scheduled to take place on May 22, which is less than a week before the Prom takes place.

"NAHS is a great organization. People have enjoyed many things the club has had to offer like tie-dying and painting sessions, as well as our face-painting booths like the one at Homecoming. But, I've always felt as if it was too routine. NAHS hasn't ventured outside of these types of activities and it was time for something new and exciting," Shayla Nguyen, Art Honor Society President, said.

This year for Art Honor Society, the officers tried to shake it up a bit, but it did not work out as expected.

Officer Leah LeBrew was approached in January by David's Bridal about a donation of prom dresses for a fashion show. They had worked with her in the past to try and organize a different club's fashion show and wanted to know if she would like a donation for another one.

"Leah presented the fashion show idea to all the other officers and sponsors and we were all extremely excited about putting this together," Nguyen said.

As it turns out, planning full events for an honor society is extremely difficult. David's Bridal, while very helpful, could only provide a certain amount of dresses. Also, as the group did not have a set date for the event, other stores were apprehensive about giving dresses for the event.

After the group finally had a tentative date, set in late April, a request for a permit for Gym A was put in. However, a dance recital was already taking place on that day so the permit was denied.

The group tried again for May 14. Everything seemed to be well and good but due to a mix up the date was moved to May 22 five days before prom.

There were also many issues getting volunteers for the show. It took four meetings before the amount of volunteers that were needed signed up. Now, there are 50 members who have volunteered which really helped with moving the event forward.

"One major problem was getting the word out to everyone in the club. It was really hard getting everyone together in order to tell them, especially since we have such a huge amount of members," Nguyen said.

At this point, all fingers are crossed that everything else runs smoothly on May 22.

Seniors dominate at Japanese competition

by Alyssa Wohlfarth

Recently, the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh's Asian Study Center hosted the 2016 High School Japanese Speech Contest. Three of Shaler Area's seniors all placed in the most advanced category of the contest, the Advanced Plus level.

To get into this contest, all contestants had to write and perform a five-minute speech about friendship and its role in human relationships all in Japanese.

Seniors like Nick DeBortoli, Zach Hughes, and Nick Harn all competed in this competition and placed in this advanced level.

Nick DeBortoli placed third in the competition. He also received a book to continue his practice with writing Japanese characters.

"Not only did all of my hard work pay off, but I also felt proud of my school district," DeBortoli said about his placement at the contest.

He plans on continuing learning Japanese independently after graduation.

Hughes placed second in the competition and was awarded with the same book to practice his Japanese characters along with a cloth that Japanese people use to wrap everyday items in.

"The students from our school were very well prepared and the other students in the advanced plus category were skilled as well, so it was very stiff competition," Hughes said.

Hughes also plans to study Japanese independently after graduation and hopes to study abroad in Japan during a summer in college.

Harn placed first in the Advanced Plus level. He received an engraved award, an electronic English-to-Japanese dictionary, Japanese flash cards, a mug, and some candy.

"I was overjoyed when I found out that I won. I knew that competition would be stiff this year," Harn said.

Harn plans on continuing studying the Japanese language and culture at the University of Pittsburgh.

"I was really proud of them. To be able to do what they did is impressive, and I feel it is not something many other people could do. It felt good to see their hard work pay off," Mr. Balsomico, a Shaler Area Japanese teacher, said.

OPINIONS

Minimum wage issue more complex than just a number

by Antoni Miladinov

Minimum wage is something that our generation is experiencing the effects of firsthand. Whether you work in a clothing store or a restaurant, the money you make plays a massive role in developing your independent life.

With the Federal requirement that every state must pay at least a \$7.25 minimum wage, there are few cities that are making the jump to a higher minimum wage. For example, Los Angeles plans to increase the minimum wage to \$15 by 2020, from the already \$9 minimum wage.

Seeing minimum wages like this sparks desire for workers around the United States to want \$15 an hour. However, it's not appropriate to guarantee everyone in the America that rate. Why? People need to understand there is a higher cost of living in the largest cities in America.

According to the list of the highest cost of living cities in the US on expatistan.com, New York City comes in 2nd, Los Angeles in 8th, and Seattle in 11th. People need to understand that in cities like these, everything is ridiculously expensive.

You won't understand the difference until you've actually been in these cities. Pittsburgh is ranked 20th and \$7.25 is not a livable wage. Seattle's \$15 an hour is appropriate considering the cost of living is higher.



However, I don't think that the Federal government should require a \$15 minimum wage.

What I really want people to understand is that the minimum wage must but not to \$15 an hour. With inflation rising, money is becoming less and less valuable. To account for this money becoming less valuable, I think that the minimum wage should increase to between \$9 and \$10.

I believe that the minimum wage must also increase for people in the restaurant business since I only make \$3.50 an hour before taxes at my job as a busser. Almost all of my money is made from tips which can vary on a two week basis. An increase in minimum wage in the restaurant business would at

least ensure a larger amount of money per paycheck.

At my job I make on average between \$10 and \$14 an hour. As opposed to the average McDonald's worker who takes orders at the cash register and hands people their food and drinks, I'm constantly running around the restaurant sweeping, cleaning tables, stocking ice and glasses for the servers and bartenders, stocking alcohol for the bar and running people's food to them. I think I deserve to make more money than they do.

Increasing the minimum wage too much could also cause small businesses to cut jobs or even close down because they can't pay their workers. Big businesses would also probably cut jobs because they won't be able to pay workers.

However, with increasing the minimum wage, there is the idea that money will be circulated more through the economy since consumers will have more money in their pockets. This is not guaranteed, but if it were to happen, companies would have an increase in revenue, allowing them to pay their workers and not have to make any lay-offs.

I hope that after reading this you can understand that minimum wage must increase. However, \$15 an hour for everyone is not the answer. If we want to see American life headed in a greater direction, we could all benefit from a minimum wage increase.

FBI v. Apple a scary case

by Kaitlin Parente

On December 2, 2015 the largest terrorist attack in the U.S. since 9/11 occurred. A "home-grown" jihadist extremist married couple were the masterminds of the attack after being inspired by foreign terrorists. The attack killed 14 people and 22 were severely injured by mass shootings and an attempted bombing at the Inland Regional Center located in San Bernardino, CA.

The terrorists escaped, but were then killed in a shootout with the police shortly after the attack. Because of this, important information about the cause of the attack, like whether or not the attack was headed by powerful terrorist groups like ISIS, was lost.

Two iPhones were recovered from the couple's belongings but both were locked with a passcode and unable to be accessed without losing important information, like emails, notes and texts.

The FBI requested that Apple provide information from the two iPhones. Apple complied immediately and has always provided information when a warrant was present for all cases.

In a letter to all Apple customers that said, "We have no sympathy for terrorists. When the FBI has requested data that's in our possession, we have provided it. Apple complies with valid subpoenas and search warrants, as we have in the San Bernardino case. We have also made Apple engineers available to advise the FBI, and we've offered our best ideas on a number of investigative options at their disposal."

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With class size, less is more

by Alyssa Wohlfarth

For a lot of things, more is better, but not when it comes to the amount of students in a classroom. For the sake of learning, classroom sizes should not exceed 15-20 people, especially in high schools.

High school is the time where you are preparing to go to college or start your career and you need all the education you can get. You will not get that with large class sizes. Most administrators and school officials believe that only the younger kids need smaller class sizes because they still need a lot of attention. High schoolers need attention too though, and probably more.

With the possible furloughs looming, there is also the possibility of class sizes increasing. With fewer teachers, there is no choice but to combine classes. We must speak up to make sure that does not happen. Classes cannot increase in sizes. Some of the classes are already high in the twenties and some are even in the thirties. That is not okay.

As a senior, I have been in multiple types of class sizes and I can honestly say that I understand more when I am in smaller class sizes. I have one large class which includes 29 students to one teacher and we are always getting off topic. We talk about things that have nothing to do with that certain subject. Then, I have a class size of 19 people. We still get off topic every once in a while, but certainly not as often.

Cont. on page 3

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The Oracle

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The Oracle reserves the right to condense or omit any letters or articles unfit for publication.

A program for everyone at A. W. Beattie Career Center

by Maddy Eichenlaub

A.W. Beattie Career Center offers 18 different Career Programs that give students a learning opportunity that students can take for 1, 2, or 3 years. Students have a chance to earn real work experience in their chosen field. Beattie gives juniors and seniors a chance to explore their interest in a career for no charge as part of their high school education.

A student can continue at Beattie after graduation from high school if the student wants to complete all three years. The amount of time spent in the Beattie program of the student's choice will increase the student's skills. If a student wants to go to college, then the classes at Beattie can prepare them for the classes they will have to take in college for their chosen career.

"Each of our programs offers students the ability to go directly to employment, or to earn college credits to a number of local and statewide colleges to continue their education. This allows for students to choose their own path in a career of their choice," Beattie Principal Mr. Wesley Kuchta said.

Every program at Beattie gives students the chance to go into a variety of career paths. With the help of either continued study or work experience, a student in the program of advertising design can pursue a career in Graphic Design Artist, Animator, Illustrator, and more. Beattie has created different opportunities for students to be exposed to all their options so students have the ability to choose their career path.

Students have the opportunity to earn money in a job related to their course of study through a program called Cooperative Education. A student's participation in Cooperative Education allows the employer and Beattie to give the student all the necessary training for the student's focus. Cooperative Education is available to seniors in their second or third year of Beattie.

Students attend Beattie for one or two days during the week and work at their job sites for the rest of the week. Students that are interested in Cooperative Education must have at least a C average, good attendance, and be able to provide their own transportation to and from the job site. The employers will base grades

"By providing students the opportunity to hear directly from employers in the field, visit different job sites, shadow industry personal in the field, our goal is expose students to these options so they can find the best fit for their future."

--Beattie Principal Mr. Wesley Kuchta

on the student's job performance, and all students are required to keep logbook, timesheets, and wage records.

Through internships, Beattie gives second year students the chance to gain work experience in their course. For two to three days a week, students go to their internships for a certain amount of time. All the work the students do during the internship is unpaid, but it provides them with valuable experience.

There is opportunity for students in fields such as Health and Nursing Sciences, Emergency Response Technology, or Dental Services to gain clinical experience. This clinical experience is provided by hospitals, long-term care facilities, and private dental practices. The student participates in the clinical experience for as long as state certification regulations require and the facility providing the clinical experience allows.

Job shadowing is required for first year students in order to earn Honors for their Introductory Skills Certificate. To earn Honors, the student must complete at least six hours of job shadowing. Job shadowing allows students to gain experience through work and ask questions to people that are work as what they want to be.

Many of these options lead to employment upon graduation. Beattie offers job placement assistance for the duration of a student's entire time at Beattie. Some graduates also chose to stay in touch with their instructors if the graduates require help after graduation.

According to Kutchta, 150 students are currently taking advantage Beattie while it is free. All of Beattie's programs provide students with experience and skills that will prepare them for immediate employment or higher education.

"Within each of our programs, there are many different career paths, so A.W. Beattie Career Center works hard to expose students to all of those options during their time at A.W. Beattie Career Center. By providing students the opportunity to hear directly from employers in the field, visit different job sites, shadow industry personal in the field, our goal is expose students to these options so they can find the best fit for their future," Kutchta said.

Class sizes are more important than you think

from page 2

With smaller classes, there is a better chance of students understanding what is being taught because all of the students have a voice and are able to speak up and ask questions.

When it comes to AP classes, the smaller the better. You are taking that class for possible college credit and you will be paying to take the test. You don't want to be just another face in the crowd, you want to be known and be able to ask questions. Even if only 30 people sign up for that class, the students should still be split up into two classes of 15 each. It's better to spread the students out and to have two smaller classes than to try and cram all 30 into one class.

The same goes for colleges. When deciding what college to go to look at the student to teacher ratio. Sitting in a lecture hall with 200 other people and the professor does not even know your name does not sound like it is worth the thousands of dollars you are paying to learn.

I do not wake up at an ungodly hour five times a week to go sit in a classroom with 29 other people and not understand what is being taught. I am there for seven hours a day, five times a week. I do not go there for fun, I go there to learn and in classrooms with 29 other people, that does not happen as often as I would like.

It is unfair to the students to be shoved in a room with so many other students. It is also unfair to the teachers who want to educate the students to get stuck with a large class.

It does not matter what grade you are in; you are always better off in a smaller classroom. Whether you are in first grade or in a graduate school, class size matters.

FBI asks Apple to invade privacy

from page 2

However, the breaking point for Apple's helping hand occurred when the FBI asked Apple to make a software program that would be able to hack any Apple product virtually anywhere in the world. That meant that Apple was being asked to put every user at risk of information, fingerprints, pictures and video camera access being searched and obtained without having knowledge of this.

Thankfully, Apple refused to put all of its customers at risk and did not comply with the FBI's request of creating this program. The FBI then sued Apple for not complying.

This case, Apple v FBI, has raised a large amount of controversy internationally and many have spoken out about why the FBI was in the wrong to ask Apple to create this program and then sue the Apple when it did not comply.

The FBI has become power hungry; asking for the power to access all iPhone users' information is overstepping serious privacy boundaries. This is not necessary for the FBI to have. There was really no need for this program to be created other than for the FBI to have the unlimited ability to "snoop" on every iPhone and Apple product out there.

Many do not fully understand the implications of the FBI having this program that can access every iPhone user's information. Just think of all the information you have stored on your phone: credit cards, daily schedule, contacts, pictures...

I'm not saying that the FBI is unable to maintain complete security over this information if it were to have this program, but I'm not ignoring that there isn't a ridiculously high chance for a worldwide iPhone security breach where all personal information is leaked either.

This program, if it were to exist, would become the biggest target for hackers across the world. It would literally be the Holy Grail of information. Apple has sold 821.8 million iPhones. This number does not include other devices that may contain sensitive information like iPads, MacBooks, iPods, and

Watches.

I don't even want to fully entertain the idea of what could possibly happen if this program existed and someone with bad intentions got hold of this program.

Even though the FBI claimed to have full control over the situation, I do not think it realized what exactly the FBI was asking of Apple.

In the lovely terms and conditions that I know everyone reads thoroughly, there is a section dedicated to Apple ensuring that each person's information is out of reach of Apple employees and is protected from hackers to the best of the company's abilities.

There was a large amount of time and money used to create the security features that Apple maintains and is proud of to this date. If Apple was required to create the software program that can hack any Apple device from anywhere, it would completely undo all the security encryption and work that was completed for the current security standards that Apple upholds.

Apple, an innovative company, would be taking multiple steps back by this occurring and would most definitely lose customers due to security standards being faulty and basically non-existent based off of what the program would entail.

I'm not saying that the FBI does not have the right to ask Apple to provide information about the contents on an Apple user's device, especially in cases of terrorism and national security, like in the San Bernardino case.

There should always be quick and effective measures in place to make sure the nation's security is intact and terrorists can be caught and punished for their actions, but putting 821.8 million people at risk of all of having their information being hacked is not right and unethical.

Whether or not the all-accessing program is out there or not, it's terrifying to know that the U.S. Government was pushing for 821.8 million iPhone user's information to be easily accessible without the user's knowledge.

Talent show showcases wide variety of acts

By: Shayla Nguyen

On April 28 and 29, the students of Shaler Area High School hit the stage to showcase their many talents as well as to crown the 2016 Mr. Shaler Area.

The talent show is run by Mr. Scott Krenn, Mr. Tony Sarkis, Mr. Mitch Stivason and Ms. Kristen Susany. Auditions for the show were held in the auditorium after school in early April.

Prior to the first night of the show, there were some difficulties with getting the show put together. Rehearsal times presented a big issue as the show fell on a three day week, thus providing much less time for the acts, emcees and Mr. Shaler Area contestants to rehearse their routine. Everyone had only one day to prepare as opposed to the typical three days.

To make up for lost time, many of the performers, contestants and crew were willing to work even more to ensure their preparation. Many used time outside of the rehearsal day to get ready for the shows. The Mr. Shaler Area contestants even made room for more rehearsals on the afternoons of performance nights.

"Luckily, we had a dedicated and prepared group of Mr. Shaler Area guys and a crew willing to put in long hours to get the show ready," Krenn said.

Over the span of two nights, twenty one acts performed in the school's auditorium. This year, there was a wide variety of acts in the show ranging from singers, musicians and dancers to magicians, comedians and yo-yo artists.

"The kids came this year with bigger, better acts," Susany said. "A lot of kids came out with these crazy, fun ideas."

Also bigger and better this year was the number of contestants vying for Mr. Shaler Area. There were a total of ten hopefuls, the most there has ever been, vying for the crown, which was won by Kenny Trush.

Participants were asked to submit a video and perform a talent portion that were both limited to just one minute and thirty seconds. This new rule will likely remain for future competitions.

"We will probably keep that timeframe going forward regardless of number of participants," Krenn said. "If you cannot be funny or display talent in a minute, adding extra time will not make it better."

Another award presented to a few individuals

The kids came this year with bigger, better acts. A lot of kids came out with these crazy, fun ideas."

--Ms. Kristen Susany

was the Paul Schweiger Award. Recipients were chosen by the directors of the talent show and criteria were based on who evoked the "spirit" of the show. Those awarded this year were seniors Matthew Johnson, Antoni Miladinov and Leann Mullen.

"What is the spirit of our talent show? It's showing their talent, being there to support other talents and really doing the right thing every time. Also, going above and beyond, which is what I think these three kids did," Susany said.

Overall, the students in the show exemplified an increased amount of effort and talent. Despite the difficulties that they faced this year, yet another great talent show was produced.

"Every year, we try to do better and better. The only way to do that is with the talent that we have and the talent gets better every year," Susany said.

Steelers help raise money for Shaler Area PTOs

by Bridget Nickel

The Pittsburgh Steelers stepped off of the football field and onto the basketball court in a Steelers v Shaler Area Faculty basketball game on Friday, April 22 in order to benefit district's parent teacher organizations (PTO).

There were a few familiar faces such as Cam Heyward and Charlie Batch who played for the Steelers team.

Proceeds are split evenly among the district's eight PTOs, and this al-

lows the groups to help teachers and students directly by funding teacher projects, assemblies and field trips. A portion of the proceeds from the PTO are going to be donated to the Shaler Area Backpack Initiative along with food donations that were collected at the event as well.

Not only was there a basketball game, but prior to the game there were silent auctions along with food sales. Also there was an autograph session with the players which allowed the

fans to get engaged with the players while getting an autograph.

"The Steeler players were tremendous to the fans. They had a good time, and were very positive and patient with the children. All of the players were entertaining and very good sports. All of the Steeler players represented their team and organization very well," Martynuska said.

Overall, the game was quite a success and brought the community together to support the PTO and the

Backpack Initiative.

"The atmosphere was exciting for the fans and players, and was a lot of good clean fun. I would estimate that about 700-800 people were in attendance for the event," Martynuska said. "The success of the game was due to the outstanding work of our district wide parent groups in promoting and preparing fundraising opportunities for the event. Many district staff also participated and/or attended, which made the event even more special."

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Lynch realizes goal of professional hockey

by Justin Jockel

Many people have dreams of playing professional hockey, but that dream has become a reality for Shaler Area graduate Zac Lynch. Lynch has put up record-breaking numbers throughout his hockey career and he has now turned his attention to starting his career in the National Hockey League.

On March 23, Lynch signed with the Portland Pirates of the American Hockey League, a Florida Panthers affiliate. Lynch hopes to follow in the footsteps of other local players who made it to the NHL including RJ Umberger (Philadelphia), Brandon Saad (Columbus), Stephen Johns (Dallas), John Gibson (Anaheim), and Vince Trocheck (Florida).

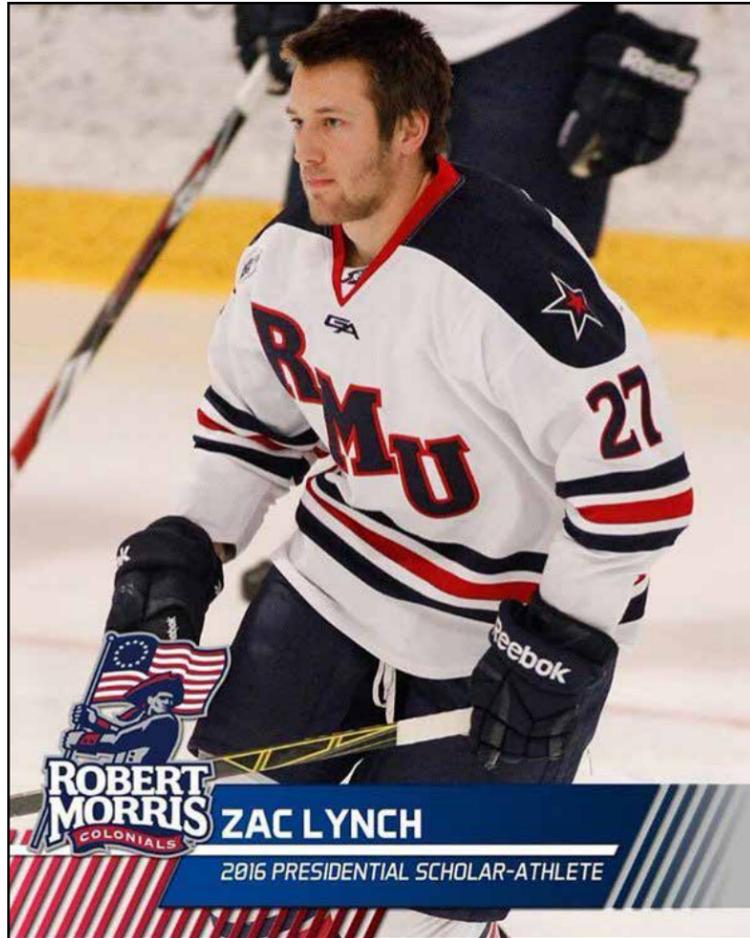
"When I was growing up, there wasn't much talk of the NHL, or any pro hockey, for Pittsburgh guys. But throughout the years, I started seeing guys make it, guys from my age group. To potentially have a chance to join them some day would make this even extra special," Lynch said in a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article.

Lynch stated the transition was so fast from college hockey to playing in the AHL was so fast it was easy to get lost in it all.

"One day my career with RMU was over and a few days later I was on my way to Portland to play professional hockey. I had a couple options but Portland seemed to be the best fit for me. They are a team fighting for a playoff spot and I've heard nothing but good things about the entire organization. This year I'm just trying to gain as much experience as possible to set me up for a good rookie season next year," Lynch said.

Lynch started playing hockey when he was 4 years old. He played for the North Hills Vipers until he was 10. After playing for the Vipers, Lynch moved up to play AAA hockey and played for the Pittsburgh Hornets until he was 18, while also playing for Shaler Area Varsity at the same time.

"Playing hockey for Shaler was very special for me," Lynch said. "It's much like playing at a university because you have a whole school and community behind you. It's different than playing juniors or AAA in that way because there is just so much more pride and passion when you're playing for your



school. It was a lot of fun being able to play on a team of friends that I went to school with growing up," Lynch said.

Following graduating in 2012 from Shaler, Lynch played in the Eastern Junior Hockey League for the Bay State Breakers out of Boston for two years. He then committed to Robert Morris University during his first year at Bay State. Lynch stated that his experience as a Colonial has helped him tremendously on the ice.

"By playing hockey at Robert Morris, it has really helped me grow as a player and as a person. As a player I have been able to develop as more of an all around player. I came in as a strong offensive player but I improved my defensive play much more since I've been here. I have also been able to receive a great education and learn many important life lessons as a student at Robert Morris University," Lynch said.

Ever since entering Robert Morris University,

Lynch has certainly left his mark. Lynch played his first game on October 13, 2012 for the Colonials at Quinnipiac. He scored his first goal on February 1 against Sacred Heart. He was named to the AHA All-Academic Team as well as named AHA Student-Athlete of the Year. During his sophomore year, he ranked ninth in Division 1 in points and 16th in assists. He fired 159 shots on goal, the most in the history of the Colonials program. Lynch failed to put up a point in only 10 of RMU's 42 games that year.

His success didn't slow down his junior year as Lynch ranked second in goals, assists, and points, with only teammate Cody Wydo topping him. This year Lynch is tied for second in the NCAA in scoring and has scored 5 shorthanded goals this season. There have been only 2 games where Lynch didn't put up a point. Zac is among the top ten in five categories including points, goals, assists, power play goals, and shorthanded goals.

Lynch's accomplishments on the ice have not gone unnoticed. He was one of the final 10 players being considered for the Hobey Baker Award, an annual award given to the top National Collegiate Athletic Association men's ice hockey player.

"It's pretty humbling to be named a finalist for such a prestigious award. Last year I saw my line mate, Cody Wydo, receive the same honor so to be able to follow that up this year has meant a lot to me," Lynch said.

The amount of exposure received through this award is impressive. The recipients of the last two years were Jack Eichel of the Buffalo Sabres and Johnny Gaudreau of the Calgary Flames.

"It's really good for this program as well as being able to have guys honored in consecutive years," Lynch said.

The game of hockey has left a mark on Lynch, starting from his days of playing amateur all the way up until now.

"I can't even imagine where I would be without hockey in my life. It has made me a better person, taught me many life lessons, and I have established lifelong friendships that I will cherish forever," Lynch said.



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