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Ash Wednesday Service Begins Lenten Season

By Ciara Atkins '21

On March 6, 2019, this year's Ash Wednesday, the students and faculty of Kellenberg Memorial received ashes over three periods. Sophomores and freshmen attended the first period service, seniors and squires attended during second period and then juniors, tyros and cadets attended during third period.

The freshmen and sophomore classes chatted quietly as they slowly filed into the auditorium, the floor in front of the stage set only with a podium and a folding table with bowls of ashes on it. Fr. Thomas Cardone, S.M. and Bro. Michael Gilen, S.M. milled about, chatting with the Eucharistic Ministers who would be distributing the ashes, as well as with other students.

The Gregorian Consortium opened the prayer service with song, which was quickly followed by a reading from the Gospel of Matthew that reminded the congregation that we are called to perform righteous deeds, but privately. The reading explains:

"When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others." (Matthew 6:2)

In the first and second period services, students sat in quiet attention while

Fr. Tom explained that Lent is a time to grow in relationship with Jesus. He explained his short acronym, "IS."

"I" stands for 'interior,'" he explained, "and 'S' is for service." He encouraged attendees to look in on themselves and to develop their relationship with Jesus from the inside. Lent is a time that does not emphasize outward appearance, but rather inner reconciliation and renewal.

Fr. Daniel Griffin, S.M., who led the third period service for the cadets, tyros and juniors, focused on sacrifice and fasting. He encouraged his group to sacrifice their time to prayer to grow closer with Jesus.

Next, Fr. Dan blessed the ashes and the congregation lined up to receive them. The usual Eucharistic Ministers distributed the ashes. The auditorium echoed with the muttered dictum, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

About his first time distributing ashes, senior Sergio Arreaga reflected, "It was a change of events from only receiving, doing it for someone else, to remind them it's a time of renewal." It's a reminder of your own beginnings."

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of forty days of Lent, concluded by Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.



Michael Ricciardi '19 administers ashes to Marissa Milana '19.

In Loving Memory of Maxwell Parker Matos '23

By Gabriella Rodriguez '20

On Friday March 15, the Kellenberg community mourned the death of Maxwell Parker Matos, an eighth grader at the Bro. Joseph C. Fox Latin School. Max, a very involved member of the Kellenberg community, was remembered at a prayer service, which included a heartfelt homily from Fr. Daniel Griffin. As students tried to cope with the loss of their classmate, Mr. Finn, one of Max's teachers, recalled some of his favorite memories of Max and also read an excerpt from one of Max's adoration reflections. This reading of Max's reflection revealed to those who may not have known him just how faithful he was.

In addition to being involved in his faith life, Max was also involved in school activities such as Drama club. Mr. Murphy, the Drama club moderator, also shared a few words about Max, recalling his memories of Max participating in summer camp drama productions and school musicals.

In his speech, Mr. Murphy quoted a song sung by Max in the play "Seussical," in which he sang, "I have wings and I can fly. I can fly around the moon and far beyond the sky. Well,

someday soon, you will hear my plea, one small voice in the universe - please believe in me!"

Max, despite his youth, left a lasting impact on all those he came into contact with, whether it was the members of the Drama club or his classmates, Max is remembered as always leaving others with smiles on their faces.

This prayer service not only included kind words and memories of Max Matos, but also a candlelit memorial. Friends and classmates of Max brought candles up to the stage and set them beside his picture as a way to honor Max and cope with their grief.

Rosie Pham, a junior who met Max in the Drama club, remembered, "He

was the sweetest boy on the planet who was so excited about his future, and I'm heartbroken that this had to happen. But it is nice to see in these hard times that everyone is coming together as a community to support each other."

While Max's passing may have rocked the Kellenberg community, the student body and faculty members have remained supportive of each other in this difficult time and have once again demonstrated Kellenberg's school motto, "one heart, one mind."



Maxwell Parker Matos, 2005-2019.

Last Week at Mass: A Memory, A Family, A Celebration, A History

By Anya Murphy '19

It has been one year since my great-grandmother's death. Mary Ann O'Toole, the matriarch of my mother's family, left behind more than 100 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and 15 children, of whom my maternal grandfather is the second oldest. Despite her wishes, a two-day wake had to be held after her death because of the sheer number of people who wanted to celebrate her life.

So it was that day, exactly one year later, my mom and I woke in the chilly dawn of St. Patrick's day to attend her 8:00 a.m. memorial Mass at St. Anthony's parish in Oceanside.

We met my aunt and uncle at the door and chose a pew, and as we sat down, I found myself thinking about her funeral. How my cousins and I sat in the back of the funeral parlor pasting old photos of her to two poster boards. How we tried laughing instead of crying. How we methodically categorized all of our relatives into a family tree that gave us a count of cousins, aunts and uncles. How we talked, as we always did, of the myriad ways our family was special - the fact that my 'cousins' Mary Liz and Annie, though we are all the same age, are actually my mom's cousins, because of that pesky fifteen-year age gap between my

grandfather and their parents. How we reminded each other that she had lived a good life, and that she was ready to go the way that she did - surrounded by family.

I thought about our family's history. Thought about my great-grandfather, Eddie, who ran in the London Olympics' 10,000 meter, and was the first American to cross the finish line, who died before I was born but still had a connection to me, his oldest great-grandchild. Thought about how much he loved monarch butterflies, and how my mom's favorite story to tell is how one once landed on my nose as a baby. Thought about the card that is now hanging on my mirror, an old photo of the two of them, smiling astride a motorcycle parked in their driveway. Thought about how much my mother looks up to both of them - how she tries to imitate them in faith, in love and in dedication. Thought about my parents' approaching 20th wedding anniversary, and how they had gotten married in that very church. Thought about how every part of my ancestors' lives trickled down into me and my life.

Then, the first reading: Genesis 15:5. God's covenant with Abram ensuring that his descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky.

It seemed oddly fitting that this reading should be the one assigned to the me-

morial of my great-grandmother, who had more children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren than anyone I have ever met, and who did so with an incredible amount of grace and patience.

It is this grace and patience that I hope to inherit from her, and, as Rev. Donovan explained in his homily, the kind of fortitude we all should try to replicate during Lent.

The Gospel, Luke 9:28-36, tells the story of Jesus' transfiguration after it had been completed, of Peter's mobility to grasp its magnitude, but willingness to help nonetheless. Rev. Donovan called on the congregation to be like Peter during the difficult parts of Lent, citing the placement of the reading on that second Sunday as encouragement, rather than a warning.

During the homily, I reflected on ways I could channel my great-grandmother's strength, her patience and her courage. I decided that her dedication to family was a quality that I should try to develop, because, as exciting as the prospect of going to college is, it means leaving my big family behind, at least for a little while.

So my new Lenten resolution is to spend more time with my family, grow closer with them, so that, even if we no longer live together, our relationship will

be as strong as ever. I think she would like that. She created so many opportunities for love in our family that, two generations of O'Tooles later, I am determined to follow her example of selfless love.

We brought up the gifts for Communion - something that I've never done before. It seemed symbolic to me, watching my mother walk down the same aisle that she did on her wedding day, bearing witness to the generations of love that made my life possible.

When Mass ended, my aunt and I were walking out of the pew. When I realized that my mom wasn't behind me, I looked back, only to find that, in typical 'mom' fashion, she had found someone she knew and had struck up a conversation. It turned out to be my preschool teacher and my parents' youth group leader, who had known them since they were my age, before they were married. She hugged me, saying, "I don't believe it - you're so grown up!" I felt that the day had come full circle, from my great-grandparents, to my parents, to myself. I thought about the years of wisdom I had to draw on, and felt strengthened in my resolve to strengthen my relationship with my family in honor of my great-grandmother.

'Project Understanding' Forges International Bonds of Faith in Israel

By Nicole Aponte '20

This past February break I was blessed to spend ten life-changing days in the Holy Land with twelve amazing teenagers. My pilgrimage to Israel was part of the interfaith group Project Understanding, which is funded by the phenomenal Roger Tilles and composed of six Catholic and six Jewish high school juniors. Fostering interfaith dialogue and understanding of the other faith are the main goals of the group, and our leaders Brother Kenneth Hoagland, S.M., Rabbi Jeff Clopper and his wife Carol Clopper were able to encourage friendships and create a deeper understanding of not only our own faith but others as well.

At the end of last year, Brother Roger Poletti, S.M. nominated me from my Church History class to be considered for this pilgrimage. He educated all of the nominees about the goals of Project Understanding. As soon as he started explaining the program, I was eager to make the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. After an essay and an interview, I received the great news that I would be traveling to Israel in February.

Project Understanding's pilgrimage to Israel has transformed me in countless ways. To be able to walk in the footsteps of Christ as a Catholic was a deeply transformative experience. To also experience this place people from the Jewish opened my eyes to new perspectives of the Holy Land. Now.

The trip made real to me all the locations I was familiar with from the Bible. Now when I read the Scriptures or listen to the readings at Mass, I smile because I can picture and replay the experience I had on the Sea of Galilee, in the Jordan River or at the Via Dolorosa, or the stations of the cross. My experience with Project Understanding has taught me to have an open heart and mind to a religion different than Catholicism and be accepting towards others. I have made lifelong friends with this group of just twelve teens and have experienced a trip I will never forget.

Visiting the holy sites that are both important to the Catholics and the Jews taught me something about my own faith. Putting a prayer in the Western Wall, walking through the Garden of Gethsemane, standing in the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized - these are just a few of the adventures what I have encountered in ten days that have changed and continue to change my life forever. However, what was uniquely meaningful to me was becoming accustomed to the Jewish traditions such as celebrating Shabbat services and dinners throughout Jerusalem, celebrating Havdalah which ends Shabbat, or learning about a Mikvah, which is similar to a Baptism, and how important that is to the Jewish faith.

I had felt confident in myself that after 5 years of Catholic education, I was able to explain and be confident in my faith. After explaining Catholicism and its traditions, I learned something new every single day in Israel. Not only myself, but all of the participants were eager for more knowledge, questioning the trip leaders and one another about every little detail like how the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is controlled not only by the Roman Catholic sect of Christianity but also the Greek Orthodox among many others or how the morning prayer in Judaism is

Photo Courtesy of Nicole Aponte '20



Kellenberg Project Understanding participants, from left, Nicole Aponte '20, Rachel McCallin '20, Bro. Kenneth Hoagland, S.M., Sarah Goetz '20 and Aidan McBrien '20, pose in front of sites of Israel.

represented across Israel. In a matter of ten days, my knowledge of Catholicism and its roots, Judaism and its Beliefs and Jesus' home has greatly expanded. I'm empowered to share my faith discoveries with others and pass on the faith I cherish to hopefully inspire others to embrace and accept this amazing trip which I feel blessed and humbled to have been a part of. Project Understanding 2019 has taught me to stand up for not only Catholicism and Judaism, but for all faiths.

As soon as we landed in Israel, we traveled to Jerusalem, Israel's capital. The group looked out on the four quarters of Jerusalem - Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Armenian - and we heard the Muslim call to prayer. There, looking out at possibly the most religious city to ever exist, with the Catholic, Jewish, and now Muslim faith represented, it left the group speechless and even more excited to get this trip started. The group was immersed in Israeli culture, learning Hebrew sayings and numbers, eating hummus and falafel, and bargaining with the shopkeepers in "The Shook," the Arab market.

But, the one place that has left an impact on my life was when the group visited the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, Yad Vashem. We visited the Children's Memorial first. 1.5 million Jewish children's names who were killed in the Holocaust are read while you walk in a room with a candle in the middle. The light of the candle is surrounded by mirrors and is reflected throughout the room to represent each child killed. This

was heartbreaking to see, but also eye opening to experience what these children went through. We walked through the museum and learned about personal stories of Jewish children and adults and their experience as part of the Holocaust. We ended the tour in a circular room where we saw about four million names surrounding us. The museum has found these identities of people whose innocent lives were taken just because of the faith they follow.

We didn't stay in Jerusalem the whole trip; we were able to experience the whole country of Israel (which is about the size of New Jersey). We traveled from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv where sacred turned secular. In Jerusalem we were able to visit the Dome of the Rock (where the Islamic faith believes Muhammad ascended to Heaven) and the Garden of Gethsemane, while in Tel Aviv we went on a graffiti tour and understood the importance of art and culture in that city. We traveled to the Negev Desert where camel riding is a way of transportation and were shown hospitality from the Bedouins, a nomadic people. We stayed a night in a tent in the Bedouin community and hiked up Masada to watch the sunrise the next morning. We then ventured to the Dead Sea, a body of water composed of one-third salt. As soon as one starts swimming, he or she is immediately able to float. We were given the opportunity to use a skincare routine, by which you rub mud all over your skin and wash it off in the water, in hopes of making your skin

smooth. In experiencing both sacred and secular sites in Israel, the group became that of a family, which made it that more relevant that both the Catholic and Jewish faiths are more alike than different.

One of the most memorable moments of the trip was when the group visited Kids 4 Peace, an interfaith youth movement, dedicated to ending conflict and inspiring hope in Jerusalem and other divided societies around the world. Here we were asked to make a map of our life, and part of that map had to be about where we met the 'other.' I was perplexed about what to draw but I realized that the other was standing right beside me either part of the Jewish or Catholic Faith. I realized that each one of the twelve teens I was with brought something different to the trip that made my experience in Israel one I would never forget.

"Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding," Albert Einstein once said. Peace CAN be achieved by understanding, and Project Understanding has for sure gave our group and everyone who has participated in this wonderful organization that lifelong message. I am positive that each participant arrived home with a different outlook on one's faith, a new love for Israel, and a passion to tell their unique story about their faith adventure. Each of us is more conscious, that we, as people of faith, have an obligation to spread God's love and achieve peace wherever that love may take us.

Drama Club performs Miller's *Crucible* for Spring Production

By James Mooney III '20

Drama Club performed its spring production of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller on March 8. The play ran on both Friday and Saturday nights with an 8:15 curtain time both evenings. Mr. Murphy, the drama club Director estimated that between opening night and the second performance on Saturday there was between 540-550 tickets sold for this production.

When the curtain closed, Mr. Murphy and the cast reflected on 2 Timothy 4: 7-9, which they recite each and every opening night. But this year, the traditional Bible reflection seemed more substantial as the production remembered Maxwell Matos.

The verse reads, "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith! Finally the crown of righteousness is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous judge, will award it to me in that day-and not to me only, but also to all who have set their affection on His appearing."

Mr. Murphy spoke at the conclusion of the show about Maxwell Matos, who was an eighth grader in the Latin School and a beloved member of the drama club. Max starred in *Bye, Bye Birdie* and was also part of lighting crew for *The Sound of Music*. Mr. Murphy thought the students performed admirably and quite well given the circumstances and mourning of Max's passing.

The Crucible is a 1953 play depicting the Salem Witch Trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1692 and 1693.

The play is a drama based on the Puritan colonists existing in an isolated theocratic society.

The opening scene and set designed by the Stage Crew depicted the stark, unforgiving cruelty of the landscape of the time-large barren trees were strategically positioned against a hauntingly vivid blue sky. The period costumes were designed

in great detail; for example judge's formal garb distinguished itself from the Reverend's Puritan clothing, while ladies were dressed in drab colors of the time, donning simple white caps.

Act One takes place in the home of the local preacher Reverend Samuel Parris played by Brandon Farrell '21. His daughter Betty Parris, Kerrin O'Grady '21, is lying on a bed, motionless. Betty Parris has a strange awakening and accuses Abigail Williams, Deirdre Ambrosi

'20, of drinking blood in the woods. Betty is struck down by Abigail at this accusation to silence her. The group gathers and the rumblings of witchcraft begin. Reverend Hale, played by Joseph DeMarco '20, enters as the sole religious judge denouncing superstition. However, the night prior, Reverend Parris had witnessed the dancing in the forest by Abigail, his slave Tituba, (Rosie Pham '20) and others and accuses them of witchcraft and evil doings.

The town is now officially in turmoil. The focus is on the cunning Abigail Williams and her denial of these accusations. Abigail's central role plays the key to the twists and turns in this captivating performance by the Drama Club.

Mr. Murphy said, "[The *Crucible*] Being a period play, it took longer to memorize the words, gestures and move-



Deirdre Ambrosi as Abigail kneels, an accused sinner, in Miller's *Crucible*.

ments of the time. The play was immensely lengthy, full of much script and dialogue."

The other townspeople, Giles Corey, Samuel Millman '21, speaks of his wife's 'strange' reading while Thomas Putnam, William Pipa '19, a wealthy and influential landowner, accuses the midwife of being a witch as they had lost all of their children right after childbirth.

Act One, Scene 2 features a sensational performance in the home of John Proctor, Stephen Scully '19, a local farmer, his wife Elizabeth played by Christelle Pascal '19 and their servant Mary Warren, Annemarie Patalano '20.

The setting has colors changing in the backdrop to represent the changing of day to evening hours. The stark simplicity of the furnishings- austere benches, tables with simple lines, and a pewter cup filled with cider- depict the bare bones of the times and the hardship of the puritan lifestyle. In the scene, Mary Warren gifts Elizabeth with a "poppet", a doll that later implicates Elizabeth when she is accused of performing rituals on Abigail.

Act 2 begins with a dramatic scene between John Proctor and Abigail. Abigail expects John to profess his love for her, since they had an affair while she was serving in his home.

When Proctor denies these accusa-

tions, Abigail countered, "How hard it is when pretense falls! But when it falls it falls."

Abigail, in a riveting performance by Deidre, is thrown to the ground by John, Stephen.

The background music sets an intense ominous mood.

The trials begin with performances by Deputy-Governor Danforth (Robert Nolan '21) and Judge Hathorne (Katherine Callahan '19), in which these judges demand that Reverend Hale sign the death warrants of the accused.

Annemarie's powerful performance as Mary Warren being questioned by the probate judge brings history alive. As the three accusers, Abigail, Susanna Walcott, played by Charlotte D'Alessandro '20, and Mercy Lewis, played by Isabella Nieminen '20, show their satanic afflictions by falling to their knees and chanting eerily. The three girls showcased an acting clinic as they were possessed by the devil and accused of faking it.

Once again, the Stage Crew captures the moment with a reddening background showing the affliction of the three possessed souls on stage.

Reverend Hale is compelled to protect the truth and the integrity of the accused and turns on the court. Tituba and Sarah Good, Grace Peknic '21, admit their possession by the devil to try to save their lives. Reverend Parris, who was instrumental in creating much of the turmoil of the Salem witch trials, bursts into the courthouse tries to delay the hangings by encouraging confessions of possession.

The closing scene of the play reconciles its central theme with the pain suffered by its characters: John Proctor and Elizabeth have made their peace about his adultery and lechery.

Dawn is coming and the lights rise on the branches. Danforth's comment about the vestiges of Christianity in early America is a reminder of its once-theocratic society and the changes it has undergone.

S.O. Excels at Cornell Invitational

By Julia Zacharski '21

Despite the tough field of competition at the annual Cornell Science Olympiad Invitational, Kellenberg's Science Olympiad teams showed an amazing performance. Kellenberg's A team took 15th place overall, with the B team finishing in 32nd out of 39 high school teams. The Latin School team finished in 26th place out of the 41 middle school teams at the competition.

On February 15 and 16, two of the high school Science Olympiad teams as well as the Latin School team travelled to Ithaca to compete in the annual Cornell competition, known by members of the team, like President Francesca Morales, to be a "competitive, high-level test of skills, knowledge and months of preparation."

The team earned 4 medals in events. Senior Francesca Morales and sophomore Julia Zacharski earned 5th place in Anatomy; sophomore Meaghan O'Keefe, senior Natalie Jean-Michel, and senior Sarah Narcisse earned 5th in Code Busters; junior Paul Bartolemea and senior Tyler Martinus earned 5th

place in Fermi Questions, and senior Francesca Morales and junior Aidan York earned 4th place in Sounds of Music.

After a half day of traveling on Friday, the students arrived in Cortland, where the teams made their final preparations before competing in the tournament. The invitational was held on Saturday, February 16. Throughout the day, the students competed in 23 events against highly competitive teams from across the nation, ranging from Virginia to Washington. The students had an opportunity to show their hard work in one of the toughest fields of competition they faced in the whole season.

This was the sixth and final invitational that the teams competed in before the New York State competition to take place in March.

Senior Francesca Morales, president of Science Olympiad, stated, "I was very impressed with the performance of the team at this very competitive invitational, I couldn't have asked for a better experience for the last one of my Science Olympiad career and I'm excited to see how we all do at states."

College Placement Office Talks Fir

By Monika Sweeney '20

On March 9, 2019 College Placement hosted its second "Coffee Talk with College Placement" event of the school year on March 9. The presentation was catered towards the college application process for first-generation college students and their parents. There was seventy people in attendance. The main talk, led by College Counselor Miss Ronan, was followed by a question and answer session with Mrs. Marconi and Miss Ronan.

After the overwhelming success of the first College Talk, College Placement was thrilled to be able to host another. The "Coffee Talk" was open to all ninth through eleventh grade students who will be the first in their family to attend college, as well as their parents. As students and parents settled down in the library, they were given helpful informative pamphlets regarding the college application process. They included tips for applying, helpful websites, the difference between the SAT and ACT, the ins and outs of the Common App and in depth information on FAFSA.

As the number of first-generation col-



lege students in America has been increasing, College Placement found it necessary to hold such an event.

"Because first generation students might not have family members who know about the college experience," Miss Ronan began, "they wouldn't necessarily know

Students Volunteer Winter Break for St. Joseph's Mission

By Elena Smith '19

This past February break, 25 Kellenberg students gave up the opportunity for a week of resting, relaxing, and sleeping in for a busy week of hard work, early mornings, and service to others. The Saint Joseph's Mission has taken place during winter recess since February of 2006, in which a group of 20 students from Kellenberg and Chaminade accompanied the Maris Brothers in helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The mission has only grown since then with the crew from Kellenberg and Chaminade this year working on a renovation to St. Andrew's Convent near City Hall, New York City. The church is the home base of the Sisters of Life, a religious community of nuns that actively protects the sacredness of human life by welcoming pregnant women in crisis and helping them with their needs.

With a recent move to St. Andrew's, the convent is in much need of restoration, and the Chaminade and Kellenberg volunteers worked hard to help them in any way.

On Sunday, February 17, the participants of the mission got to know each other before the week of work ahead at the Chaminade retreat house, Meribah. Beginning with mass around 5 P.M., the Chaminade and Kellenberg students bonded throughout the evening and got excited for project they would be working on throughout the week. They enjoyed a delicious dinner made by Bro. Stephen, S.M. and some Chaminade students, while mingling with those they

had just met and creating friendships that would only grow throughout the week.

The students began each morning by meeting at Kellenberg at 7:30 A.M. to take a bus to the Queens Village train station, where they would meet the Chaminade participants. The group then took the train together to Atlantic Terminal where they got on the subway to trav-



Senior volunteers Natalie Capasso and Elena Smith take a break from sanding the columns of St. Andrew's to take a picture with Sister Monica Marie.

el to City Hall/Brooklyn Bridge area.

Work would begin immediately at St. Andrew's Church. Some groups worked with Bro. Roger, S.M. on refurbishing the worn down confessionals in the church, sanding them and using varnish to make them look new. Other students replaced cushioning of the kneelers in the pews. Many spent time sorting the donations the Sisters get for the mothers whom they help. These donations included diapers, onesies, maternity clothes, toys, strollers, and more. There was also painting, sweeping, and cleaning to be done around the large building. Still more workers helped to construct a new room by walling off an area of the main

convent.

Every day, after a few hours of work, all the participants would gather in the church for an eleven o'clock mass said by Fr. Garrett S.M. of Chaminade. Mass was followed by an hour of lunch which consisted of snacks and sandwiches made by some of the junior girls on the project.

During lunch throughout the week, the sisters often ate with the students and many great relationships were formed. Senior Natalie Capasso noted, "I began talking to Sister Monica Marie at the beginning of the week, and by the end we were great friends. She and all the sisters are so wise and do such great things for the women who need help. They were all role models to me throughout the week and I learned so much for them."

After lunch, the workers got back to their jobs until about 4:00 P.M., when we'd begin our trip back to Kellenberg after a long day.

The mission trip ended on February 21 with a fun day in the city as a reward for the work the students had done. They enjoyed a 2 P.M. matinee performance of *The Phantom of the Opera*, and six Sisters of Life came along.

After the show, the students had free time to explore the city. Some walked around Bryant Park, others visited the 9/11 memorial, and many wandered Chinatown and Little Italy. The night concluded with a dinner at Puglia's Ristorante in Little Italy, where a live singer encouraged both students and moderators alike to sing along and wave napkins to the music. The fun continued on the train ride home with the volunteers singing classic songs from the Kellenberg canon before departing at their station.

Psych Club Tours Molloy

By Maya Tadross '19

On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, forty members of the Psychology Club and the Health Sciences Club, along with moderators Mrs. Strauss and Mrs. Finn, traveled to Molloy College in Rockville Centre for a psychology presentation by Dr. Melissa Gebbia, Ph.D and Dr. Anne Erlanger, Psy.D. There, students were given a preview of studying on a college campus, were educated about the wide variety of careers in psychology, and were given guidance on education paths for psychology majors.

Upon their arrival in the new Barbara H. Hagan Center for Nursing Dr. Erlanger asked the students what comes to mind when they think of the words "psychologist" and "scientist", respectively. She pointed out that many of the descriptions the students volunteered overlapped, to emphasize that psychologists are, in fact, scientists.

Both professors then took turns explaining the various careers and education paths psychology majors in college can take. These include neuropsychology, industrial and organizational psychology, clinical psychology, research psychology and more.

Following the presentation, the group of students were separated into small groups of three to work on an activity in which the goal was to identify the type of psychologist needed for a certain imaginary scenario. The activity allowed each group to better understand the different career options that they can pursue in higher education.

Scott Somerville reflected on his experience saying, "It broadened my horizons because I never knew how many psychology career paths there are."

Dr. Gebbia outlined the college curriculum and schooling necessary for all of the different psychology careers, and explained the differences between a Ph.D and Psy.D degrees that one may obtain in psychology courses. Dr. Gebbia and Dr. Erlanger also shared their own personal career path stories educated them on how they got into the field of psychology themselves. During the lunch break, Dr. Gebbia gave the students an opportunity to ask questions. The inquisitive students received answers to their most burning psychology related questions, like the difference between "psychology" and "sociology", and "psychology" and "psychiatry". Students were also informed on how to specialize in a certain area of abnormal psychology.

At the conclusion of lunch, a current Molloy student gave the group a tour of the campus, including Kellenberg Hall, the library, and the new state-of-the-art nursing wing and cafeteria. The tour guide also answered any questions the students had regarding Molloy College.

"The faculty and tour guide at Molloy were extremely helpful," expressed Psychology Club co-founder, Caroline McGrath '19. "I definitely learned a lot of valuable information about both the field of psychology and the school itself."

Dr. Gebbia will visit Kellenberg in April for a follow-up psychology workshop focused on study habits and positive tools for alleviating stress and anxiety.

First Generation College Applicants at "Coffee Talk"



James Cross '21 and his parents sit during "College Placement Coffee Talk" to learn the ins and outs of the application process for "first generation" college attendees.

what kind of questions to ask or how to navigate the process. We want all of our students to have the same knowledge regarding the process when they apply to college."

By coordinating an event to provide much needed information to students and parents unaware of all the opportunities

available to them, Kellenberg is succeeding in carrying out its mission to educate. Of the topics covered during the "Coffee Talk," one discussed in detail was the application process. Additionally, they were made aware of scholarships designed exclusively for first-generation students. Since these students' parents did not go through the college process, it makes it even more difficult for them to know about programs such as FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid). It determines a student's eligibility for financial aid, which is a major factor in deciding which college to attend.

Samantha O'Donnell '20 will be a first-generation college student. She says that she first noticed the challenges of being the first in her family to attend college around late her sophomore year.

"Everyone else in school was taking an SAT prep class and visiting colleges, while I hadn't even started to look for colleges!" Samantha expressed. "I soon realized that my parents knew just as much about the college admission process as I did."

For Sam, and many others in a similar position, this meant she had to take it upon herself to learn everything that

many of her peers already knew about. She continued to explain that her parents did not take education as seriously as she has, especially since she got to Kellenberg. Her mother is an immigrant from Colombia and her father is one of seven children, with a single mom who worked four jobs.

"I am so proud of them and how far they've come, it's just such a disadvantage because I feel I am always a little behind the curve compared to the rest," reflected Samantha. "And college is important to me."

Like many first-generation students, Sam wants to go to college as "a thanks to my parents for all the hard work they have gone through to give me better opportunities." She concludes saying, "College is important to me because I am very driven, and since no one in my family has really been through college, I feel like I can maybe be the change in my family- do something that no one in my family has ever done before."

The first of these events took place on November 13 in the cafeteria to discuss NCAA and college athletics.

... But what do I know?

There's No Time Like The Last Minute

By Randi Titus '19

Hi, my name is Randi Titus, and I am a procrastinator.

Now, I know what you might be thinking: "everybody procrastinates sometimes," or, the classic, "you just have to be more focused."

I assure you, I have heard it all and tried it all before. Every solution, quick fix and goal to strive for has had absolutely no effect on my chronic condition. After numerous attempts to eradicate my procrastination tendencies, I have come to the conclusion that maybe my procrastination really isn't such a problem after all. While there might be a measly number of negatives, I find that the positives definitely tip the scale.

My condition always rears its debilitating head when a big project is coming around. I think that procrastination actually causes me to forget assignments. I don't just mean, "Oh, I don't want to do that, so I'll wait until the day before," but rather I have no recollection whatsoever of an assignment until hours before something is due. A project assigned a month before might as well be assigned the very day before. Even reminders from others seem to go in one ear and directly out of the other.

This assignment amnesia can have its downfalls, but I personally see it as a great thing. The weeks and days before a deadline are always filled with frantic students, worrying friends and thousands and thousands of questions. I am luckily not a part of this group. After a project is assigned, I am as cool as a cucumber, as calm as a summer sea and as relaxed as a freshly fed baby. I live in a stress free zone, floating in my ignorant bliss.

While my carefree demeanor is a huge plus, the biggest positive of procrastination by far is the sleep. I never seem to get a better night's sleep than when I have something to do, or something due, the very next day. Despite what you might think, my restful nights always begin with a relatively productive thought. I know I have a big assignment to do, but can I really give something my "best go" if I am tired? Of course not! So, before you know it I am engaged in a deep slumber, filled with dreams and wonder.

As I told you, my memories of an assignment return to me the day before the deadline. So, my sleep is purely meant to give me the energy to do my best work. In order to leave myself enough time to finish the project, I set alarms.

This system, no matter how hard I try to convince myself, is not foolproof. It turns out that as easily as you can set an alarm, you can just as easily turn that alarm right back off and maybe even throw that ringing phone across the room.

Because procrastination has been a life-long affliction, I have found a way around this. One alarm is easily switched off, but ten, back to back, is a different story. Eventually the struggle of reaching for that phone will wake you right up.

Now, you might be worried, thinking, "How can she finish a project in the early hours of the morning, and get a good grade?" Fear not because only the best work is produced at two o'clock in the morning. As the clock strikes two, the creative juices start flowing. Ideas fill your brain, designs create themselves and your goals are set. The assignment really writes itself. In my opinion all of my best work has been made with only minutes to spare.

After hearing all of this, the word "lazy" is probably shooting through your mind. You're probably convinced that I am just

unmotivated and irresponsible. I would venture to say that nothing is further from the truth. When you have five hours to write a six-page paper, you kick into overdrive. You lock into a focus so intense that nothing can get in your way. Motivation and dedication do not fully cover the level of work that must be done to complete the task.

Procrastination is an equal opportunity attacker. Not only are assignments forgotten, but everyday requests or favors are iffy at best. Something as simple as, "Can you send me the notes," can be a long process. If you ask me while I am engaged in another task, I will undoubtedly say, "Of course, I'll send them as soon as I am done." This never happens. Procrastination steps in, and I suddenly never heard you. I need at least two reminders, or I need the person standing directly in front of me to jumpstart me into action.

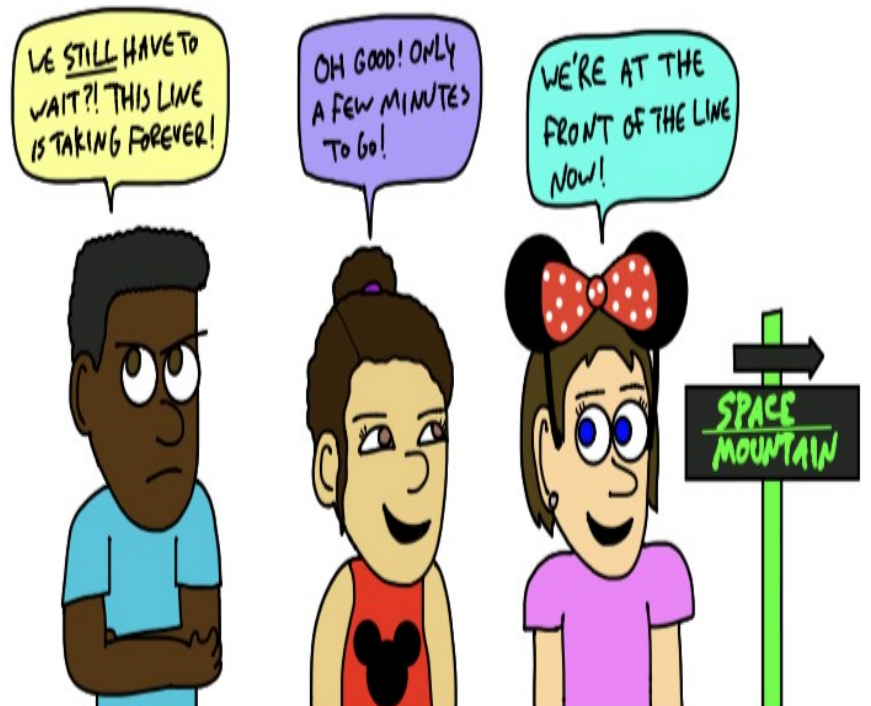
The college application process was no exception. Kellenberg students were given a deadline to submit a list of schools that we were applying to into college placement. My ailment actually changed the words due date into suggested date. So, imagine my surprise when I was called down to answer for my lateness. While my procrastination can be seen as a bad thing in this situation, I saw it as a great motivator. If I do say so myself, I think that those numerous college essays I wrote in one day were the cream of the crop.

All in all, my condition has never failed me. While waiting until the last minute might not be optimal, the pros definitely justify it. Who can say that with trimesters approaching she slept like a baby the night before? Who, but a procrastinator, can say that with a research paper due in a week she had no worries? Because of my experience, I see no reason why everybody shouldn't just procrastinate. Imagine all of the sleep that could be caught up on and the worry that could be saved. But really, I wrote this an hour ago, so what do I know?

"I know I have a big assignment to do, but can I really give something my 'best go' if I am tired? Of course not!"

GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE

In *Grumble, Grumble*, the comic strip for The Phoenix, cartoonist Peter O'Keefe will be depicting the difficulties, inconveniences and pet peeves of daily life.



Grumble, grumble... I should have gotten a FastPass!

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Students Get Involved in the School That Never Sleeps

By Maya Tadross '19

It is 5:15 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon, and sophomore Kerrin O'Grady is sitting with her teammates in the auditorium anxiously awaiting the results of the day's Speech competition. After arriving at school at 8 a.m. and successfully performing her oral interpretation pieces four times, Kerrin lets out a well deserved yet content yawn.

"I just love being involved in my school and meeting new people, as well as doing the things that I love like singing, speaking, teaching and sharing my faith," reflects Kerrin, who is involved in a total of 11 clubs and activities at Kellenberg Memorial.

Kerrin participates in a diverse selection of clubs, including PREP, Gregorian Consortium, XLT Band, Firebird Swing, CROSS, Communications Club, Social Media Club, Drama Club, Speech and Debate, SALT and SMART.

"Because I am in so many activities that do not revolve around the same topic," Kerrin expresses, "I get to meet so many different people with various interests."

Although Kerrin planned to eventually join most of these clubs upon entering the Latin School in seventh grade, she would not have joined Gregorian Consortium or Firebird Swing if it had not been for her good friend Emma Carmody. When they were freshmen, Kerrin accompanied Emma to Mr. Basile's office for her Gregorian Consortium audition.

"Mr. Basile asked me if I was going to audition too, and I hadn't really thought about it before then," Kerrin related. "About a week later once I prepared a song, I went back and auditioned and now I am in the club."

Kerrin joined Firebird Swing in a similar way. The night before the audition, she was unsure whether or not she should try. However, Emma, who was already in Firebird Swing and knew how much Kerrin loved singing, encouraged her to audition.

"Emma came with me to the audition to support me, and now I love being in Firebird Swing!"

According to Kerrin, many of the clubs in which she is involved have a time commitment of only an hour after school once a week plus some work on the weekends. She is most dedicated to the activities with larger time commitments, such as full days on weekends and even school breaks. These are PREP, Communications Club, Speech and Debate and Drama. Spending so much time with her fellow club members, Kerrin has formed some strong friendships over her five years at Kellenberg.

Kerrin concludes, "My favorite thing about all the clubs and activities I do has to be the relationships I make."

Senior Christelle Pascal agrees that clubs "are a great way to make friends." Upon entering Kellenberg as a freshman, Christelle strategically chose to join all the music related clubs and activities due to her passion for singing. "Every activity I do means something to me," reflects Christelle.

Over her four years at Kellenberg, Christelle has performed various roles in Drama productions such as Fannie in Mary Poppins, Sebastian in The Little Mermaid and Elsa in the Sound of Music.



Christelle Pascal '19 performs a solo at the Phoenix Christmas Concert.

"The best thing about all I do at Kellenberg is making a difference in the school community and touching people in any way I can through music."

You can also find Christelle belting out solos as a member of Firebird Swing, Gregorian Consortium and XLT Band. As a member of St. Cecilia's Recording Studio as well, Christelle has recorded two singles this academic school year: "Noel" and "You Say." Christelle's interest in singing expands to public speaking as well. She has been a member of Communications Club since her sophomore year and became a producer of morning and afternoon announcements her junior year. As a dedicated member of Blue and Gold, she has been chosen as a Blue and Gold Narration Leader this year too.

"The best thing about all I do at Kellenberg is making a difference in the school community and touching people in any way I can through music," Christelle

explains with a big smile.

Thunderous applause resounds from homeroom 8D during A.M. Announcements after hearing that their Marianist Mentor Colleen Moulder '19 has led the Girls Varsity Basketball team to yet another victory. A three season athlete and recent winner of the Bernie Ward Commitment Award, Colleen is well known for her commitment to the Girls Varsity Basketball, Lacrosse and Volleyball teams.

"I enjoy the feeling of being on a team, and I love each sport in a different way," Colleen reflects. I am also a very big competitor, so they each give me a great chance to seriously compete."

Every sport Colleen plays practices for two hours six times a week, not in-

cluding the games on weekends. These heavy time constraints have allowed her to form great time management skills, so she is even able to partake in clubs on top of sports.

"All of my coaches and club moderators are very understanding and want us to be able to participate in as many things as possible," explains Colleen, who is also a Eucharistic Minister and member of SALT, Social Media Club, Athletic Retreat Staff, Sacristans, PREP and CROSS.

Through her three sports and various clubs, Colleen has been able to meet and work with a lot of different people inside and outside of the Kellenberg community, which she deeply values.

"I think I have been able to get a lot out of my four years at Kellenberg because I did so much," Colleen reflects. "I do love sports a lot because I probably invest the most time in them, but I absolutely love being a Marianist Mentor because I get to interact with an amazing homeroom and do many different things, like the trip to Philadelphia, that a high school student would not have been able to do."

Senior Kerry Skinner, likewise, has found opportunities at Kellenberg that might not have been discovered elsewhere. Kerry has found a special connection with the people in every club she has joined, and emphasizes that these friends have become part of her extended family. As a member of SPICE, SMART, Blue and Gold, and most importantly to her, Stage Crew, Kerry especially enjoys spending time with her Stage Crew family over long breaks when they build the sets for the Drama productions.

"When I first heard about Stage Crew my freshman year I wasn't interested in it," Kerry admits, "until my friend who was a junior at the time persuaded me to join. I immediately loved being part of this happy family, and today we share so many fun memories and inside jokes."

Kerry has been dedicated to Blue and Gold as a member of the Gold Team since freshman year too. This year she is especially excited to be a leader for Gold Entrance and hopes to inspire the underclassmen to become a part of the Gold family.

While Kerry is hard at work with Stage Crew, senior Tyler Martinus is in the Lab.

"At the recent States Tournament I did Circuit Lab, Chem Lab, Fermi Questions and Experimental Design," recalls Tyler, who has been a dedicated member of the Kellenberg Science Olympiad team since his sophomore year of high school.

Science Olympiad is notorious for its time consuming schedule, and Tyler spends the majority of his days after school and some weekends in the Lab.

"It's demanding, all right!" Tyler admits. "However, I'm still able to participate in a few other clubs I'm really interested in, like Academic Quiz Bowl, Model United Nations, SAINTS, and orchestra."

Kerrin, Christelle, Colleen, Kerry and Tyler may all participate in different clubs and activities, but they all have one important quality in common: their fervent passion for what they have dedicated themselves to.



The ladies of Kellenberg, interested STEM careers, gathered in the Cradle of Aviation to explore various STEM opportunities.

Women in STEM at Cradle of Aviation

By Julia Coben '20

29 sophomore and junior young women accompanied by Mr. Wevers and Mrs. Masiulis traveled on March 11 to the Cradle of Aviation Museum for the unique opportunity to explore a variety of STEM careers with astronaut Nicole Scott and Dr. Sharon DeVivo, president of Vaughn College.

First the students heard from United States astronaut and engineer, Nicole Scott. Scott has taken two trips to the International Space Station in the space shuttles Atlantis and Discovery. She is now part of the Space for Arts Foundation, where she brings space into art-work, kids are given the outstanding opportunity to create images that become incorporated into astronauts spaceships.

"My favorite part of the day was the panel discussion," reflected Megan Zabrowski '20. "There we learned about the Ms. Scott on a more personal level and how she truly felt from takeoff to final landing."

The students also met Dr. Sharon DeVivo, the first female president of Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology.

She has been at Vaughn College for 23 years and shared what she has learned from her wide variety of astonishing experiences.

Afterwards, the students went to a Microsoft workshop to learn how to do basic coding by using the application Minecraft.

"I loved hearing about how one of the rockets was built right here on Long Island," recalled Nathalie Justice '20.

"The day was really fun," expressed Ashley Walter '20. "We talked to an astronaut and asked her questions about what it was like in space. We also asked her about the trips she made and how to become an astronaut."

This experience was an outstanding one for all those who attended. The students learned that by the time they will be in the workforce, there will be millions of jobs open in STEM related fields.

In 2016, women made up more than a third of scientists and engineers, an increase of more than 20% since 2007. This rapid increase of women in STEM is perhaps due to its frequent encouragement within our educational systems.

Teachers Share Their Musical Talents

By Alex Wrenn '21 and
Melanie McManus '20

Kellenberg Memorial hosted its annual Music Department Faculty Recital at 4 p.m. on Valentine's Day, February 14 in the auditorium. Over 150 Kellenberg students attended the recital.

Performers included Kellenberg faculty: chorus director Mr. Blanton, band director Mr. Vegas, Latin School band director Mr. Narell and orchestra directors Mrs. Burke and Mr. Collins.

Mr. Narell commented, "As music teachers, we all have a passion for playing and performing and sometimes in the classroom we don't always get to perform the music and genres we love."

Mr. Blanton agreed with Mr. Narell's sentiment, adding that he enjoys playing all kinds of music almost indiscriminately.

A total of 20 faculty members performed, including seven orchestra teachers and faculty. All the band department faculty that performed were Mr. D. Abrams, Mr. J. Abrams, Mr. Klein, Miss Lauda, Mr. Lisi, Mrs. Peltz, Mr. Perillo, Mrs. Shaw and Miss Zepnick. In addition, Mr. Wiggan of the maintenance staff showed off his vocal talent, following the lead of the musicians onstage.

Junior Elizabeth Trick commented on the concert, "Seeing the faculty concert gave me a newfound appreciation for my music classes. The performance showed me the passion that our teachers and other faculty members have for music. It became clear that our teachers hope to pass the same love of music down to their students."

Representing the chorus department faculty were Mrs. Hugelmeyer and Br. Andrew Santoriello, S.M.

Performing on behalf of the orchestra department were Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Chatanow, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Malanowski, Mrs. Shorter, Mrs. McElraevy, and Mrs. DeBellis.

Mr. Narell added, "The faculty concert, which has become an annual event at Kellenberg, is always a great oppor-

tunity for us to share that love with the student body and brings us together with the folks we teach."

The night's program included twelve pieces, including "If We Only Had a Brain" by Harold Arlen, "Let it Be" by Paul McCartney, "Answer Me My Love" by Nat King Cole, "Zueignung" by Richard Strauss, "Someone to Watch Over Me" by George & Ida Gershwin, "Lucevan Le Stella" by Giacomo Puccini, "Fantasia in D Minor" by W.A. Mozart, "Bassoon Quartet in C Major" by Joseph Fiala, "Elegie" by Jules Massenet, "Live and Let Die" by Paul McCartney, "Cajun Chili Peppers" by Doug Beach & George Shutack, and "Africa" by Piach & Porcaro.

Mr. Narell concluded, "It is a great opportunity for us to share our love with our students and for them to see their teachers in a different way. The support and attendance at the concert is a testament to the great love we have for music and the arts here at Kellenberg!"

The Music Department's ability as performers is paralleled only by their abilities as teachers, instructing some extremely accomplished musicians, participating in a variety of prestigious events.

Sophia Markevich has been selected to be a member of the New York State Band Directors Association Honors Band. This band contains 125 members and includes some of the best high school musicians from New York State. Participating as members of the All State groups this year are Angelica Markevich in the orchestra, Benjamin Truncale in the mixed choir, and Youri Kim in the orchestra. Angelica is also a part of the All Eastern Honors Orchestra. All Eastern happens every two years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Finally, Rosie McCumiskey will be performing in the All National Honors Orchestra.

Mr. Vegas is very excited about the large number of Kellenberg students attending such elite events this year.

Model UN Places at Hofstra Tournament

By Caroline Dolan '20

Kellenberg's Model UN team competed at the three-day Hofstra Model United Nations Conference event from March 1 to 3.

Edward Goodyear won the Best Delegate title for the Economic Finance Committee. Sarah Goez, Charles Mandracchia, Benjamin Truncale and Ethan Brown won honorable mentions in their committee categories.

Kellenberg has been attending the Hofstra Model UN Conference since its start in 2012. The event started by introducing the college students that would be running the conference. The conference was split into four committees: SPECPOL, SOCHUM, ECOFIN and the Agricultural Organization.

SPECPOL mainly focuses on decolonization disputes. It also covers outer space issues such as the first Mars colony sponsored by SpaceX. ECOFIN is about economic, historical and future crisis. Issues such as the global oil market and

foreign aid in a mass industrial and technological era were the main topics. SOCHUM is centered around social and humanitarian issues. The rights of children, women and refugees were addressed.

The SOCHUM committee chairman Daniela Guido expressed, "In many countries in the Middle East as well as Africa, most children live in poverty and don't have certain basic freedoms, such as the right to an education. Additionally, the number of refugees from the ongoing refugee crisis increased greatly, and it is causing an issue as to where to place them, especially in places that might experience different natural disasters."

On March 2, the conference was delayed due to the snow, but Kellenberg pulled through. The conference ended, on Sunday, with the closing ceremony to present the awards to the most effective delegates.

Junior Sarah Goez described her Model UN experience saying, "I liked the idea of getting together with other people to try and solve the world's problems."

Blue and Gold Hosts Tryouts

By Isabella Nieminen '21

The Blue and Gold season officially began on Monday, February 25 in the gymnasium with an informational meeting for prospective Blue and Gold participants.

Moderators Mrs. Perrone and Mrs. Meisse introduced the competing themes: Gold's "Saving Goldenland, and the Blue's tribute to their favorite musicians in "BTV Records."

Blue leaders Madison Miller and Jaclynn Moschetta and Gold Leaders Erin McCloot and Dominique Basso were present as well.

For the next three days, the girls would be showcasing their talents in front of the team leaders and captains, who had been hard at work preparing for the 2019 Blue and Gold Season since December.

Junior Isabella Morales, who has participated in Blue and Gold since sixth

grade, laced up her tap shoes as she explained each day of the audition process: "The first day, we learned the combination. The next day, we learned the kickline and practiced our splits. This was all in preparation for the third day, which is the day that we are judged."

On that third day, each girl received an audition form, checked off which category of dance they would be auditioning for, and showed off in front of the leaders.

On Friday, March 1, the long-awaited list was posted, and the girls discovered what category they were placed on. Senior Marina D'Atri of Blue Narration congratulates the new members for all of their hard work at tryouts and promises that they are in for the time of their life: "Blue and Gold is an amazing opportunity no matter what group you are in; I made my best memories here."

The teams will be performing at Hofstra on Saturday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Sophomore Veronica Tadross Finishes in Top 8 at Harvard University National JV Debate

By Mary O'Connor '21

During the weekend of February 16, sophomore Veronica Tadross competed in the 45th Annual Harvard National Forensics Competition in the JV Lincoln-Douglas debate category. The competition took place in Boston at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and Harvard University.

Veronica made it to the quarterfinals, stating fact after fact, rebutting arguments, reasoning with statements and winning against her opponents. She made it through the preliminary rounds with a 5-1 record. Out of 237 total competitors, Veronica qualified for elimination rounds, along with only 63 of the top scoring competitors in the preliminaries, making the fight to place and win even fiercer. Nonetheless, Veronica won three of the elimination rounds and finished in the top

eight.

To get to such an impressive spot on the score board was no easy task, and Veronica had to study the perplexing topic: "the United States ought not to provide military aid to authoritarian regimes." Veronica had to prepare both to argue for this topic and to argue against it, meaning that she had to find and examine quantitative material to support both sides.

This competition was open to any high school debate student across the nation, making it a "National Circuit Tournament," which means that Veronica competed against some of the best debaters in the country, including competitors from South Carolina, Texas, Utah, New York, Florida and more.

"I prepared by spending time writing my cases and doing a lot of research on the topic," explained Veronica. She added

that she attended a local tournament at the Varsity level to get more experience before the Harvard competition. Additionally, Veronica attended a competitive debate camp last summer at the Victory Briefs Institute, where she gained many skills that she applied at this tournament and the others leading up to it.

"My biggest challenge at this national tournament was losing my first preliminary round," Veronica reflected. She admitted that this initial loss actually helped her in the end, allowing her to find responses to the points her opponent made that she had not otherwise thought of, and rise to the top. Her winning streak began soon afterward.

Kellenberg is very proud to have Veronica as such a strong debater, and looks forward to the next two years with her on debate.



Veronica Tadross' 21 poses with newly earned trophy.

Super Hero Blockbuster Viewed From All Angles

By Ruby Pasternack '22

On March 1, more than 40 students attended Kellenberg's first ever interdisciplinary movie night. A viewing of Marvel film *Iron Man* was followed by a discussion led by Mrs. Frem, Mrs. York, Mrs. Riiska, Mrs. Strauss and Mrs. Marconi.

The 45-minute in-depth discussion of the respective disciplines shown in *Iron Man* covered subjects including business ethics, STEM, weapons development and psychology, bringing both fun and factual themes to the evening.

Iron Man follows main character Tony Stark, a billionaire inventor who makes powerful firearms. While testing these weapons overseas, he is kidnapped by terrorists that want him to construct a devastating weapon for them. To fight against the terrorists and restore peace, Tony Stark creates the persona and metal armor of Iron Man.

When planning this year's event, Mrs. Strauss was very interested in finding new ways to spark discussion. A movie night least year featuring *Hidden Figures* was such a big success they decided to add to it this year by expanding the aspects covered and adding the post-viewing discussion.

The idea to show *Iron Man* surfaced in a surprising way. Mrs. Strauss had previously assigned her students a project to compare the change or conversion a

movie character goes through that of St. Peter's conversion in the Bible. One of the students used *Iron Man*, which intrigued Mrs. Strauss and led her to introduce it as a contender for this year's movie night.

The movie seemed perfect because of its correlation to scripture and the myriad other topics present to discuss. The interdisciplinary aspect to the event was based on Mrs. Strauss' observations of college discussion groups.

She explained, "The new trend in colleges is a focus on collaboration between faculty and students. This movie night allows us to imitate that trend and introduce students to the experience of collaboration."

Because the discussion was open and allowed students to reflect and ask questions, the movie night was successful in its attempt to create a comfortable and intellectually stimulating environment that was inclusive to everyone interested in the fields that were talked about. The attendees also enjoyed the casual setting that included pizza and beverages.

The four teachers are already making plans for next year's interdisciplinary movie night, with goals to expand into different students' interests and exploring those disciplines. Mrs. Strauss hinted about the choice, "we're currently looking into next year's movie... 'an adventure 65 million years in the making.'"



In the comfort of the Emmanuel Lounge Kellenberg students got to watch and Analyze a Hollywood hit at interdisciplinary movie night.

AQB Regional Tournament Concludes Season

By Aidan York '20

On Wednesday, March 13, the Academic Quiz Bowl team completed their regular Regional Quiz Bowl league season, commonly called "RQB." The league competitions take place one Wednesday per month, from November to March, and see a varsity team and a junior varsity team travel to Valley Stream South High School to compete against a single regional opponent per match. The Regional Quiz Bowl league, mainly taking place in the quiz bowl off season from late November to mid-March, follows rules which are different than the rules of normal Saturday invitational competitions, differentiating it from regular quiz bowl.

The season began on November 14, when both JV and Varsity teams won defining victories over Baldwin High School, with the varsity team notably earning a near 250 point victory, and the junior varsity team winning with a comfortable 135 point lead. The varsity team's winning streak was cut short, however, with a loss to Great Neck North, a school outside of Kellenberg's regular region of competition, in the December match up, losing by only 21 points. The junior varsity team continued their winning streak, defeating the Great Neck North team by 120 points.

Tyler Martinus, a senior member of the varsity team, was disappointed at the loss to Great Neck North, but reflected on it positively, noting, "We slipped up against a skilled team, but I think in the end it helped motivate us for the three games which we had yet to play. Especially since the loss was so close, we were more determined than ever not to let it happen again."

Tyler's motivation extended to his teammates, junior captain Aidan York, and seniors Natalie Jean-Michel and Kate Long. Their clear determination to win was seen in their next match, this time against East Rockaway in January. The varsity team took a resounding win, defeating the opposing team by nearly 200 points. The JV team again could not be caught, winning with a final score of 218-55.

In order to make the competitive League Championships in April, a team must either go 4-1 or 5-0. This meant that

the showdown between the Kellenberg varsity team and South Side High School, would be a true contest, as both teams were 2-1 at the time, and would need the win to qualify for the finals. The heat of the battle clashed with the fridity of the February air, but in the end, Kellenberg's varsity team again emerged victorious, with the score of the game ending in 168-110. Kellenberg's junior varsity team maintained its undefeated status, handily beating South Side's team by nearly 140 points.

The varsity team's pride in this victory was immense, as they had defeated the strongest competition in their regular region, making their path to the finals much clearer. Tyler was again happy with his team's performance, noting, "Our victory over South Side was reassuring, and it proved to us once again that we still had what it takes to be competitive in finals."

The final obstacle for both teams was the March match up against Valley Stream South High School. The team's victories ended the regular regional season, giving the varsity team a 4-1 record and the junior varsity team a 5-0 record. Both teams have qualified for League Championships, to be held at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School, on April 10. The teams are looking to continue their successful streaks, as last year, the varsity team earned 3rd at finals, and the JV team finished 2nd. In 2017, both teams earned 3rd in their respective leagues.

Junior Robert Tiss, a competitor on the junior varsity team, and a competitor on junior varsity last year, said "These games were a lot of fun and were great practice for the much harder competition looming at finals in April. However, I feel that, given the team's results thus far, we will rise to meet impending challenges."

Robert is one of four members of the junior varsity team which is currently ranked as second on Long Island, in terms of record and point totals. He and his teammates, juniors Anthony Diaz and captain Victor Louie, as well as sophomore Ciara Atkins, have been a powerful force throughout the region, and they are looking to continue their success at the finals in April.

Regional League Finals, as well as remaining invitationals, will offer practice for the High School National Championship Tournament, to be held over Memorial Day weekend.

Varsity Athletes Awarded at Annual Banquet

By Céili Donnelly '20

The Winter Varsity Athletic Banquet took place in the Kellenberg cafeteria on Tuesday, March 5.

According to Kellenberg Athletic Director Mr. Fechtmann, the purpose of the banquet following each athletic season is “to recognize the dedication, commitment, and sacrifice of the varsity athletes of each season.”

The evening began with opening remarks by Mr. Fechtmann, which were followed by school chaplain Fr. Thomas Cardone, S.M., who said a prayer for the athletes as well as Grace before dinner. The attendees were then invited into the gym for a diverse array of delicious food at the buffet.

Athletes who were recognized by their league as “All League Athletes” received a certificate attesting to their accomplishments. As each coach read the names of the athletes on the team, the athletes were recognized in front of everyone by standing in front of their coach. The coach then delivered a speech detailing his or her team’s season and the hard work and selflessness displayed by every single athlete on and off the field. After the teams were acknowledged, the individual awards were given out to three athletes from each team. The three awards were the Bernie Ward Commitment Award, the Most Improved Player Award, and the



Seniors Cassandra McMillan, Brooke Hunstein, and Johnathan Fusaro pose with their MVP awards.

Most Valuable Player Award.

The Bernie Ward Commitment Award is named after former Kellenberg teacher, coach, and athletic director Bernie Ward, who passed away about seven years ago from lung cancer. Mr. Ward had represented the “true essence of commitment,” according to Mr. Fechtmann. Senior Colleen Moulder was the girls varsity basketball team’s Bernie Ward Commitment Award honoree.

“It was more than an honor to receive the award in memory of Bernie Ward,” Colleen reflected, “because after listening to his story it truly inspired me to be a better person and to put my heart into everything I do. I am truly grateful for Coach Kirk for giving that honor and recognizing that I try to bleed blue

and gold.”

The Most Improved Player Award is awarded to the athlete “who displayed the greatest amount of improvement and growth in their skills which contributed to the success of their team.” Senior Olivia Coletta received this award for her improvement throughout her winter track season.

She explained, “It’s a really big honor to receive this award since I worked hard to have a big pr [personal record] in the 55m race this season and also worked with my fellow 4x200m relay runners, Christiana Foster ‘19, Claire O’Regan ‘20, and Camryn Beckford ‘20, as we achieved second place at the Intersectional Championship and broke the Kellenberg record for the 4x200m [relay].”

The Most Valuable Player Award is received by the athlete “whose contribution to the team contributed most towards that team’s success during the winter season.”

Maya Richardson ‘19, who was also the recipient of the CHSAA Sportsmanship Award, said of receiving the Most Valuable Player Award for her contributions to the Girls Varsity Winter Track team, “I feel very honored to receive this award and it’s a great way to end my last winter season because the award is very special to me.”

Swim and Dive Place 2nd

By Sam O’Donnell ‘20

The Boys Swimming and Diving team placed second in the league finals on February 10, fighting hard for their 7-1 record.

Out of 14 very competitive teams in the ‘A’ champs, the boys Swimming and Diving team finished 9th overall.

The team beat out skillful teams such as Saint Dominic’s, Saint Mary’s and Saint John the Baptist.

Matthew Muller ‘21 stated, “It was great to see everyone on the swim team like they never had before. Having broken record after record, the team truly had their eye on the prize. While we may not have gotten first, we made a name for ourselves for the years to come. This will be an experience that we will never forget.”

In the B final the 200 medley relay placed first. The four swimmers that competed in the event were backstrokers Eric Shopis and Bryon Philip, butterflyer Ryan Conners, and freestyler Zachary Baldassare. The boys finished 9th overall.

Andrew Nazareno placed 5th in the B final heat of 500 meter freestyle, and 13th overall in this event, setting the tone for the rest of the team to follow him in his success.

Zachary Baldassare followed Nazareno’s lead and finished 7th in the C final heat of 100 meter freestyle, 23rd overall in that event. Ryan Conners competed in the 100 meter butterfly stroke B final heat, finishing in an impressive 6th place, 14th overall, and just seconds away from making states. In addition, Conners swam in the C final heat, 4th in his heat and 20th overall.

Eric Shopis swam in the C final heat of 100 meter freestyle, placing 4th in his heat, 20th overall. Shopis also competed in the B final heat of 100 meter backstroke, coming 8th in the heat, 16th overall. Vincent Franco swam in the C final heat of 500 meters freestyle, finishing in 7th place and 23rd overall.

The team’s finals was the A final heat of 400 freestyle race of Andrew Nazareno, Ryan Conners, Zachary Baldassare, and Eric Shopis, who finished in an impressive 7th place overall.

Girls Track 4x200, 4x800 Second Place at USATF Championships

By Sam Schuler ‘19

Whether they were at The Armory or Ocean Breeze the Lady Firebird Winter Track and Field team kept passing the baton from one victory to the next.

The NSCHSAA League Champs at Saint Anthony’s High School in Huntington, New York ended with a fourth place finish for the Lady Firebirds. Notable races were turned in by Maya Richardson ‘19 who placed first in the 600 meter finishing at 1:41.18 while also taking a second place finish in the 1500 meter (4:54.30). Madison Scott ‘21 placed fourth in the 300 meter with a time of 43.60. Captain Madeline Lay ‘19 placed fourth in the 1000 meter with a time of 3:14.42.

Starting out the month of February for the Track and Field girls was the CHSAA Intersectional Championships which took place on February 6 at the Ocean Breeze Complex. Impressive times were turned in by Senior Maureen Lewin in the Girls 1000 meter where she took first place with a time of 2:57.77. Richardson took second in the Girls 600 meter coming in at 1:38.03. In the 3000 meter fellow senior Brianna Lausev took second overall with a time of 10:29.97. Junior Camryn Beckford secured third place in the 300 meter with a time of 41:68. Sophomore Margaret McLoughlin

placed third in the 1500 meter coming in at 4:58.71. Senior Olivia Coletta placed fifth in 55 meter with a final time of 7.63. Finally, Senior Samantha Bendig placed fourth in Shot Put. All of these races combined for a wonderful finish for the Lady Firebirds.

During the weekend of February 22 to the 24 the Varsity Girls Track and Field team competed in the USATF Indoor Track and Field Championships at Ocean Breeze in Staten Island. The 4x200 meter relay team of Beckford, Coletta, senior Chrissy Foster and junior Claire O’Regan combined their forces to secure a second place finish in this competitive race coming in at 1:43.614. The momentum was maintained in the 4x800 meter relays where the powerful team Lay, McLoughlin, Lewin and Richardson raced to a second place finish with a time of 9:26.75.

Continuing on into the month of March the Lady Firebirds competed in the NYSPHSAA New York State Championship, again at Ocean Breeze in Staten Island. Here the girls battled against the best in the state of New York and demonstrated the hard work they have been putting in all season. Lewin had a fantastic race in the 1000 meter securing a fifth place finish with a time of 2:53.93. Richardson ran the 600 meter and finished in twentieth place with a time of 1:39.56. Lausev

raced the 3000 meter coming in twenty first place in the state with a time of 10:43.05. Lastly, Beckford ran the 300 meter coming in at 42.92 and finishing twenty sixth in the state.

Finally, to end the Winter Track and Field season the girls participated in the New Balance Nationals Indoor Meet at the Armory Track and Field Center in New York, NY. For the Championship 800 meter Race Maureen Lewin took thirty second place coming in with a time of 2:16.81, against the most competitive competition there is. The Championship Girls SMR Relay Team of Foster, Lewin, Coletta and Beckford placed eighteenth coming in at a time of 4:09.50.

The Lady Firebirds have spent the last five months working diligently and all those miles they have put in through the frigid winter has proved worth it. They end the winter season on a high note with their accomplishments pushing them into the spring with a gale of motivation.

“Going through my last winter season of track has been challenging and emotional, it doesn’t really hit you that it’s over until it’s over,” reflected Captain Chrissy Foster. “But I still have the spring season to look forward to so it doesn’t feel like a total end.”



Sprinter Lauren Bernic ‘19 takes the baton from a teammate.

Senior Baseball Phenom Jason Diaz Featured by *Newsday*

By Angelo Tsassis '22

On Tuesday, March 19, one of New York's premier newspapers, *Newsday*, brought its "A Day in the Life of..." series to feature senior Jason Diaz.

Jason Diaz, a senior at Kellenberg, is an exceptional baseball player and even better person. Jason is a phenomenal talent on the mound and boasts a fastball that tops out at 94 mph, an absolute rarity for an 18 year old.

For the series, *Newsday* filmed Jason leaving his home, going to school, and interacting with his peers. They followed him to homeroom and in various classes throughout the day.

According to Gregg Sarra, *Newsday's* High School Sports Editor, the mission of "A Day in the Life" is to try to get a good sense of Jason's daily life, and to try to find out what kind of impact he has on Kellenberg, and the impact Kellenberg has on him. *Newsday* also wanted to find out how Jason mentally prepares for practices and games at the end of his day.

Jason says, "I wanted to show all the viewers that there is no school like Kellenberg, with the academics, athletics, and student life."

Jason is not defined as just a baseball player, nor does he want to be. He is known to all his peers as a role model, and a gifted and good-hearted Christian.

The University of Miami-bound senior said of his experience with *Newsday*, "Well, I try my best to be someone my family and friends can be proud of. And I also want to be great at what I do. I've had a great experience at Kellenberg. I hope that I've contributed here as much as I've gained. I think it's good that *Newsday* wants to highlight kids like that."

It's no wonder *Newsday* chose to include Jason in its series, and based on the impact Jason has made on his fellow students, teachers and coaches, they couldn't have picked anyone better.

The Athletic Director at Kellenberg Memorial, Mr. Fechtmann, gushed about Jason when asked what kind of person he is. He says, "There is just a handful of people that can throw a baseball 90 mph. Jason is blessed, but you would never know that from talking to him. Very humble young man."

Jason also works for his parents' restaurant, and it is a true talent that he is able to balance it all.

Mr. Fechtmann also pointed out that *Newsday's* feature is a great opportunity for Kellenberg to showcase why it is such a great school, as well as why Jason is such an exemplary person.

His baseball coach, Mr. Alfalla, describes Jason as a "genuinely beautiful person, a real role model." Coach continued, "He embodies everything that our Catholic school preaches. He reaches out and mentors teammates and younger players in their development. He really is a special kid. Oh, and he's a great baseball player."

When Jason was a freshman, he was



Senior Jason Diaz was on the mic and on the camera throughout the day as a student featured by *Newsday* "Day in the Life"

playing on the JVA baseball team for Kellenberg. He was on the mound one game when his teammates noticed people sitting in the stands holding radar guns, clocking the speeds of Jason's pitches. Their first thought was that they were college coaches, but as it turns out, to their amazement, the people in the stands

were actually pro scouts for MLB teams.

In November of 2018, Jason signed a letter of intent to play ball at the University of Miami, a top NCAA D1 baseball school. He is also being looked at by MLB pro scouts, and there is a real possibility he could be drafted into the MLB as early as June of this year.

Varsity Dance Team Earns First Ever Bid to National Tournament

By Theresa Fox '19

In August 2018 the Kellenberg Memorial Girls Varsity Dance team received their bid to Dance Alliance High School Nationals. The bid came after the conclusion of the National Dance Alliance Camp. This is the first year that the Kellenberg Varsity Dance team has ever attended this national tournament.

Over the course of the winter season, the dance team worked on their routines for Jazz, Hip Hop, Pom and Team categories. The team also performed at the Winter Pep Rally and at halftime during Boys Varsity Basketball home games.

Throughout the season, the team competed in three Scholastic Kickline competitions. All competitions were held at Nassau Community College in Garden City. On Sunday, December 9, the team performed their Hip Hop, Jazz, Team and Pom routines. They placed second in Hip Hop and Pom, and third place in Team.

On Sunday, January 6, 2019, the team rang in the new year by placing in the top three in Hip Hop, Pom and Team categories. The team then came back for the final scholastic competition on Sunday, February 3. Here the team again placed in the top three in Hip Hop Team and Pom categories.

As the scholastic competition season came to a close, the team prepared to



Varsity Dance team shows of its second place Hip Hop award in the sunny palm trees of Florida.

leave for Nationals. On Wednesday, February 6, the Varsity Dance team, Varsity and JV Cheer teams and the JV Dance team all came together before leaving for Nationals. The Varsity Dance team performed all four of their routines for members of their friends and family to enjoy.

On Thursday, February 21 the team

arrived in Orlando, Florida and later traveled to Universal Studios, where they checked into the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. For the remainder of the day, the team worked on perfecting their routines for the upcoming competition.

The NDA High School National competition was held at the Hard Rock

Hotel in Universal. The competition began on Friday, February 22, and ended on Sunday, February 24. This competition consisted of over 140 different teams from all over the country. On Friday, at 10:26 a.m., the Kellenberg Varsity Dance team took the stage and performed their Team routine. The team then came back later that day at 12:23 p.m. for their Pom performance. That evening, the girls rejoiced as learned they would be competing in the Hip Hop finals Sunday morning.

On Saturday, February 23, the girls came back to the stage with their Jazz performance. For the rest of the day, the team worked hard to perfect their Hip Hop routine for the following day.

On Sunday, February 24, the Varsity Dance team danced in their final competition for the 2018-2019 school year. The girls took the stage early to perform their Hip Hop routine at 8:48 a.m. for the finals. Overall, the girls came in 18th in the Nation for their Hip Hop performance.

"This experience helped me grow tremendously," commented senior Varsity Dancer Amanda Pugliese. "Thanks to my coaches and teammates, who are constantly motivating me to be better and stronger than the day before. They have taught me to always rise up for my team."

KMHS Sports

Brown, Zenny Set Track Records

By Sarah Narcisse '19

Kellenberg Memorial High School's Boys Track team has had a phenomenal season led by moderators Mr. Estrella and Mr. Capozzoli, as well as team captain Thomas Hopkins.

Senior Erik Brown has had an amazing indoor season, clearly dominating the track in every heat he appears in. Erik usually competes as a long distance runner, running heats spanning from 300 to 800 meters. Eric shaved a whopping 17 seconds off of his time in

the 600 meters, lost four seconds in the 800 and ditched two valuable seconds in the 300, while breaking three Kellenberg school records in the 500, 600 and 800 meter heats with the respective times of 1:05.67, 1:20.29, and 1:55.33.

Eric placed third in the 600 meter at the State Championship on December 27, breaking the school record in the event and finishing in seventh place overall nationally. He won third place in the 500 meter race at the Armory Coaches Hall of Fame Meet on December 16, breaking the previous school record in the event. He broke another school record for the 800 meter at the New Balance Nationals. Eric has been classified All State, All Catholic State, and All League.

Brown shared, "It honestly feels really interesting being seventh in the country. You feel really good for a couple of hours, maybe even a couple of days, but eventually that feeling begins to wear off, and you become just as driven as you were before. There are still people ahead of you, and you're already so close, so you feel all the more motivated to go for an even higher rank. Breaking three school records also felt very good. It's nice to know that you've left some sort of mark on where you've been." In this indoor season, Fredrick Zenny '19 has also done extremely well, sprinting in 100 to 400 meter races. Fredrick has also been named to All League and All Catholic State through teams.

Fredrick competed in the Junior Olympics, before beginning the Kellenberg track season. He became a Junior Olympian after becoming one of the top three high school runners in the 400

meters in the Northeast. He soon went to North Carolina to run against tough competition from around the nation. Zenny stated, "Being a Junior Olympian exposed me to an environment where I became mentally stronger. My team honestly drives me more than they would think. As a senior I want to set an example for the younger kids on what hard work and discipline look like. I want them to see how nothing valuable comes without will and proper preparation. Track first taught me this lesson when I first started running sophomore year, and this continued determination is important for younger students to see."

Senior Christopher Clark and junior Bosuet Jules are other great sprinters this season, running the 100 to 400 meters. This season Chris earned the classification as All League, along with his team members, senior Daniel Cardito and juniors Jordan DeLucia and Bo Jules, in the 4x2 relay. Chris Clark shared, "This season has been one of the best seasons of track that the team and I have ever run. Multiple people broke personal records, and we even had Erik Brown

break the school record.

Another 4x4 relay included seniors Thomas Hopkins, Fredrick Zenny, Erik Brown, as well as junior Kevin Marroquin. The boys earned the titles of All Catholic State and All League.

In shotput, senior Elias Baltas, sophomore league champion Christian De Risi, and freshman Rino Monteforte dominate the field, doing well in their separate leagues. In the high jump, senior Alain Telfort won the league championship, earning his team yet another placement.

Eric Brown reflected, "I'm very satisfied with everyone's results and improvements throughout this entire winter season. I think we surpassed many of the expectations others had for us going into it by miles. But honestly I'm more proud of the friendly yet driven atmosphere we've been able to develop this season."

Junior Olympian Frederick Zenny concentrates intensely as he approaches the finish.

Photo courtesy of Ray O'Connor

