

The Oracle

Volume 40 Issue 1

Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

October 2011

New school year with new superintendent

by Audrey Schreiber

Shaler Area proudly welcomes Dr. Wes Shipley as the newest superintendent at Shaler Area School District. Serving as the assistant superintendent at Shaler for about 2 years, Shipley was eager to fill the spot that Dr. Lee left when he retired last year.

"The district is great," He explains, "The kids are great, the community has been super supportive, and the faculty is really helpful, so I knew I didn't want to leave."

For his first year here at Shaler Area as superintendent, Shipley hasn't planned a lot of drastic changes. As of now, the school is working on rewriting the curriculum to better fit the newest laws in Pennsylvania education. Also, he plans to change the assistant superintendent position to two different positions, to allow for more emphasis on certain aspects of the job, like rewriting the curriculum.

Other small changes are important as well; some may have noticed the puzzle piece buttons or pins that the faculty wears, which Shipley explains: "Every student has a puzzle that makes up their day; we need to be a part of that puzzle and make sure that the right pieces are in the right place."

The district also aims to be more technologically



New superintendent, Dr. Wes Shipley (Chris Grossman)

advanced in the coming years. The school district now has a Twitter, which is just one way to easily connect to the community. Twitter will be used to update the public on sport's games, school activities, fundraisers, snow delays and cancellations. Shipley also expressed interest in getting the district onto Fa-

cebook and updating the school website, which he says is very informative, but not all that attractive.

Shipley already has had to make a big change this year, particularly for the seniors. The graduation date is subject to change because Dr. Shipley's daughter is graduating from Pine Richland on the same day that the Shaler seniors are supposed to graduate. Shaler seniors were given the option of graduating on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

If this change makes one wonder where Shipley's allegiances lie, not to worry, Shipley explains: "I am definitely a Shaler sports fan, and so is my youngest daughter."

As an educator for 22 years, Shipley didn't always plan on being a superintendent: "I didn't always have aspirations to be a superintendent. I was a very, very happy fifth grade teacher. I taught math and science at Deer Lakes. But eventually I felt ready to be more of a leader."

The idea to become superintendent grew on him, and influenced by his mentor, Dr. Joe Malak, Shipley went back to school to earn his doctorate in education from Duquesne University.

The newest superintendent has a strong plan for the coming years: "My one goal for everything is excellence," Shipley says, "We are going to strive to be excellent."

Shaler Athletic Hall of Fame inducts four new members

by Ross Budziszewski

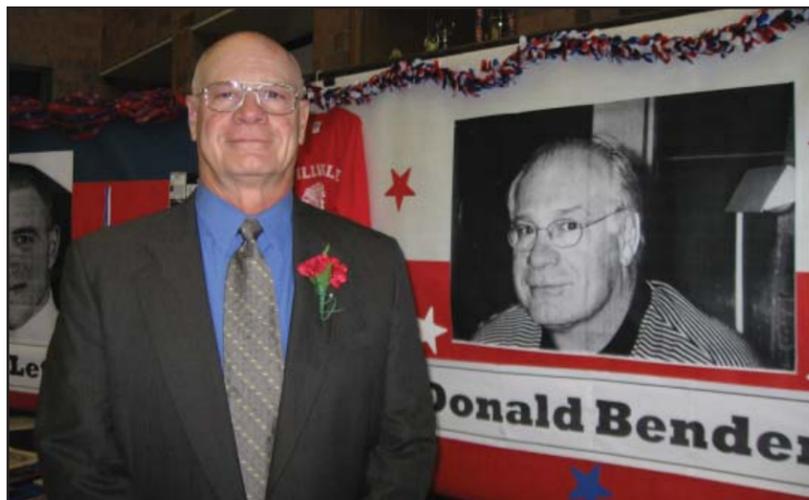
Shaler is very gifted with the amount of successful athlete's that have come through the district. On September 23, before the Shaler and North Hills football game, four individuals and a team were inducted into the Shaler Athletic Hall of Fame. The selection committee takes a secret vote and assesses each nominee based on if he/she was recognized or were dominate at a local, state, or national level. Also coaches can be inducted if they served as a coach for at least five years and led their team to success in several seasons.

The members of this year's class include Donald Bender, Karen Kruzar (Hosek), Taylor Letters, Frank Merigliano, and the 2006 girls' softball team.

Donald Bender spent 34 years with the school district as a teacher, assistant football coach and assistant/head track coach. He originally got hired in 1968 to Millvale High School and stayed in the district ever since.

Karen Kruzar (Hosek) excelled at basketball and volleyball during her career at Shaler. She received the honor of being named the WPIAL's best basketball player of 1981.

Taylor Letters is the brother of Troy Letters, who was inducted into the hall of fame in 2006. Letters had a successful wrestling career by winning three Section titles, a WPIAL title, and 4th place in states. He finished his high school career with a record of



One of the newest Athletic Hall of Fame members, Donald Bender (Amy Bodenos)

151-19.

Frank Merigliano was a pitcher for the varsity baseball team. He led the team to three section championships and a trip to the WPIAL championship game. Merigliano ended up being drafted by the Chicago White Sox where he played professionally for seven years.

The 2006 girls' softball team was not supposed to be successful in 2006. After losing seven senior starters and getting a new coaching staff, the chances of reaching the WPIAL championship looked bleak. Manager Skip Palmer took over and the girls finished 20-7 making them second in their section and were WPIAL runner-ups. Even though they finished second in the section and WPIAL, the Lady Titans still went to the state playoffs where they rallied together and won the state title. These athletes are now honored forever by being inducted into the Shaler hall of fame for the success they had.

Grant creates new gym class

by Victoria Mikita

Physical education instructors here at Shaler Area High School are taking a new approach to gym class activities this year by introducing mountain biking to the curriculum. By senior year, the the regular activities become repetitive. By adding mountain biking, teachers hope to get students excited about gym class again.

Shaler Area is one of three schools in the area that have mountain biking in the curriculum.

As of now there are three classes of seniors participating, starting to use the bikes this nine week period. Availability for the class will be open as the year progresses, however seniors will be the first ones to try it.

A few trails around campus are going to be used to start, mainly around the turf, Anderson field and the Cross Country trail. There are not as many trails as the instructors would like, but it's a start. The students will have 28 bikes and helmets available, and 50 tires to change out. It will be a three week unit, starting with an intro to mountain biking safety.

Mr. Adam Rosenwald can be credited for this idea. Last year he applied for a grant for \$8,000 worth of bikes and tires.

Although the class is designed for physical activity, there are also opportunities for students to help and possibly meet senior project requirements by helping design trails or thinking of ways to help the class progress.

"Feedback from the first group of students will decide how to make the class better, they will be the ones who make it a quality program", Rosenwald said.

OPINIONS

Dance policy too restrictive, needs reworked

by Anna Porter

Three years ago the high school's "Dance Policy" stated that juniors and seniors could bring any student from another school who was under the age of twenty-one.

However, the administration decided to ammend that policy a couple of years ago. The policy which can be seen in the student agendas reads: "Guests may only be one (1) year out of high school and must be under 21 years of age."

Now that Homecoming has come and gone with this regulation still in place and unchanged, Shaler students can dread Prom and the always enjoyable search for a date.

The under-twenty one rule has been implemented fearing that someone over the age of 21 would be able to purchase and then bring alcohol into a dance.

Here's some breaking news. There are plenty of under 21s who have found ways to gain access to alcohol and plenty who have found ways to get it into dances as well as other school functions. A high school senior is just as likely to bring in alcohol as is someone who already graduated. Putting an age restraint on that fear is futile.

The way the school's current policy is worded makes as much sense as thinking the student section is sober at Titan games. One year out of high school typically means a person is eighteen or nineteen years

old. If someone is one year out of high school and teetering over the age of twenty-one then that most likely means he/she failed a year, or two.

The huge deal that the school has created is over the two year age difference between Seniors and guests out of high school. Two years, right? Last time I checked there was no policy stating that a Senior was not allowed to bring a Sophomore to Prom. If my math is correct, that is also a two year difference, but no one seems to be causing an uproar over that matter.

Even Shaler graduates who are more than one year out of high school are not permitted to attend. The school treats them as criminals- acting as if their graduates are complete strangers, denying their association to once beloved grads.

What has also resulted from the changed dance policy is that seniors, not having any luck finding a date, or not being able to bring their significant other with them, are forced to turn to the underclassmen. What then happens is very simple, Shaler's "Senior Prom" turns into a "Freshman through Senior Prom."

I went to prom last year and could say that one half of the students who attended were not seniors, but for the most part juniors and even sophomores. Personally, for my senior year, I want a Senior Prom, not another day where my space is invaded by underclassmen who don't know where they are going.

The current dance policy is not student-body

supported and certainly just gives students another reason to complain about the school.

Instead of the current dance policy, I want to see a change. Seniors should be allowed to bring whom-ever they want, under twenty-one, to Prom.

Administrators and activities director Mrs. Mindy Thiel, are not as open to that idea because, according to Thiel, "(Guests) won't respect the rules we have in place to keep our students safe because they've experienced the freedom of college life and feel restricted."

The solution to that problem is simple. The school should take action against violators of rules and their dates. If someone is causing a problem or shows up with alcohol, simply have those people removed.

If out-of-high-school dates are so much older and used to freedom then they should be used to being fully responsible for their actions. If guests were to act up then action should be taken to boot them, and their date, out of the Sheraton.

Those who actually want to be there will acquiesce to this and want to abide by the school's rules so that they can spend the night with their date. It might also give seniors a reason not to invite, a guest who they know would screw up their Prom night.

Instead of having students not attend their Senior Prom because of strict date regulations, change the dance policy and enforce rules at the dance so that everyone can have their "night to remember."

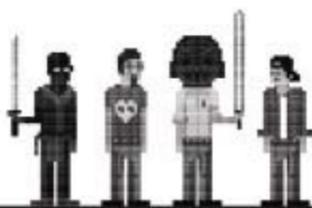
10 Things I Hate About You Hallway Edition

- I hate how dirty the hallway is
- That's cool, spit on the ground right there
- I hate the hallway scream conversations
- Though these people don't seem to care
- I hate the hallway language
- Score 1 for profanity
- I hate signing a passport
- It's just unnecessary
- I hate the way it sometimes smells
- Bathroom smoke is just great
- I hate over enthusiastic couples
- Gag, please just separate
- I hate the lack of windows
- Or anything remotely fun
- I hate how narrow some hallways are
- Don't bother trying to run
- I hate the stupid four way intersections
- It's all just stop and go
- But most of all,
- I hate the way traffic moves
- Seriously Shaler, could we walk any more slow?

-- by Audrey Schreiber



www.g33ktest.com



The Oracle

Senior Editor Anna Porter
 Staff: Sarah Breen, Ross Budziszewski, Victoria Mikita, Julie Rankin, Casey Rastetter, Katie Rees, Audrey Schreiber, Ali Tappe
 Faculty Advisor: Mr. Eric Schott

The Oracle is the official student newspaper of Shaler Area High School. Although it is published by the journalism classes, one does not have to be enrolled in a class to contribute. Opinions expressed in The Oracle are those of the individual writers, not necessarily of The Oracle staff. Letters to the Editor are encouraged and welcome. Any letter intended for publication must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Articles and letters may be mailed to the high school (ATTN: The Oracle) or emailed to oracle@sasd.k12.pa.us. The Oracle reserves the right to condense or omit any letters or articles unfit for publication.

A look back: Senior projects ten years ago

From Nov. 2001 issue of The Oracle
 “Seniors complete Graduation Projects”

by Megan Hughes, Amanda Artzberger, and Angie Barry

The Oracle staff interviewed several students and teachers about the first graduation project presentations. They were completed on October 15, 2001. Those interviewed described the projects, talked about strengths and weaknesses, and provided tips.

Graduation project subjects are chosen by the student. Subjects can range from designing a dorm room, like Ashley Seidlson did, to being a Child Life volunteer at Children’s Hospital, like Stephanie Seelnacht did. Bryan Gust served as a summer recreation sports coach, and Mary Shearer put together a carnival for multiple sclerosis. Scott Krenn trained a foster dog from the humane society for the disabled.

The seniors who have completed their projects learned a variety of useful things that they can use later in life. Gust told us that he learned how to deal with younger children, and he also learned the benefits of physical education. Shearer learned all about multiple sclerosis. She learned about the Multiple Sclerosis Society and how to bring that community together. Seidlson learned about the difficulties of moving into a college dorm room with little money and having to decorate it.

Krenn said, “I not only learned that I love dogs, but I have some skill in training them. Patience and time management was the daily homework.”

As everybody knows, projects are not always easy. Here is what seniors had to say about the hardest parts of

their projects.

Krenn said, “Giving the dog away was the most difficult part for me. I had her for four months and really grew close to her.”

The overall view of the graduation projects from the teachers on the review committee was that they were excellent. Most of the teachers were impressed by the wide variety of topics that were presented.

Ms. Susan Fisher, Graduation Project Coordinator, said, “Students worked very hard to prepare their presentations to be successful or exemplary.”

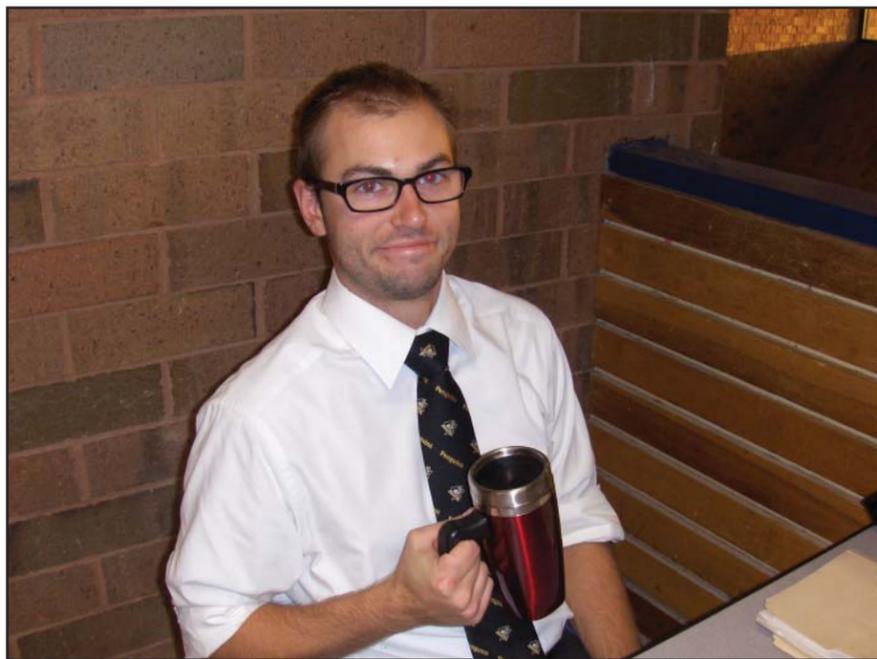
Ms. Aileen Drosendahl said, “Students learned not only about their project, but how to present the information. They learned to organize and to be prepared in case of equipment failure. Several students learned a great deal about working with people and about being the initiator on a project.”

Many of the teachers said that they didn’t see any major weaknesses when viewing the presentations, just areas that could be improved.

Drosendahl said, “The only problem or weakness I saw was with the community service aspect of projects. A few seemed to have very little or none, while others had a great deal of community help. A few students had not allowed the necessary time to have things work as they had planned.”

The teachers also said that some of the students didn’t get involved or excited about what they did. They also added that a few of the students were not as well “rehearsed” as they should have been.

Krenn looks back on impressive project and how senior projects have changed



Mr. Krenn, former Shaler student, now teacher (Sarah Breen)

by Julie Rankin

Former Shaler student turned teacher Scott Krenn reflects on his own senior project and offers advice to seniors going through the process this year.

Q: Were you really passionate about your senior project?

A: My family has always been a family that had animals in the house. It started with a cat or two, and then we got a dog or two and when we could we started fostering animals from the humane society, which is like temporarily keeping them until someone will actually adopt them, so that they don’t get put down.

Q: How do you think your project impacted the community as a whole?

A: Well the cool thing was that because I was fostering Sophie (a black lab chow mix) the humane society let me take her to dog-training classes for free. So I took her through every level of training courses I could and got her certified to be a therapy dog. She was able to actually impact the community not just by being there for another family, but she was able to go into hospitals and be there for people that were sick or had to spend long time periods in a nursing home or an adult daycare.

Q: How did your project impact you as a person?

A: It made me realize I think for the first time the value and how good it feels to do something that is nice for other people, because it makes you feel good and because it’s the right thing to do.

Q: Have you seen any senior projects since you’ve been teaching that stood out to you?

A: There were a couple. I saw one a couple years back where a girl used to volunteer, I’m not sure if she owned a horse, or whatever, but it was at a horse stable. I can’t remember exactly what it was for but I think that it was for people that had problems walking and they would ride horses. The ability to be able to sit up on the horse while it was moving and walking would strengthen their hip muscles and leg muscles enough that they would be able to start using a walker as opposed to a wheel chair. It was almost like this fun physical therapy and it was this proven data that people were able to start walking after doing this for a certain amount of time.

Q: What are your feelings on the new senior project curriculum?

A: Well I understand that a change needed to be made for accountability purposes, but I am going to regret seeing a loss in community service hours. For example, if you take on average 400 kids, and say only half of that graduating class does their senior project, that’s 200. They’re supposed to do 20 hours. Let’s say that those 200 only did 10 hours each. That’s still 2,000 hours of community service that probably wouldn’t have otherwise existed without that project. And that’s an underestimation of what actually happened.

Q: What advice would you give to seniors this year who are either starting or finishing up their projects?

A: Don’t look at it as a burden. Look at it as an opportunity.

PA’s Largest Family Owned Formalwear Store






Homecoming Winter Formals Proms!

Voted “Best Bridal and Formalwear Store” by readers of the Tribune Review!

5-10 times the selection of most stores!

18 Years of Award Winning Service

MB BRIDE
 & SPECIAL OCCASION

123 South Urania Ave. Greensburg, PA 15601 724.836.6626

Download dress brochures and view our collection at
mbbride.com

Advertise in The Oracle

Several Ad sizes to choose from

For rates, contact us
oracle@sasd.k12.pa.us

Sophomore takes 5th-place in Creative Writing Contest addressing sensitive topic

by Casey Rastetter

Being published or recognized is an honor for any young, inspiring writer. For one fourteen year old "Shalerian," this became a reality. Allie Mellinger, a sophomore at the High School, placed fifth in the Ralph Moon Creative Writing Contest. Her poem was more controversial than most, as well.

Among the two hundred Allegheny County teenagers that took part in the contest, Mellinger was one of the few to be honored. Being that the contest was for students in grades 9-12, she was also one of the youngest. Her entry, entitled, "Without a Face", had a very serious and taboo message.

When asked about the meaning behind her poem Mellinger said, "It's about gay suicide, as awkward as that is. My poem has a gay boy and a gay girl and it has a mythidious standing; they're recalling what happened and at the end it has a bunch of people mourning in a graveyard."

Many may be asking themselves: Why did Allie choose to submit a poem on gay suicide? Mellinger said, "I had a few [poems] that I wanted to submit but I didn't want to overload them with crap from a fourteen year old at the time. I had one that was about war veterans. I had three that I had I wanted to submit, but I narrowed it down to the gay suicide because I felt it was the most impactful."

"Without a Face" is without a doubt impactful, especially for those who inspired Mellinger to write it. "A few of my friends have suicidal problems and a few of them are gay, lesbians, bisexuals, all of that. And I felt like I needed not to exactly reach out to them, but express it." Her friends, as she described, seemed evidentially moved by her coverage of the topic.

For some, Mellinger's poem could too be

tagged as controversial in a few aspects. The young writer said, "I love stirring things up. I think that's the whole point about being a writer. The whole point of putting your stuff out there is to shake it. You want to shake things up; you want to get people thinking. That's the whole reason I love writing."

Mellinger is not afraid to "get her stuff out there". That is one of the reasons why she was not hesitant to submit her poem to The Ralph Moon Creative Writing Contest.

Mellinger said, "It's [the poem's] not going to do anything collecting dust on my harddrive. So I wanted people to read it... I figured I'll send it in, they'll read it, and they'll toss it aside. I'm a teenager; I was one of the youngest people to get published. I didn't think I was going to get it, and then I found out I got fifth and I was like 'Woah!'"

The bold and composed fifteen year old learned from her experience that age doesn't matter and that if you do something that is worthwhile, you will more than likely get recognized for it. Although Mellinger has a very strong calling for writing, she would like to pursue a career in history at Slippery Rock University after her remaining years at the Shaler High School.

She said, "I will take workshops if the opportunity comes up. The writing is more of a background thing 'cause I'm not going to say that I'm going to make a million dollars being a best seller because that's not something you can predict."

Mellinger would like any other young writers, or dreamers out there to be left with: "If you're thinking about publishing something or putting any of your work out there, do it! Even if you don't get it submitted, just the fact that people looked at it and they had a chance, it's amazing."

"Without A Face"

by Allie Mellinger

See the boy who's sitting there
Who doesn't say a word?
Don't let his silence fool you--
All he wants is to be heard.

His family is ashamed of him
He has no place to go.
He never thought his loved ones
Would turn out to be his foe.

All it took was a single sentence
"Mom, Dad...I'm gay."
It took less than a minute
For them to turn on him and say:

"You are no son of mine, boy!"
You were not raised this way!"
And he was forced onto the streets
Before the crack of day.

So now he sits in school
And he feels so out of place
Standing on the sidelines
Just a kid without a face

See that girl who's standing there
Looking lost and all alone?
She looks completely morbid
Just a bag of skin and bones.

She's lost interest in living

There are scars along her arms
She's losing herself too quickly
To the demons of self-harm

Her friends no longer talk to her
Her parents just don't care
So now she's wearing down
And is more than worse for wear

She used to be so pretty
With a head full of shining curls
Now she's been reduced to nothing
All because she just likes girls.

So now she stands alone
Fallen out of God's good grace
There she stands without hope
Just a kid without a face

See that group of people there
In the cemetery mourning?
All of them are crying over
The kids they had been scorning.

Two caskets are lowered in the ground
With two gravestones set in place:
"Both of them were known as
Just a kid without a face."

Grow your talents and discover new ones. Expand your mind and explore the world. You'll be amazed at the big thinking – and big opportunities – that unfold everyday at Chatham. Take classes in another country. Learn what it means to live green. Develop an entrepreneurial spirit. And get involved in the world on a more meaningful level. Small class sizes and dedicated professors let you soar and explore in unbelievable ways.

CHATHAM ADVANTAGES

- Experience a distinctive education built upon women's leadership, environmental awareness, and global understanding
- Study on our historic 39-acre Shadyside Campus, minutes from downtown, and at our 388-acre Eden Hall Campus north of Pittsburgh
- SAT/ACT optional admissions policy available for first-year students
- Nearly 95% of Chatham undergraduate students receive some form of merit or need-based scholarship
- All first-year students and most transfers are provided with a new 13-inch MacBook Pro laptop computer for use in the classroom and throughout our wireless campus
- Most students have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree from Chatham in as few as five years from many of our graduate programs
- Study abroad almost anywhere in the world during Maymester term, a full term, or a full year

chatham UNIVERSITY

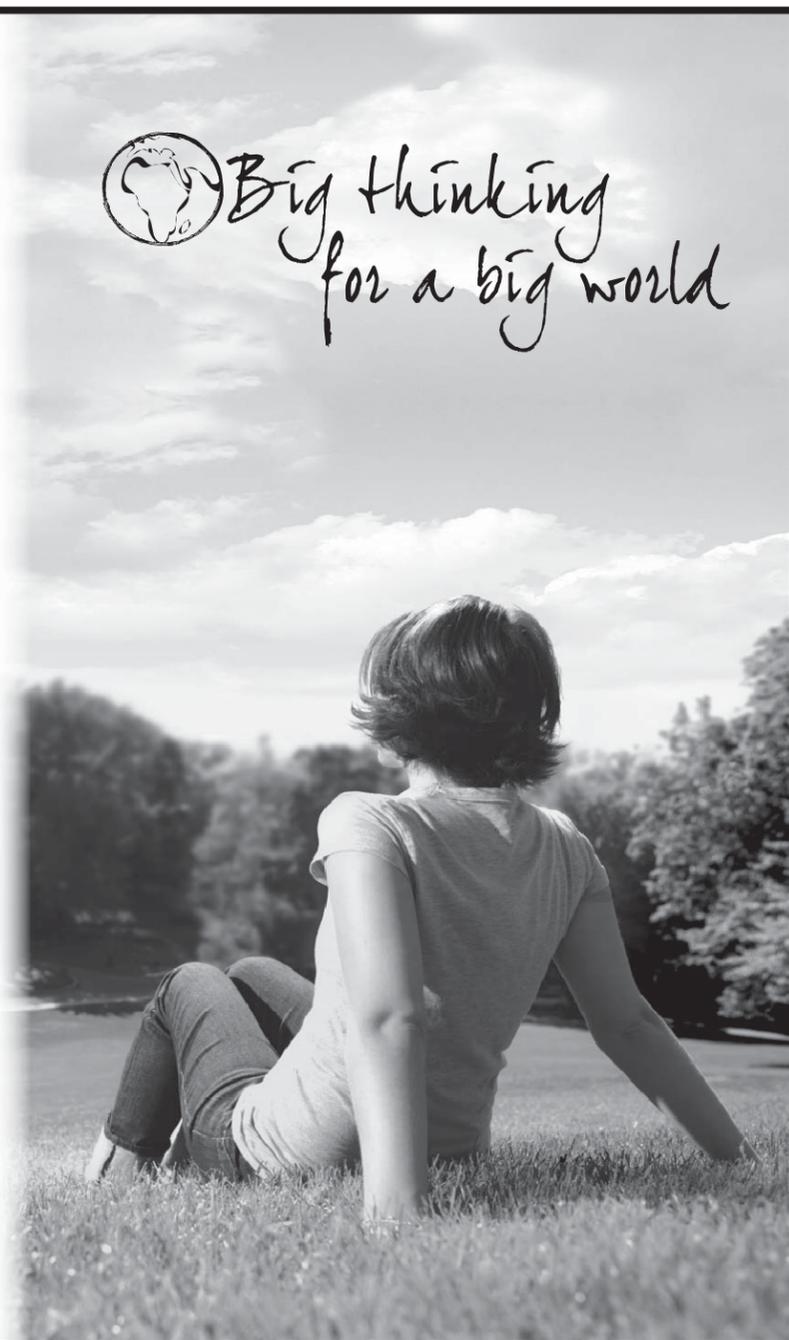
CHATHAM COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Woodland Road . . . Pittsburgh, PA 15232

800-837-1290 . . . admission@chatham.edu

chatham.edu

 Big thinking
for a big world



Homecoming 2011: An Epic Adventure



Clockwise: Although they did not “go the distance” the Senior’s Hercules float still turned out to be a fan favorite, placing second. Friday night at float building the Seniors had a huge turnout to help finish the float.

The football team leaves the field after the 41-28 victory vs Erie McDowell.

No amount of heat could have stopped Mr. Khorey, with his very fashionable sunglasses, and the teacher band “Act 80” from performing after the parade. The band, composed of all Shaler teachers, put on a great show.

To finish off the parade was, of course, the Fightin’ Titan Marching Band. The band, which includes dance team, silk line, and majorettes, won first place in the float competition for their “Pirates” theme.

The sun was not the only thing shining on Saturday; Homecoming Queen Rachel Ochsenhirt, who represented the band, was all smiles after being crowned. Homecoming Queen is based off of which float wins first place.



Assessing Needs. Increasing Scores.

Huntington®

SAT prep

1-TO-1 PRIVATE TUTORING FOR SAT/PSAT/ACT PREP



The Huntington Advantage:

- ▶ 1-1 instruction
- ▶ Critical reading, writing, math
- ▶ Test-taking strategies
- ▶ Flexible scheduling
- ▶ Experienced teachers
- ▶ Proven success since 1977

SAT and ACT prep for students seeking dramatic score improvements.

MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE **\$50** OFF AN ACADEMIC EVALUATION



Huntington LEARNING CENTER®

4721 McKnight Rd
North Hills, PA 15237
412-367-7787



Accredited by Middle States.

Independently owned and operated. ©2011 Huntington Mark, LLC. SAT and PSAT are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board. ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc. The College Entrance Examination Board and ACT, Inc. were not involved in the production of, and do not endorse, this program.

SPORTS

Titans making push for section title

by Ali Tappe

After a rough start to the season, the Shaler football team now holds a record of 5-1.

The season kicked off against Upper Saint Clair, where the Titans struggled to score, being shut out by a score of 49-0.

"I think that we've grown since the start of the season. Our players have all stepped up after such a devastating loss," assistant coach Mr. James Ryan said.

After the Upper Saint Clair game, the Titans came back determined to win. The team played Hempfield at home and showed up as a totally new team, winning 34-13. The following week the team traveled to Bethel Park and also won by a score of 21-13.

Returning home, the Titans played North Hills, and scored a touchdown very early in the game. Shortly after though, North Hills scored as well. It seemed as though this could be the tempo for the entire game; however, due to the team's strong defense and offense they pulled out a win of 26-14.

Currently with a record of 5-1, making the playoffs seems achievable and the team has a chance to win the section.

"I feel that after the game against North Hills... We can make it to playoffs. The team can make it there because the team's work ethic is so great," Ryan said.

For their fifth game, the team traveled to Butler.



Sean Gavin breaks up a pass in the homecoming win vs. Erie McDowell. (Tribune-Review)

The game started off slowly, but Shaler proved to be the dominate team. The Titans took a big lead and held down the Tornado until the final quarter, when Butler scored its only touchdown of the game. Shaler won the game by a score of 34-6.

On homecoming, the team played Erie McDowell. Throughout the first half, it was a back and forth game. Shaler led 28-21 at halftime. Early in the third quarter, tailback Niko Thorpe scored, putting the Titans ahead 35-21. Then late in the fourth quarter JP Holtz had a 32-yard interception return for a touchdown to put the game out of reach. The Titans beat the Trojans by a score of 41-28.

So far key offensive players for the team's season this far have been Ryan Mincher, JP Holtz, Sean Gavin and Alex Conway.

Mincher has had a great season so far, throwing for a total of 797 yards and completing 10 touchdown passes. Holtz, who committed to Penn State this summer, has done well scoring 10 of the team's touchdowns. Conway leads the team in receptions with 20 while Gavin leads the team with 260 receiving yards. The team has also benefitted from the running of Thorpe who leads the team with 347 yards rushing.

The Titans are now tied for first place with defending WPIAL and PIAA champion

North Allegheny.

Tonight the Titans will travel to Seneca Valley to take on the Raiders.

"Seneca Valley is a senior oriented team and has a lot of experience. A lot of their players have started last year," senior Nick Piett said.

Next week the team will be playing their rivals, North Allegheny, at home, and with how the season has gone this far, the team should be able to put up a good fight.

"To beat NA, we need to physically step up to the plate. We have some plans in mind for the game. It's going to be a challenge, but I feel we'll be able to succeed," Ryan said.

Lady Titan golfers swinging for success

by Ashley Domachowski

It has been a difficult year for the Lady Titan golfers but that has nothing to do with their talent. With some of the better golfers in the section, the only thing the girls' team is lacking is numbers.

What does it take to be a Lady Titan Golfer?

"All you need is an interest and equipment," coach Mr. Tom Anke said. "The goal is to get more people. I need to be able to get some girls coming up next year."

The Lady Titan golfers added three new players this year, all of whom never played before this season. They are a young team but they did well.

Six is the magic number for the Lady Titans. Six is the minimum number of players a team can have and six is all the girls have this season. It is also the sixth year in a row a golfer has made it into the WPIAL championship.

Mallory Stack, a junior, competed in the WPIAL championship October 4th. Stack did not qualify for states but Anke has hopes for making it next year.

"[Mallory] shot her best, but did not qualify," Anke said. "We are looking forward to next year and making the state level of competition."

Sydney Smyers, who started golfing her sophomore year, has been around for as long as the Lady Titans have had a golf team: only three short years. She has been able to see the program take off.

"The program has really developed in the past three years," Smyers said. "Hopefully we can keep the interest in the sport up and continue to build the program."

"The program has really developed in the past three years. Hopefully we can...continue to build the program."

-- Sydney Smyers

Playoffs still a possibility

by Anna Porter

into practice the next day ready to put forth

The Shaler Area Girls' Volleyball team has taken more than a few hard hits this season, with a current record of 5-5 and only a few more games remaining in the season.

This year, the team has faced two large problems. First and foremost was their lack of height, which proved to be a huge obstacle in being victorious on the court.

"For being such a small (short) team working hard defensively is key. Pushing through and competing is what we needed to win," senior co-captain Amanda McClintock said.

The second problem the Lady Titans faced was filing the spots of many skilled players that graduated last year. The shoes were very big ones to fill, however Assistant coach, Mr. Paul Stadelman, believes the girls still have the potential to play to the best of their abilities.

"We lost a lot of talented seniors from last year, but that doesn't mean this year can't be as successful," he said. "It just means this year they have to work that much harder."

Midway through the season the team faced another dilemma with the loss of two key players, senior Gabby Panza, and Division 1 hopeful Nicole Inquartano. The girls were dismissed from the team.

Through the ups and downs, the girls have remained determined.

"We bounce back after a loss by coming



Senior Amanda McClintock prepares to hit the ball, as sisters Lizzie Kline, freshman, and Tori Kline, senior, jump to block it (Ellen Kline).

110% effort in order to fix our weaknesses and use our strengths," Senior co-captain Gina Lamm said.

SPORTS

Girls' Tennis team enjoying surprisingly successful season

by Katie Rees

Despite losing six players from last year, the Girls' Tennis Team, with a record so far of 9-5, has exceeded expectations and now has secured its own in the playoffs.

The girls defeated Woodland Hills last Wednesday which was the match that determined whether or not they would proceed. Coach Chuck Mura, who has been coaching for over thirty years, feels this particular team is highly exceptional.

"The team this year has the best chemistry and desire to succeed that I have ever seen. They all cheer for each other, always display a positive attitude during a match and are very coachable," Mura said.

Team cooperation is just as important as skill and the Girls' Tennis Team has covered both.

All of the girls display a true passion for the sport.

"Tennis is one of my favorite sports. It is fun and competitive all at the same time," Junior Kristel Chatellier said.

The growth of the team, even the inexperienced new starters, have highly impressed the coach.

"Kristel Chatellier, Jessica Vogel and Sara Vogel are the returning starters and have provided leadership. Kristen Rost, Larissa Guering, Courtney Ambrozic, and Andra Labanc are the first year starters and have all played above the line," Mura said.

Out of the many matches this year, the most memorable for the coach has been against Plum.



Kristel Chatellier (Katie Rees)

"We lost the first two sections matches and then upset Plum by the score of 3 -2 which has the state champion in singles. This match gave the girls confidence to compete for a spot in the playoffs," Mura said.

While the girls have been doing a good job, they are quick to point out their coach is doing the same.

"Our coach always gives us a very inspiring pep talk. He always knows what to say before a big match," junior Andra Labanc said.

Cross Country on the right path

by Audrey Schreiber

The boys and girls cross country teams have continued to make big improvements this year, despite some devastating injuries.

Regardless of both teams disappointing record of 1-3, Head Coach Mike Dusch explained.

"The most important thing to me is that the kids keep improving."

The boys team lost meets by only a matter of 2 or 3 points, a small margin for cross country meets. Knoch and Seneca Valley were meets that the boys team was expected to win, but unfortunately lost.

The girls team also lost important meets like NA and North Hills. But despite being a young team, the girls pulled a big win from Knoch.

Individuals on the team have really shined throughout the season. Sophomore Caleb Wakeley is the boys team's best runner. Though an injury plagued him early on in the season, he continues to help the team win meets like the North Hills section meet.

Bri Schwartz, a freshman, is one of the best runners for the girls, and along with senior Meagen Carter, placed well at the Red White and Blue Invitational.

The team is backed with a strong senior class leadership for both the boys and the girls. For the girls, senior Meagen Carter has consistently improved throughout the season and the four years she ran for the team.

As the only senior for the girls, she provides a strong leadership for the underclassmen. The boys have 7 seniors this year, which is the most Shaler has ever had, according to Coach Dusch.

"We beat North Hills for the first time in a long time, and one of the biggest reasons is because the seniors put it together," he said.

The team looks forward to bigger invitationals and meets that really showcase individual talent.

"A few of us are trying to get to states. We're all looking forward to winning meets, and just really improving our times," senior Joe Wanovich said.

Girls' Soccer Misses Playoffs



Girls team listens to Coach Catanese during a break. (Katrina Gualtieri)

by Victoria Mikita

The Shaler Area girls' soccer team has had a successful season despite missing the playoffs. The Girls' soccer team was looking to break the streak of 25 straight years of not qualifying for the playoffs, but unfortunately were not able to make that happen.

The girls still had an outside chance at making the playoffs, but lost an overtime game to North Allegheny this past Monday.

The girls played tough opponents in almost every section game.

"Our section is a tough one to begin with, but it is even crazier this year. Usually there is one team that beats everyone, but all the teams have been winning," junior Megan Oschenriter said.

The seniors this year include Maggie Boehler, Taylor Grosjean, Kristie Hamilton, Chelsea Bahorich, Bethany Snider and Rachel Roth.

Missing the playoffs may have put a damper on the girls' season but the future is bright for Shaler girls soccer program due to the amount of underclass talent on the team. Fifteen out of the 33 girls are freshmen.

Boys' Soccer



The Boys' soccer team was not able to make the playoffs this year. The captains this year include Roman Benty, Brennan Reynolds, and Craig Tuite. Notable underclassman Chris Brasile said that the team has talent that could allow them to be successful in the near future.

The Back Page

“Abduction” not worth it even for Lautner fans

by Sarah Breen

Some people may gag at the slightest mention of Taylor Lautner (“Oh, not the Twilight kid *again*”) but his newest film, *Abduction*, is no story of wolves and vampires.

Nathan Price (Lautner) begins as a typical teenager in high school. He seems to have everything: friends he likes to party with, he’s on the wrestling team, and he is flirting with Karen, the girl right across the street (Lily Collins).

Predictably, those two are in a class together and are paired to do a project in sociology on missing children. Oddly, Price finds a picture on one of the websites of himself as a child. He dismisses it, until later that night he finds the exact same shirt the child in the picture was wearing.

He begins to question his identity and his parents’ trust is no longer even an option. The only person he can trust is Karen (Collins). They go into hiding to avoid assassins, CSI, and many federal agents chasing after Nathan. He unknowingly carries his biological father’s secret. He now has to find his true identity and keep his father’s secret safe.

One of the things that makes the movie relevant is that it was filmed in Pittsburgh. Filming took place July 12th through September 22nd, 2010. It was filmed in places such as PNC Park, the Amtrak train station, and Hampton High School.

This film, despite all the action, and being filmed so close to home, was very slow moving. It is very far-fetched and unrealistic. For example how can Lautner’s character be wrestling, playing football with Hamptons marching band involved, then end up at a Pirate baseball game?

First of all the Pirates play baseball in the summer, Wrestling takes place in the winter, and Football is in fall. Only a couple days or so passed in this movie. It also was overly dramatic on many occasions. The dialogue /script was terrible, as in it was over dramatic once again.

One thing I look for in an action movies is action. I don’t expect just a scratch on a girl after an explosion. Nobody can just walk away unharmed. Personally, I think there should have been a bit more gore for how much destruction and action went on. If a man is shot at I don’t expect to see just a tiny bullet, I expect a big bang to the ground to emphasize the significance of the shooting. I expect maybe a little blood on the face not a simple hole. This could have been because the movie was given PG13 in rating. This movie was very predictable Hollywood, the romance, the he’s the bad guy moment, missing parents, all archetypes of a typical Hollywood done up film. Despite how bad this movie was, Opening weekend grossed over 10 MILLION! Now, is this because of the “great plot” or because of the lack of Lautner’s shirt?

Lautner is trying to branch out to do other movies, but let’s get real; he will either be known as Shark Boy or Jacob Black. The only thing I have concluded from this movie is that Taylor Lautner should just stick to being a werewolf.



Taylor Lautner outside of PNC Park in “Abduction”.

WEIRD News

NEW YORK — A calico cat named Willow, who disappeared from a home near the Rocky Mountains five years ago, was found on a Manhattan street and will soon be returned to a family in which two of the three kids and one of the two dogs may remember her.

How she got to New York, more than 1,600 miles away, and the kind of life she lived in the city are mysteries.

But thanks to a microchip implanted when she was a kitten, Willow will be reunited in Colorado with her owners, who had long ago given up hope.

Willow had been found on East 20th Street by a man who took her to a shelter.

“All our pets are microchipped,” the cat’s owner said. “If I could microchip my kids, I would.”

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia -- A captive orangutan often spotted smoking cigarettes given to her by zoo visitors is being forced to kick the habit, a Malaysian wildlife official said Monday.

Government authorities seized the adult ape named Shirley from a state-run zoo in Malaysia’s southern Johor state last week after she and several other animals there were deemed to be living in poor conditions.

The Melaka Zoo Director said Shirley is not being provided with any more cigarettes because “smoking is not normal behavior for orangutans.”

“I would say she is not addicted ... but she might have formed a habit after mimicking human beings who were smoking around her,” the director said.

BOYNTON BEACH, FL — A man was arrested Monday after he stuffed a firecracker in his waistband, walked into a Bed, Bath & Beyond in Boynton Beach and threatened to blow up the store, police said.

Jesse James Lyon, 61, faces charges of armed robbery and planting a hoax bomb.

Boynton Beach police said Lyon was wearing a straw hat, glasses, a white shirt and khaki shorts when he walked into the store on Congress Avenue, approached the cashier and demanded money. Police said he then lifted up his shirt to reveal the firecracker in his waistband and threatened to “blow everything up.”

Police said another cashier saw the firecracker and told Lyon to get out.

STOCKHOLM--A seemingly intoxicated moose has been discovered entangled in an apple tree by a stunned Swede.

Per Johansson says he heard a roar from his vacationing neighbor’s garden in southwestern Sweden late Tuesday and went to have a look. There, he found a female moose kicking about in the tree. The animal was likely drunk from eating fermented apples.

With the help of police and rescue services, the 45-year-old Johansson later managed to set the moose free in part by sawing off tree branches.

But the animal appeared confused and wandered into Johansson’s garden, where she was still resting Thursday.

Other neighbors in the Goteborg suburb Saro had seen the animal sneaking around the area for days. Johansson said the moose appeared to be sick, drunk or “half-stupid.”

SCG SHALER CULTURE		What was your best Halloween costume?	What would your Jersey Shore name be?	What’s the worst thing you have gotten while Trick-or-Treating?	What celebrity would you punch in the face?
	Nick Carey Junior	Male Stripper	Juicehead Carey	Popcorn Balls 	Channing Tatum
	Frank Dinardo Senior	Inflatable Ostrich Jockey 	F-Train	Bookmark	Tom Green
	Mr. Tepshich Band Director	Pregnant Woman	T-Wow 	Ham Sandwich	Justin Bieber 
	Mrs. Thiel Activities Director	Cinderella 	What is Jersey Shore?	Orange	The Kardashians 