

Lane Tech Spirit Week and Homecoming, pgs 8 & 9

Lane named Blue Ribbon school



Blue Ribbon Award signs hang on Addison Street light poles.

By Diana Castro

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, will recognize Lane as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School in Washington, D.C. this month. Lane is one of eight schools in the state to win the award.

The National Blue Ribbon Program recognizes great schools nationwide. This year, 269 schools will receive the award. Most of the schools awarded this year were elementary schools.

"The Blue Ribbon Award is next to impossible for a school to win," said Head Principal Dr. Dignam. "Almost no one is making AYP [adequate yearly progress] anymore because the criteria is so difficult."

Dignam says that schools are "almost invited to apply" because the program selects winning schools according to their growth, number of students with free or reduced lunch, and the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state expectations. Special needs students must also meet the criteria.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program looks at the percentages of students graduating, the percentage of student taking A.P. courses, and the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards, using criteria like the ACT scores. Schools that demonstrate AYP are chosen from each state. The program has been restructured to be in line with No Child Left Behind, strongly emphasizing state assessment data and requiring schools to demonstrate high academic success.

Lane and Jones College Prep are the only CPS schools to receive the Blue Ribbon Award for 2012. Lane plans to celebrate the award with an assembly for the students and community on Nov. 30.

"We have the full offering [at Lane]," Dignam said. "We need to acknowledge our students. I don't think [Lane] is student centered enough."

The school will invite local and state officials to celebrate the award with a ceremony in the auditorium. Dignam hopes to have student speeches and performances from

clubs and the music department at the ceremony.

"Whoever comes here should say 'Wow, this is a pretty cool school. There is nothing else like [Lane],' " Dignam said.

This is the first time Lane has won the Blue Ribbon Award in the program's 30-year history. Dignam, a Lane alum and former teacher at Lane, said that he wished the school was this good when he was a student.

"It's a better school now than it was then, and it was a great school then," Dignam said.

Dignam and English teacher Mr. Johnson, who was randomly selected from a list of teacher applicants to accompany Dignam, will represent Lane at the National Blue Ribbon School award ceremony in Washington, DC, on Nov. 12-13.

Lane will receive an engraved plaque and program flag with the official seal, which signifies its status and the year of the award. Blue Ribbon banners have already been put up along the lamp posts along Addison and Western.

Technology upgrades added to classrooms over summer

By Kevin Morales

With students gone on break over the summer, Lane's hallways were full of old desks, chairs, and dumpsters full of debris.

In early August, a major remodeling project kicked off in order to incorporate modern learning environments at Lane. This new "wing," as it has been referred to, would house new classrooms and labs featuring state of the art technology.

Recently appointed assistant principal Mr. Ara was put in charge by Dr. Dignam to oversee the renovations. A total of eight rooms were either completely remodeled or modified into new learning environments. Several of the rooms were old shop rooms that had not been in use for a while.

"We wanted to make a modern wing of Lane Tech. Everything in there is new: new paints, new lights, new floors, new computers, etc. Everything that was in there before went out," Ara said.

The Lane Tech Century Foundation, the Alumni Association, and PTSO all have assisted in covering the cost of the massive project.

Four of the rooms have been solely dedicated to Lane's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program. These rooms are 122, 124, 128, and 232. In order to physically connect the rooms, they all share a similar color scheme.

Room 122 will serve as a classroom with a SMART board and workstations for students.

Room 232 which was used as a multi-purpose room has been converted into an Apple lab featuring Mac products.

The most noticeable of these changes is in 128. The previous Student Council room has now been converted into an Aquaponics lab. Aquaponics is a self-sustaining environment by means of fish and vegetation depending off of each other.

Much of the equipment used to make the Aquaponics lab possible was custom made for Lane, adding to the uniqueness of the department. The lab will have five stations containing tilapia fish, which will provide recycled water to a large variety of vegetation.

The columns in the room are also going to be utilized as "living walls." Similar to a totem pole, the columns are to be covered with a variety of plants growing up and around them.

As students pass by in the hallway, they will be able to look through newly installed windows to see what is going on inside the Aquaponics lab.

Ara said it is possible that food grown in the Aquaponics stations could be sold to restaurants or even at a farmer's market at Lane.

The room next door, 124, is also a classroom with study stations for the Aquaponics students. Computers have been set up in the upper loft so students can log on and view the Aquaponics tanks via web cams if they are not directly in the lab.

In past years, Lane had promoted STEM through programs such as GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math, and Science) or other related electives. However, Ms. Lain, the STEM program coordinator and LTAC coordinator, explained there was more need for students in those subjects.



The new Aquaponics lab sits in the old Student Council office.

"Those are areas where there's a lot of need for jobs and there's a push for students to get a better background in those subjects. Now we're taking it up to the next level with this STEM wing," Lain said.

Lane administrators are excited about the upcoming program which will be available to all grade levels.

"No other (CPS) school has (STEM)," Ara said. "We're going to be one of the first schools to offer this program."

According to Ara, Loyola University is currently building its STEM program, but Lane can expect to have its program fully up and running before Loyola's is complete.

The remodeling project didn't stop with the STEM rooms though.

Rooms such as the old Budget and Admissions offices have all been converted into classrooms. These departments along with the programming office, Student Council and Academic Decathlon have been moved to room 118. The room previously served as a PE gym. The room was gutted, and a new floor and separate offices were built to house the different departments.

The Discipline Office which was located in room 210 has been relocated to room 213. Its former base of operations has also been converted into a new classroom for students.

The old auto shop has undergone remodeling as well, converted into a "suite" for Mr. Sweet. He now teaches his guitar classes and jazz band sessions there.

The administration is looking forward to seeing how these updates will catch Lane up to other schools in terms of technology.



Room 122 features one of the new SMART boards installed in several Lane classrooms this year.

Lane grad publishes children's book about gender roles

By Diana Castro

When Niki Bhatia's youngest son asked for a stroller for his Dora doll, she bought it for him.

Bhatia, a Lane grad and editor-in-chief of the Warrior in 1986, wrote *Pink is Just a Color and So is Blue* after her youngest son asked for "girl toys" at the age of 3. The book, which was published Oct. 15, is about looking past gender specific colors and toys and not perpetuating old gender roles in society.

"What is it about our society that we have this need to put everything in nice little boxes?" she said. "Why do we have a need to label and categorize everything? Why can't we just let our kids be kids. Isn't our ultimate

goal as parents to assure that our children grow up to be self confident, happy, secure, and productive men and women?"

The story is about a little boy who loves the color pink. The boy is not very athletic, and prefers singing and dancing over sports. His best friend is tough, athletic and loves dinosaurs and tools. The message about toys and colors not defining children is conveyed in rhymes throughout the book.

While in pre-school, Bhatia's son wanted My Little Pony and Littlest Pet Shop toys, which are marketed towards young girls. After hearing her older son telling her younger son that he was "like a girl" because he liked the color pink, she knew she had to step in.

"After hearing him taunt his brother, I had to have a serious talk with him. In my mind, teasing like this is what leads to bullying later," Bhatia said.

She explained to her older son that they were just toys and pink was just a color, just like red and blue.

"I told him how he also liked the color pink when he was little. I needed him to understand that toys and colors did not define who children are," she said. "Colors were just colors, and toys were just a way for young children to learn about

the bigger world around them."

But Bhatia's son was not the only one to disapprove of her youngest son's toy choices. She says that her husband also disapproved of toys she would buy her sons.

"When my older son was little, I bought a kitchen set for him to play with," she said. "[My husband] couldn't understand why I would buy such a toy for our son. I had to remind him that he was a great cook himself."

Bhatia says that when her boys were little, her husband would help change her sons' diapers, bathe, and feed them, which made him "a greater man."

"Why should the play kitchen be considered a 'girly' toy?" Bhatia said. "Aren't most chefs men? Don't we want our boys to be nurturing

dads and husbands? So what is the big deal with little boys wanting dolls and strollers? Why are all toys for little girls aimed at making them domestic divas or princesses in the land of all things pretty and pink?"

Bhatia says that growing up, she would help her dad around the house with things like mowing the lawn and painting, and she was very athletic. Today, she can fix her own things, like the chain link in a toilet tank.

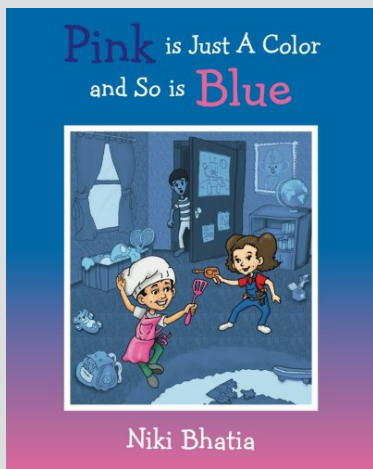
At the end of the book, there are interesting facts about fashion ideals, gender roles, social norms, and a list of activities for parents and teachers.

"In the early 1900s fashion magazines promoted the color pink as being appropriate for men," she said. "Being a shade of red, as it is, it was considered strong and masculine. Blue on the other hand, was cool and dainty,

and as such was a great color for women."

Bhatia says that middle school is too late to start teaching anti-bullying and anti-teasing education to children.

"[Kids] have already built a sense of what is right and wrong by the time they are about 10," she said. "Teaching kids to be accepting and open minded should begin when they are 3, 4 and 5 not 10, 11, 12."



The cover of Bhatia's book.

"Why should the play kitchen be considered a 'girly' toy? Aren't most chefs men? Don't we want our boys to be nurturing dads and husbands?"
--Niki Bhatia

No heels allowed in gym at Homecoming Dance

By Aubrey Caraballo

Dr. Dignam made an announcement over the intercom on Oct. 18 during eighth period that had girls throughout the school gasping.

Dress shoes were not allowed to be worn during the Homecoming Dance so that the new gym floor would not be damaged. (See story below). Soft-soled shoes or socks were the alternatives.

With the short notice, students who already picked out Homecoming outfits had to think of last minutes renovations.

"It was unfair for all the girls that bought shoes they could not wear," said Garrett Augustyn, Div. 356.

Exceptions were made to those who wore flats and even wedges.

Allison Magsombol, Div. 362, did not have to change her outfit for Homecoming.

"I bought wedges initially," she said. "They had rubber on the bottom."

Students did not only have to check their coats during the dance, but also their shoes.

"My friend had heels that she was going to put in her locker," Magsombol said. "But they did not even let her do that."

Since girls and boys could not wear dress shoes, students like Augustyn found other ways to be creative.

He and his friend bought two pairs of socks from Spencers. The socks were different colors, so when the two wore one sock from each pair they sported two colorfully mismatched socks.

"Me and my friend agreed that since we'd be wearing socks, we might as well go all out with some crazy socks," he said.

Augustyn was not the only student who wore crazy socks to Homecoming. Some wore neon colored socks and even Christmas ones.

Although gym shoes and socks were substituted for heels, many students found other ways to dress and impress.

Gym 1 floor replaced after water damage

By Aubrey Caraballo

Water leaked through the Gym 1 wall, trailed across the balcony, and onto the gym floor over the summer

Lane does not have a gutter system on the roof of the building so water collected on the roof and eventually found its way inside the building when a heavy storm occurred.

"When it was raining, the water would come down like someone was holding a hose against the wall," Dr. Dignam said.

Dignam called an approved CPS vendor to fix the floor. Unfortunately, Dignam said, the company made the floor look worse than it had before.

"It looked like it had leprosy because there were spots all over it," he said.

The company washed the floor but they did not clean the dirty water before they began to reseal it.

"I called the company and said I was not paying them," Dignam said. "They were hired by CPS and they left a mess."

The Homecoming dance was delayed until after Spirit Week due to the construction in the gym.



A worker refinishes the new floor in Gym One.

"I did not want to schedule a date for it and then have to cancel it," Dignam said.

He decided to shut down the gym during September while it was still warm outside. Reconstruction of the gym began on Sept. 24.

LTAC students go to State in History Fair

By Angela Kuqo

Two LTAC students, Mary Hardy, Div. 750 and Shanon Roberts, Div. 750 saw major success with their entry for the National History Fair. The two 8th graders made it all the way to State, with their 10-minute documentary on Essanay Studios, an early Chicago film studio. The State competition took place in Springfield this May.

"[The documentary] follows chronologically, how Chicago's film industry has been influential to film as an entirety over the course of the early 1900s," Hardy said.

The recognition was hard earned. The project partners put a substantial amount of work into their project, all of which was composed of videos and images they found from primary and secondary sources.



Mary Hardy (left) and Shanon Roberts (right).

"We had to look on lots of different databases to find lots of information about our topic," said Roberts. "We had to write a script and we recorded our voice that would be over the video, and everything was in chronological order."

"It took a total of 6 months with some breaks in between," Hardy said. "Actually making the documentary took about a month."

They received another honor when they were invited to a gala that Essanay Studios held on Oct. 6, where their documentary was shown to the attendees.

"We definitely didn't think we'd make it as far as we did," Hardy said.

Essanay studios is best known for producing a series of Charlie Chaplin films in 1915.

Citibank commercial shot outside main office

By Almasa Pecanin

Lane had another 15 minutes of fame when a Citibank commercial was filmed on the school's lawn on Oct. 9 right after school.

The shooting of the commercial took place outside in front of the main office in between doors A and D.

A woman who was part of the crew would only say that the scene filmed on Lane's lawn was one that involved a father, a son, and their dog.

The commercial is promoting one of their new credit cards and will premiere sometime in December.



Senior T-shirt sparks debate



By Deanna Schnotala

When Diana Moody, Div. 364, had her design chosen for this year's Senior class shirt, she was more than excited. "I was really happy it won. I didn't think it would," she said.

Every year the Student Council holds a contest for incoming seniors to create a design for the senior shirt. Moody's design was completely hand-drawn, consisting of a dream-catcher with "Lane Tech," "Seniors," and "2013" surrounding it. (See above).

Of course, no design will ever be agreed on by everyone. Moody's happiness soon turned to frustration when she learned some classmates were making negative comments about her design.

Some classmates turned to Facebook to express their opinions, and Moody found the comments to be offensive. "It was hurtful," she said. "I thought I had finally made a large contribution to my senior class."

As students were commenting on Moody's design, the design of another classmate was brought up. Mohammad Sunny,

Div. 366, had also submitted a design to the contest. His design had the phrase "Graduate Like A Boss," and the B was spelled with the numbers one and three. Some students liked his design better, and were insisting that it should have won.

"I really didn't mind [losing]," Sunny said. "I lost fair and square after all."

Sunny was aware of the negative comments being made about Moody's design.

"I thought some of them were pretty offensive," he said. "But then again, everyone is entitled to their own opinion."

Some classmates started suggesting that Sunny should sell shirts with his design on them outside of school. He did not see it as such a bad idea.

"I actually needed the money," Sunny said. "I'm trying to start up my own clothing business, so it would have been a great way to start."

Shortly after students made this suggestion, he decided to try it. Creating an event on Facebook to get the word out, Sunny planned on selling shirts to whomever was interested. But before Sunny could start printing the shirts, he was called to the Discipline Office by Mr. Milsap.

"He told me I wasn't allowed to sell them because I was only selling them to Lane students," Sunny said. Milsap also told him that he was not allowed to sell anything with "Lane Tech" on it without permission.

"I didn't think I was doing anything wrong," Sunny said. "I was selling a product, which did not have the school name on it... I didn't see the problem."

Although he found these explanations confusing, Sunny agreed to cancel the Facebook event, saying there was "no point in arguing."

Moody had her own feelings about the Facebook event.

"It was a little insulting," she said. "I'm not saying it's a bad design, at all... But he should have respected that mine won."

With the situation resolved, Moody was happy her design will be the only one being sold on senior shirts.

"I just wish it wouldn't have been such a public thing," she said. "I wish me and [Sunny] could have hashed it out ourselves."

Although Sunny was disappointed he could not sell his own shirts, he is not going to let it bother him.

"You just have to keep moving forward," he said. He is now continuing to work on other designs pertaining to the clothing company he is trying to start.

New restaurants open down road from Lane

By Gabrielle Onyema

There is a new option coming soon for the hungry Lane student.

A new Chipotle Mexican Grill will be opening near Lane in December at 3330 N. Western in Roscoe Village next to the new Meat Heads restaurant. (See below).

"It should be opening sometime in the first week of December," said Tom Stasica, the construction superintendent whose



team of builders is working on the layout of the Chipotle building.

There is no news yet of any student discounts being offered. However, there are other potential benefits from the new eat spot for a select few.

"We look forward to hiring people, even students," said Julia Kim, a recruiter for the new Chipotle who will be keeping an eye out for candidates for employment.

"We look for happy people interested in the culture and food, no previous restaurant work experience needed," Kim said.

By Deanna Schnotala

With the new school year came a new place to eat! Located near Dots and Ultimate Exposure in the Roscoe Village strip mall, Meat Heads has captured the attention of many Lane students.

Instead of the normal McDonalds or Taco Burrito for lunch, students have been heading to Meat Heads for a new experience. With big burgers and even bigger plates of fries, students are not leaving hungry.

After going there for lunch, Ola Wolan, Div. 382, was not disappointed.

"The burgers are definitely quality, and the employees are really friendly," she said.



Meat Heads has also been supportive of Lane football, with a scoreboard on the wall where each win or loss is recorded. The restaurant even stayed open later on game nights so football players could celebrate a win and record the score themselves.

Although it may not be the ideal place for a vegetarian, Meat Heads is only a five-minute walk from Lane, and is getting great reviews from students.

Student turns failed job hunting into self-employing business venture

By Deanna Schnotala

In this economy, finding a job may not be the easiest thing to do. For a teenager with no job experience, companies are not jumping to hire them. After job hunting for months and no luck, one student decided to take matters into her own hands.

Alexandra Villegas, Div. 362, turned to the internet for a job. On Etsy.com, anyone can open a shop and sell either vintage or home-made products, which is exactly what Villegas is doing. On this website, Villegas is selling plush toy owls that she makes herself.

Prior to opening her shop on Etsy.com, Villegas made these stuffed owls as Christmas gifts for friends and family. People soon started telling her to sell them.

"Everybody has been really supportive of it," Villegas said. "My grandma is really proud of me for trying this."

Mayra Veloz, Div. 361, received an owl from Villegas as a Christmas gift. When Villegas told her she was going to start selling them, Veloz was

more than happy for her.

"When [she] handed me the owl, it brought an instant smile to my face," Veloz said. "Her crafting skills are visible through them."

Because Villegas stitches the owls by hand, each takes about five hours to complete. Although making these owls is very time-consuming, Villegas believes her mini-business is not going to drastically interfere with her school work and social life.

"As long as I make money, I don't care," she said. "It's the same thing as actually having a job."

To make a profit, Villegas is selling each owl for \$19.99. While she does have to purchase her own fabric and sewing materials, she thinks she will still make a good profit in the end. For every four months, the website charges 20 cents to keep the shop open, regardless if the shop owner sells anything or not.

"It's beneficial. I only get paid if someone buys something, but I'm not losing money on wasted materials," Villegas said.

At a profit of about \$20 for every five hours she spends on an owl, Villegas technically makes less than minimum wage. But she argues that in her situation, it is not a "big deal."

"It's something I do in my spare time anyways. So even if I wasn't selling them, I'd still be making them," she said. "But now that I'm selling them, I'll be making money."

When it comes to her future, Villegas does not want to pursue anything along the lines of entrepreneurship as a career.

"This is just a pastime," she said.

However, Villegas plans to continue her online business throughout college.

"I'm going to keep doing this as long as I'm making money off of it," she said. "It's a source of income."

While this is not the typical way to make money, Villegas is willing to give it a try. She recently opened her online shop on Etsy, called GiveAHoot2, on Sept. 22. Although she has yet to see if she will benefit from it, she is already thinking about what other things she could sell. If the shop is successful, Villegas said she is open to selling other plush toys that are owl related, but differ from what she is currently selling.

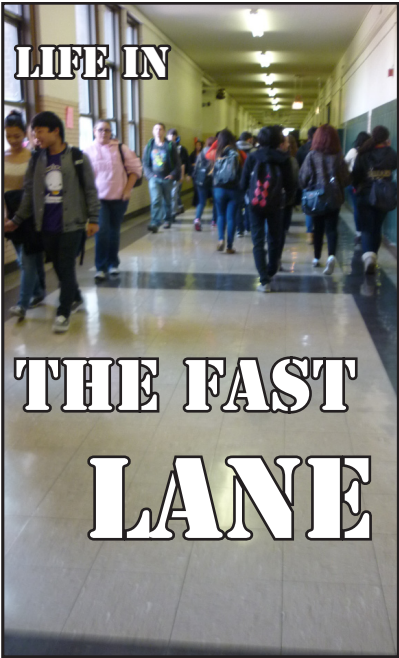
In the meantime, she will continue looking for other jobs that are not on the Internet. But, she hopes that her Etsy shop will succeed, and encour-

ages others to give selling items online a chance.

"If you have a talent and don't know what to do with it, try it," she said. "You're doing what you like to do, and you're making money too."



One style of owl Villegas sells online.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU FOUND OUT YOUR NAME WAS ON THE "AMERICA'S MOST WANTED" LIST?



"I would go to the government and tell them that I am innocent. I would also go to trial to prove I'm not guilty."
-Lincoln Rogers, Div. 853



"I would go to a third world country like India because it is super crowded and it would be really hard to find me."
-Erica Guzman, Div. 559



"I would flee to Mexico, change my name, and work on a farm. I would marry a farm girl, and start a new life."
-Michael Cisneros, Div. 462



"Honestly, I would break down and cry. And then I'd tell my mom."
-Amery Fredricks, Div. 376



"I would call a lawyer, a very good lawyer."
-Taylor Williams, Div. 350

Lane Class of 11' grad John Vietnam passes away

By Maggie Popek

"He was a hell of a person to live up to," said Kevin Volkl, Div. 360, remembering John "Vietnam" Nguyen, Class of 2011. "If I passed away I wouldn't have left behind as much as he did."

On Aug. 30, 2012, Nguyen and his friends were swimming in Lake Mendota near the University of Wisconsin-Madison when his friend got caught in seaweed and Nguyen went in the water to help. Somehow, in the process, he was pulled underwater and did not resurface.

Nguyen was attending UW-Madison on a full tuition scholarship as a First Wave Scholar. This is a multicultural artistic program dedicated to hip-hop arts and theater and is designed to help students grow as artists and succeed as students.

"He was talented and so socially conscious it was ridiculous," said English and Creative Writing teacher Mr. Telles, who had Nguyen as a student both freshman and senior year.

"His character was perfect for the stage and his raps were all about getting people to stand up and be good citizens," he said.

Telles recalls moments such as when Nguyen would perform his work, going from being a silly kid that break-danced in class to a kid in a moment of complete seriousness.

"He had a grasp of the world that most kids didn't," he said.

In the recommendation letter Telles wrote for Nguyen, he explained his talent for writing and performing.

"He plays with words like a sculptor with clay, or a painter with oils, and the complexity of his poetry far surpasses that of his fellow students. Every piece he did for my writing class was performed beautifully, reflected a meticulous work ethic and was of extraordinary quality," wrote Telles.

Nguyen also educated and inspired students to appreciate rap the way he did by promoting his music.

"Toward his junior and senior

year he would tell everybody to Google or YouTube him," said Nguyen's former division teacher, Mrs. Feuer.

His raps became an inspiration for many classmates, teammates, friends, and family, and he promoted the life-style of hip-hop.

"Going into volleyball practice one day, everyone was sitting by the bleachers and there was John just free-styling," Volkl said. "Everyone would just gather around him and listen. I was astounded, and he was the first to expose me to hip-hop."

"I also remember the first time I snuck out for lunch and I saw a big group of people standing in the grass on the quad and John was free-styling with friends. That was my first real taste of hip-hop culture, and its stayed with me ever since," Volkl said.

Rachel Pedroza, Div. 381, was the Volleyball manager when Nguyen was on the team and she remembers him for his silliness.

"On the bus to volleyball games, the boys would have rap battles. When we lost a game, John would be the first to dance funny or make funny imitations

to make everyone feel better. He was a goofball," she said.

Pedroza also remembers Nguyen for helping her face some personal struggles throughout her sophomore year. Her mom was going through her second treatment for breast cancer and Pedroza's grades were slipping.

"After school at practice or on the bus to games, John offered to help me with my homework," she said. "He gave the best advice and really made my situation so much easier to live with."

Bill Phan, Nguyen's best friend and 2012 Class President of Lane, agrees that Nguyen was reliable and only a phone call away, regardless of whether it was late at night or during the day.

"The funny thing about his sleeping patterns was that he never slept," Phan said. "You would hit him up at four in the morning and he was working on a beat. He was always active and working on something."

Nguyen also never failed to remember things like handshakes, and shared inside jokes with his friends.

"He has a special handshake with every single one of his friends and somehow remembered all of them," Phan said.

In addition, Nguyen is described by his friends as loving and caring, but also very motivational.

"He cared for every single person he met and he would not judge them. He would talk to them because they were different. John saw me for who I was and didn't make any assumptions," Pedroza said.

Similarly, Nguyen's middle name also comes from the pride of his heritage. His middle name starts with a "V" and he started changing it to Vietnam, soon becoming known as John Vietnam.

"When we were younger there were so many 'John's' that we called him 'white boy John' and he hated it because he was so proud of being Vietnamese," Phan said.

Phan also recently started a blog this summer and had Nguyen as his number one supporter.

"He taught me to get my voice out there, whether it was through blogging or through rapping. He



Nguyen working on his hip-hop and DJ-ing skills.

Duality

Written By: John Vietnam

like the life we live our hands would show its constant fight
less than words to say the pen is empty but im constant writin
they say our work is radical i militantly rise against
offer me a way out gave a second for my eyes repent
hand us social hurdles and we sing forth despite the trife
my hands would grip the pestle dug to mortar; we dont write
time to reflect/ life im feelin kinda low
hands is kinda tired in the city/ the time is slow
time to show forth the movement that you standin for
never be fiction in this game where ever battle more
daily we see blue and red like flags or the hands before
so i shut out and blackwhitelife nights to spite this
our hands fold to pray and its shinin while we light this;
re:
write this



Nguyen's work was featured in Lane's 2011 Literary Magazine.

Is it really a good thing when everybody wins?

By Marissa Higgs

Everybody wins nowadays.

Forget about first, second, and third place awards. In today's society, some would say the new norm is for everyone to get at least a participation award for their involvement in competitions.

Iretiola Hamzat, Div. 451, who has run track at Lane since he was a freshman says that awards for the sport can sometimes be given out for everything up to a sixth place finish. When he receives any award other than first place, he throws it out.

"I think it's sad because you get an award for being a loser," Hamzat said.

The purpose of the awards, according to Hamzat, is to encourage people to keep going. In other words, they push people to persevere even when it feels like they are not good enough to continue.

Participation awards are not only confined to sports. Nahin Cano, Div. 461, is part of the Lane debate team and admits to seeing plenty of examples of these awards.

"There are partnership awards, single awards, and at [the City Championships] there are team awards. However, legit competitions don't have random awards," Cano said.

While partnership awards tend to be used to inform competitors on how well they did in the competition, single awards will recognize those who

are "most involved in the debate community."

Some of the awards Cano remembers being given out at the City Debate Championship include biggest team award, most enthusiastic award, citizen award, most dedicated coach award, and most improved award. Many of these awards, like the most dedicated coach award, have several recipients.

"Every team gets an award. We won the biggest team award," Cano said.

Like Hamzat, Cano believes these awards have good intentions.

"I think in ways it is beneficial because when you go to tournaments where there are teams that are better or worse than you and there are teams that walk away without anything, there's a better chance that they might not come back," Cano said.

However, Cano also believes that too many people do not know how to lose in today's society, which is a negative result of these awards.

"Even though it may keep people in [the competitions], people need to know how to lose because when they're put into situations where they lose they won't be able to handle it," Cano said.

Stefany Cruz, Div. 656, believes the purpose of the awards make people want to be better. She believes second and third place awards are positive things.

"[They are] to show appreciation that you actually tried," she said.

Cruz plays many sports including baseball, bowling, softball, and basketball. This year, she is on the fresh-

men volleyball team.

While she may agree with the purpose of the awards, Cruz sometimes lets the victory of winning change her opinion of them.

"In some ways I am very competitive so I feel like if I win I should be the only one getting an award," she said.

Mr. Telles coached Lane's baseball team for 15 years. He thinks that if everyone receives an award, it will detract from the whole purpose of competing.

"Everybody tries, everybody strives, but not everybody wins," Mr. Telles said.

His beliefs are clear. He thinks that when people give awards to every competitor, then there is no difference between those who

work hard and are the best, and those who did not deserve to win. Children, in his opinion, learn how to deal with pressure and the risk of losing through competitions. If everyone were to win, people would not learn how to handle future real-life situations in which they do lose.

Mr. Telles thinks that certificates are okay and can have positive effects. However, awards should be given to only those who deserve it.

"Everyone can get a reward, but not everyone can get an award," he said.

An award is something given to someone in honor of achievement. The connotation of the word, however, might have a slightly different meaning in today's society.



"Every team gets an award. We won the biggest team award,"
-Nahin Cano

Play watchers learn comical lessons on *The Importance of being Ernest*

By Robin Buford

Sudden bursts of laughter could be heard echoing through the auditorium once students, staff, and parents gathered to enjoy the Lane production of the play *The Importance of Being Ernest*. The play's popularity relies on its well-developed characters, irony, and of course humor.

Much of the humor comes from the chaos that comes from a complicated storyline. Deception, fake identities, and unexpected coincidences lead audience members into confusion. See if you can follow along.

Jack and Algernon (played by Taylor Williams and Aviv Hart), start the play bickering over the false identity Jack has created for himself. This spills over into the next scene where it is revealed that both have deceived their fiances, Gwendolyn and Cecily (played by Rebecca Murphy and Autumn Egger), into thinking both their names were Ernest, (a pretend brother Jack created and Algernon soon assumed the identity of). When Jack and Algernon finally confess their deceit, their fiances are hurt, but they quickly recover.

The complications continue, however, when Jack refuses to permit marriage between Cecily, his ward, to Algernon. Similarly, Lady Bracknell (played by Jill Cutro), refuses the union between Gwendolyn and Algernon. This major conflict leads into Act 3, where Jack discovers his hidden family tie that Algernon really is his real brother, and that his real name really is Ernest.

Through this revelation, both pairs are allowed to marry. Jack ends the play by

"It's really like a sport. I had to stay after school everyday rehearsing."

Taylor Williams, Div. 350.

saying, "For the first time in my life, I realize the importance of being Ernest."

After the curtain fell and then reopened, audience members cheerfully applauded Thursday's cast.

Ms. Coleman, English and African American Lit. teacher, saw the play performed by both casts and had all good things to say.

"The kids did a fantastic job with the acting and the accents. I give them four and a half stars for their wonderful performance," she said. "I have to say, my favorite part was of Act 2-3, when Cecily and Gwendolyn's relationship went from best friends, to enemies, to best friends again. It's funny because that's how some girls really are."

Students in the audience shared Cole-

man's reaction to the play. "My favorite part was of Cecily and Gwendolyn meeting for the first time and how they were acting. It was so funny," said Ava Brennan, Div. 853.

Taking a peek behind the scenes, actors and staff were eager to speak about their experience with the play.

"It's really like a sport," said Taylor Williams, Div. 350. "I had to stay after school everyday rehearsing, even if it wasn't with my cast. Like homework, it consumed a majority of my life. The best part, however, was being on stage performing, just seeing it all finally come together. After all our hard work it was nice to see everyone on stage succeed."

But it was not just Lane students who worked hard on the play. Lane staff also stayed late for practices, working to support its production and development.

"My role with the play? I directed it. My favorite part? All of it," said English teacher Ms. Meacham.

For someone who had so much to say during his performance, Aviv Hart, Div. 561, could only muster, "Theater is hard."

It seems to have been worth the effort, however, since the majority of the audience and performers seemed to leave the auditorium that evening genuinely entertained. Perhaps they even learned something about the importance of being earnest.



Ishmaiah Dado, Div. 460, and Allison Pope, Div. 482 played Algernon and Cecily in last week's production of *The Importance of Being Ernest*.

Italian exchange students attend Lane classrooms



The Italian students visiting this week gather for a photo with some of their Lane host students at Water Tower Place in downtown Chicago.

By Marissa Higgs

A new wave of Italians are coming. Every fall, Ms. Paganelli plans a foreign exchange program where students from Italy come to stay with Lane students for a week. The 10 students coming this year arrived at O'Hare Airport on Nov. 3.

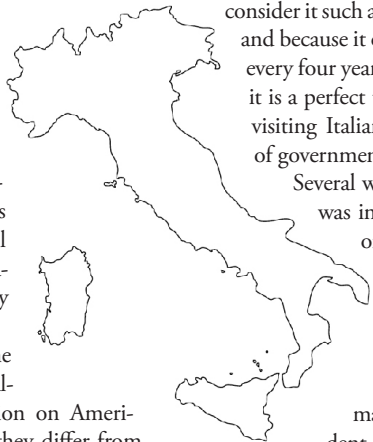
Some famous Chicago sites are visited by every group that comes, such as the John Hancock Center and lunch at Portillo's downtown. This year though, there will also be two presentations given to and by the Italians.

On Nov. 7, Lane students who take Italian gave a presentation on American sports and how they differ from Italian sports in room 257. Then after

school on Nov. 8, there was a presentation on the different systems of government of the two nations. The Italians discussed their country's government, while Lane students did the same for theirs.

The Americans focused heavily on the presidential election since U.S. citizens consider it such an important event and because it only happens once every four years. Paganelli thinks it is a perfect time to talk to the visiting Italians about the type of government the U.S. has.

Several weeks ago, the visit was in jeopardy because of potential schedule conflicts resulting from the CTU strike. However, the trip did happen, making Lane's student population even more diverse this week.



Heavy courseloads take toll on sleep, health

By Angela Kuqo

It's been days since Zamar Iqbal, Div. 363, last slept.

Iqbal claims to have recently spent more than 100 consecutive hours awake, without any aid from caffeinated drinks. Like many students, Iqbal is up late almost every night completing school-work.

"One night I had four AP Bio homework packets to complete and a test to study for, and the night before I had eight online tests and quizzes" he said.

Iqbal is currently taking four AP classes, as well as honors robotics and art appreciation.

Some students not only take on a heavy course load of challenging classes, but also have a long list of extracurriculars that keeps them busy before they even have a chance to crack open a textbook. Kathrin Kajderowicz, Div. 369, is one such student.

Kajderowicz is currently taking two AP classes at Lane. She also plays varsity tennis and lacrosse, takes undergraduate courses at two different local universities, and spends 10 hours per week researching at IIT's laboratory. Ka-

jderowicz is also the vice president of NHS and a spokesperson for the Alzheimer Disease Association.

"Sometimes it's a struggle to cope with it all," Kajderowicz said, "but I try to keep a balance, even if I do have to go a few nights utterly restless and sleep deprived. I'll try to take a nap after school if I didn't sleep much the night before."

However, the repercussions of going days without rest are severe for almost everyone, sometimes resulting in early dismissals so students can get some much needed sleep.

"During AP Bio lab I started hallucinating and stumbling around class," Iqbal said of his second sleepless day in a row. "Shapes started shifting and I was hearing noises and seeing things. As soon as I got up to do the lab I started stumbling and bumping into things...my teacher knew something wasn't right."

Iqbal finally decided he had to go home and rest, getting an early dismissal during 5th period.

Kevin Tun, Div. 459, reports getting around three to five hours of sleep a night, but has a record of 30 hours without rest.

"It felt like things weren't real," said Tun. "It was pretty cool actually."

"As soon as I got up to do the lab I started stumbling and bumping into things...my teacher knew something wasn't right."
-Zamar Iqbal

Art classes to visit Chicago abstract artist's studio

By Kevin Morales

Ms. McMeans, Mrs. Moore, and 30 art students have been invited to visit a mixed media studio on Nov. 14.

The group will be viewing the studio of John Himmelfarb, an abstract artist who has been creating paintings, drawings, sculptures and more for four decades.

According to an excerpt from a book by art critic Geoffrey Bates that appears on Himmelfarb's website: "Over the past four decades John Himmelfarb has built a complex and compelling set of approaches to creating abstract works that remain firmly outside mainstream stylistic impulses."

Students from mixed media, ceramics, photography classes will not only be able to view Himmelfarb's work, but will also have the chance to speak with him in person.

The opportunity at hand is a very rare one for high school art students.

"Not often do students have a chance to see artists working in their studio," McMeans said.



Himmelfarb's piece, *Traduce*, done with brush and ink.

Paranormal activity 4: Scary movie or laughable joke?

By Aubrey Caraballo

Scary movie or hilarious comedy?

Paranormal Activity, released in 2009, starts off with Katie and Micah as a young couple who move into a suburban house and witness the paranormal. It was interesting since movies like this were rare at the time. It started a trend where the characters in the film record everything that happens around them. The movie can be seen as having dramatic irony, where the characters are clueless to what the audience can see. Spoiler alert: After “much terror and suspense,” Katie becomes possessed and murders her husband by forcefully throwing him across the room. And then...wait, that's it?

Anyway, now onto “bigger and better things,” I suppose. Paranormal Activity 2, released in 2010, entered onto the scene.

Because the first movie ended with several unanswered questions, the second one promised some answers. I, for one, wanted to see what would happen next.

The second movie portrays Katie's sister, Kristi, and her family as they experience weird things happening in their home too. What a coincidence, right?

Babies floating in the air and girls rolling down the stairs made the audience blurt out screams of terror followed by bursts of laughter. Are the movies actually scary or

Babies floating in the air and girls rolling down the stairs just made the audience blurt out screams of terror followed by bursts of laughter.

do people watch them to have a good laugh? Spoiler alert: At the end of the movie, Katie takes Kristi's son, Hunter, and disappears without a trace. Then... well... nothing.

This conveniently left the door open for Paranormal Activity 3, which came out in

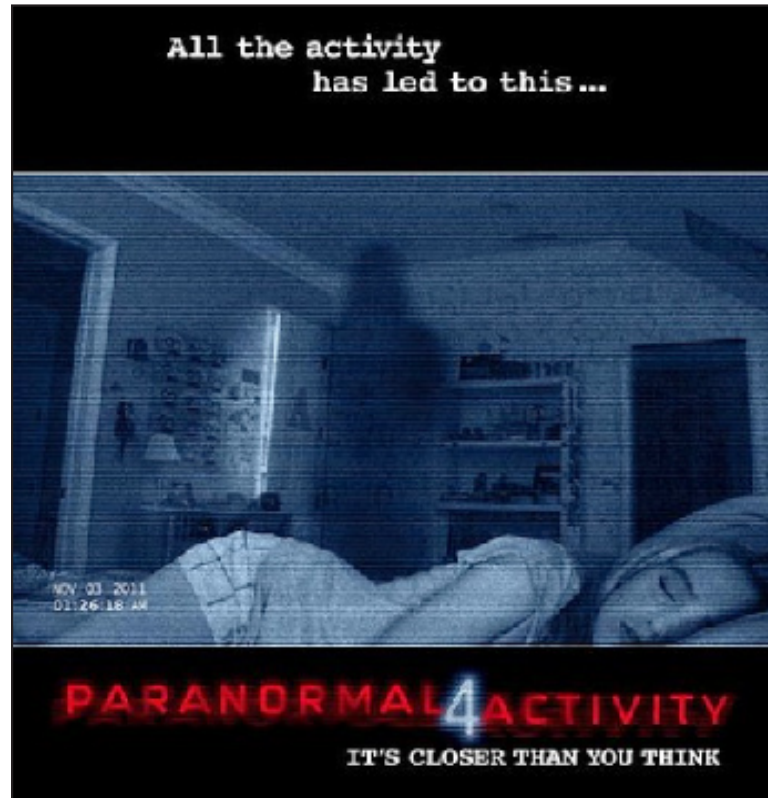
2011. I knew its claim to be based on a true story was fake. You can't have a trilogy like the paranormal movies and call it an experience based on “true events.”

The third movie went back in time to explore the story of Katie and Kristi as little girls... and the paranormal activity they experienced then.

The third movie involves a coven of witches who intend on taking the girls' future sons. I do not know why, but after watching the movies a few times, I still don't understand what the flip is going on. Spoiler alert: In the end, the girls' grandmother takes them up a flight of stairs where a “demonic” entity awaits. And then, you guessed it, the movie ends.

It was this summer when I was sitting in the theater and I saw the previews for the fourth movie. All I could think was, “you have got to be kidding me.” Okay, I have to admit I was just a little bit excited. What else could Oren Peli, writer of the series, do with the movies? All I knew was that it was going to be really funny or really bad, but most likely really funny. So, of course, I went to it.

Kathryn Newton plays Alex, the adopted sister of Hunter, who experiences odd things happening in her home while a mysterious boy named Robbie stays there for several days. Robbie's plan is to get Hunter “ready” for what is to come. All I could say is that this kid is a F-R-E-A-K. He wakes up in the middle of the night, stares at walls, and talks with a sassy attitude. That is when Katie, who is supposed to be missing, and is somehow the guardian of this mysterious Robbie, comes back into Hunter's life and kidnaps him... again. Spoiler alert: The coven of witches



returns and kidnaps Alex. And then...well, it ended. I expect to start seeing previews for Paranormal 5 in theaters this summer.

Eventually the series won't be worth watching anymore. I knew better than to

walk into the theater with high expectations when I went to see the fourth movie, but I still did. Just a word of advice: Before you buy a ticket, if you ever buy one, be sure you know what you are paying for.

Zombies, vampires, aliens return on fall tv shows

By Almasa Pecanin

The leaves are beginning to fall, the days are getting shorter, and coffee shops are finally bringing back Pumpkin Spice flavored drinks.

For many students at Lane, this means that fall has arrived. For TV enthusiasts, this means the return of their favorite sci-fi and fantasy show.

“Since it's starting to get chillier outside, there's nothing better than staying in and watching TV with a blanket,” said Jacky Boyzo, Div. 378.

Boyzo was most excited for the return of AMC's The Walking Dead on October 14. The Walking Dead is a critically acclaimed show which follows Rick Grimes and his group as they struggle to survive during the zombie apocalypse.

“It keeps you waiting for the next episode and it has a lot of plot twists,” Boyzo said. “A lot of zombie movies and shows are just about people getting eaten and stuff, but this one actually has a good story to go along with and lets you get really close to the characters.”

The Walking Dead, which premiered on Halloween of 2010, returned for a third sea-

son. The season picked up with the group finding the West Central Prison, which will be serving as a shelter for survivors.

Last year, the premiere of season two broke cable ratings' records in the 18-49 year old demographic. Boyzo said she definitely helped gain the show some viewers.

“I'm pretty sure I annoy everyone by how often I tell them to watch it,” she said. “I got a couple of my co-workers to watch it and they're hooked.”

Another paranormal show that returned this fall is Supernatural. The CW's Supernatural returned for an eighth season on Oct. 3. It centered on Dean Winchester's return from purgatory and how he and his brother Sam continue to battle “things that go bump in the night.”

The show has had a variety of monsters over the seasons that have become enemies of the Winchesters. Some of these monsters include demons, ghosts, ghouls, reapers, shape-shifters, and even the devil himself.

Although the program is completely fictional, many people are able to relate to the show which makes the viewing experience that much better. Sana Rizvi, Div. 356, says

she can relate to the angel, Castiel, who is most known for being ignorant to pop culture references and the ways of humans.

“I can relate to Castiel in some way because being born into a family that had just recently immigrated to America, I grew up in a different environment than most people,” Rizvi said. “Even now there are references people make from American culture that I don't understand.”

Aside from relating to students, Supernatural also has inspired some students to look into urban legends and supernatural beings, which is what the show is all about.

“It spiked my interest in books about hauntings, not to mention an interest in the Ouija board which has forever scarred me,” said Melissa Stebbins, Div. 481.

It's not uncommon for people to become interested in topics that are covered in the TV shows they watch. It's also not uncommon for someone to be so into a show that they would dress as a character for Halloween.

The Lane AP Sculpture classes took a trip to Michigan on Halloween this year and the students were allowed to dress up and go Trick or Treating. Jesus Monroy, Div. 376, had a specific costume in mind.

“I dressed up as David Tennant and I used Matt Smith's sonic screwdriver,” Monroy said. “Not a lot of people recognized it because we were in a small neighborhood, but people said I looked snazzy.”

Matt Smith is known for playing the current Doctor on BBC's Doctor Who. David Tennant played the Doctor before him. Doctor Who returned to television Sept. 1 for a

seventh season. The show follows The Doctor, a time-traveling alien, and his companions as they go on adventures and save the world on the way.

Doctor Who is a fairly popular show amongst Lane students. So popular that Kristin Walerowicz, Div. 371, has started a club for “Whovians” called the Greater Galifrean Society of Lane Tech. Many Lane students, including Monroy, are excited to join the club.

“She asked me to join and I am so pumped for it,” he said. “It's gonna be the biggest nerd fest.”

The club meets on Tuesdays after school in Mr. Wilson's room.

Although Doctor Who is a British show, it is very popular in the U.S. as well. Doctor Who's season seven premiere set a record for BBC America making it the channel's highest rated telecast ever. Lane students say the show isn't only fun and exciting, but is also handy during school.

“It allows me to make obscure references during physics and other science related classes,” said Rob Sharp, Div. 377. “It opens up your mind.”

The show is taking a hiatus and will be returning for a sixth episode on Christmas Day.

With winter just around the corner, thousands are bundling up in warm clothing to catch the new episode of their favorite Sci-Fi TV show this fall. Will you be following the adventures of Sam and Dean, traveling in a Tardis with The Doctor, or battling zombies with Rick Grimes?

“Since it's starting to get chillier outside, there's nothing better than staying in and watching TV with a blanket.”
- Jacky Boyzo

Band *Lakeside Heights* features Lane alums

By Maggie Popok

A few weeks back, the hottest tweets and Facebook statuses by Lane students were about the band, Lakeside Heights. The faces of these 2012 Lane graduates were easily recognizable for most while scrolling through their news feeds and timelines. Former students Andre Garcia and Evan Carroll covered Taylor Swift's new single, "We Are Never Getting Back Together."

This won them a ton of support from both Lane alumni and current students, and had many curious as to what was going to happen next.

"Our first single is directed more towards the seniors. Take advantage of the time you have left with everyone before it's up and you all part ways," said Garcia.

The boys plan to release their first single in mid-November and although much of the details are undisclosed, Lane students should look forward to the release.

"The single focuses on looking back on high school after graduation. It's kind of the realization of how high school was such a pivotal point in our lives, even if we didn't realize it until we left. It made us who we are today," said Carroll. "Listening to the single, hopefully people come away with a more positive outlook on high school."

Currently Lakeside Heights is working on finishing and recording eight songs as well as working on more YouTube videos.

"The songs are about everything we've gone through over the last four years: our ups and downs," said Carroll. "Hopefully other kids can relate to our experiences."

After spending four years at Lane, Lakeside Heights is trying to highlight the importance of all the things they experienced in high school, whether good or bad.

It's unfortunate, but not every day



spent at Lane was picture perfect," said Carroll.

"I think you need that though. Looking back we have our regrets and all, but things that sucked back then don't seem all that bad anymore. We've learned that our experience at Lane, for better or worse, was something we needed in order to be where we are now."

Using their past experiences and combining ideas, Lakeside Heights is working hard to become known and to get their music out there. But they also make sure they have fun along the way.

"When we have practice we sometimes improvise and make goofy songs about things in Evan's garage," said Peter Brozyna, the drummer for Lakeside Heights. "We also have alter egos. Sometimes we become a British pop boy band stuck

in the United States, trying to decipher American slang, and trying to fit in. It's the most fun I've ever had."

Although a Pop/Punk band, the boys don't mind mixing in a couple of other genres for their own enjoyment.

"Sometimes during our freestyle sessions, we get stuck on a phrase, our recent one is 'in the woods' and literally apply it to any potential lyrics," said Brozyna. "Last practice we even had a beat box session with Andre rapping. Honestly, a lot of time in the garage is spent simply laughing."

Garcia agrees, admitting they spend a lot of time just acting weird and goofing around when they're not practicing.

"We're actually big weirdos and like to release a lot of frustration by yelling or jumping around in Evan's garage," said

Garcia. "We spend a lot of time eating food too while taking a break from practice."

Scott Olivares, a rhythm guitarist for Lakeside Heights, agrees that all of them know how to have fun with the entire process and that there would be no band without all the energy each person brings.

Garcia, Carroll, Olivares, and Brozyna all met at Lane, but became close through working together in the band.

"[Evan and I] always talked about making music together, but I was always busy with other things along with my old band. We finally got things together this summer and picked up Peter and Scott after hearing they were down to join a band," said Garcia.

Olivares admits that senior year, he and

Garcia didn't take Carroll seriously when he said he could "pluck the strings."

"It wasn't until we were at bonfires and Evan was playing his guitar that we knew he could play. Evan found out I used to play too and one weekend we jammed in his garage. He asked if I wanted in, and how could I say no?" said Olivares.

Brozyna has always looked up to Garcia and dreamed of being in a band with him.

"I was stoked when Andre personally recruited me a few months ago. I knew he was serious so I immediately agreed. I met Evan through Jazz Band and thought he was a great guitarist," said Brozyna. "Being in a band [with them], I knew this might actually turn into something."

Garcia, Carroll, Olivares and Brozyna also owe a lot of their support to their former teachers who proved to make a significant impact on them, which shines through their performances today. Many teachers in the music department such as The Carreras, Mr. Sweet, Mr. Bances, and even teachers in the English department, such as Mrs. Meacham, encouraged and inspired the boys to be comfortable writing and performing.

Brozyna, currently a senior, owes it to Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Flygt and considers them an inspiration.

"Mr. Flygt, a percussion master, definitely inspires me. He showed me a thing or two on the drum set, and even lent me some hi-hat cymbals to replace our crappy ones, when I told him the ones we had sucked. He has even taken time out of his schedule to hang out with me in the band room and give me mini drum lessons."

As the band becomes more and more busy with practices and photo shoots, many students as well as teachers in the Lane community should keep an eye out as Lakeside Heights plan to release their first single.

Pitch Perfect strikes humorous chord

By Priscilla Monsivais

If you haven't seen it yet, that's a mighty shame. You're missing out on girls with nervous vomiting issues, can't speak above a peep, like to vertically run, share more intimate relationships with music than people and can all harmonize with each other.

Pitch Perfect. A movie that revolves around Beca (Anna Kendrick) who strikes a deal with her father (John Benjamin Hickey) to attend Barden University for one year, and if she is completely miserable after that year, he will give her the money to move to L.A and pursue her dream as a techno D.J.

Beca is then hustled into joining "The Barden Bellas"-the University's all female a cappella group-where she takes issue with the fact that the group sings songs popular 10-20 years ago, rather than to more modern music that appeals to their audience. But the head of the group, Aubrey, refuses to change tradition.

With a monumental climax, an all out cat fight, Beca's ideas to use modern music and choreography are finally accepted as they face their rival "The Treblemakers" (the University's male a cappella group).

This movie is a perfect mix of fresh and quirky comedy similar to the format of the show Glee. Its various comedic parts balance well with the more serious portions that arise throughout the movie.

A mix of the two is seen here when Fat Amy introduces herself.

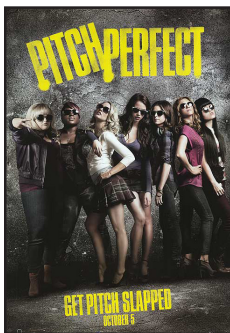
"Chloe: What's your name?"

Fat Amy: Fat Amy.

Aubrey: You call yourself Fat Amy?

Fat Amy: Yeah, so [skinny witches] like you don't do it behind my back."

I also admire Pitch Perfect's take on romance. Like many uplifting "girl power" movies, there is always a romance, which Pitch Perfect executes very well. The relationship between the loner Beca and the dork Jessie who unrelentingly pursues her, is not shoved down the viewers throats. Instead, the flirting and the teasing



back and forth as their relationship developments can be seen as truly genuine.

The movie does not ultimately focus on the romantic relationship, but instead the relationship between the Bellas, which Beca so badly needs.

Pitch Perfect also does not use stereotypical characters as most movies do. The female lead Beca is not the shy and innocent type who goes wild in college and also not the straight out "I'm breaking every rule possible" type either. She is not a category. Beca is an extremely talented (undiscovered)

D.J., who is basically a lone wolf. She is by herself because she chooses to be. Beca distances herself from people with her sarcastic quick remarks. Although the Bellas and Jessie gradually break this boundary.

Jessie is not the rugged and mysterious type, nor is he the shy nerd going for the hot girl. He ultimately looks like a normal guy with a boyish looks that wins viewers over with his cute antics to gain Beca's affection and his amazing voice.

Another very unforgettable character is the wide-eyed, cherry lipped Lilly. She speaks so painfully softly that the screen centers solely on her face so the audience can understand her. When Lilly does speak (usually during inappropriate times), it is so incredibly disturbing and ridiculous that you have to laugh and love her.

As in the real world, people have many facets and they are not clean cut. These characters are complicated, and don't fall into a "type" of person. It is very refreshing to see a movie that notices this, and uses this knowledge to help support the movie as a whole.

Along with falling in love with the characters, Pitch Perfect makes it hard to hate a cappella. Sure, having one's favorite songs remixed can be annoying because we've grown attached to the original, but a cappella transcends this rule! All the voices creating the rhythm and beat behind the lyrics is truly astonishing, along with awesome choreography, it truly is a spectacle.

Ultimately, Pitch Perfect is one of those movies that you will want to watch repeatedly like Mean Girls, She's the Man, and Bring it On until you memorize all the lines, and laugh randomly to yourself with just the thought of one of the scenes.

Lincoln examines trials of 13th Amendment

By Angela Kuqo

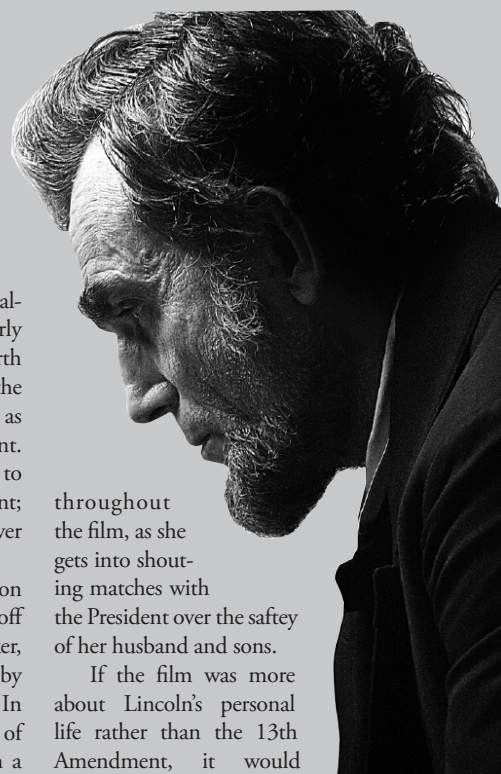
Steven Spielberg's new historical epic, *Lincoln*, about the man whose presidency was defined by his actions during the American Civil War, chronicles the last few months of Honest Abe's life during which he fought to pass the 13th Amendment.

A number of students from history and journalism classes had the privilege of going to an early screening of the film on Oct. 10, and it is worth mentioning that we were told this version of the film was unfinished. However, it does not seem as if any major changes will be made at this point. While you do not have to be a history buff to enjoy this biopic, you do have to be observant; anyone that appreciates good acting and clever screenwriting can enjoy this one.

Although Daniel Day-Lewis' interpretation of the iconic president's voice at first comes off as much too apprehensive for the great speaker, those impressions are quickly extinguished by powerful scenes where Lincoln's voice shines. In one of these scenes, he captivates a room full of men preoccupied by the war by telling them a simple story.

Screenwriter Tony Kushner saves the piece from being completely somber with well placed doses of humor throughout. While fans of Joseph Gordon-Levitt may be disappointed with the amount of screen time he has in his role as Robert Todd Lincoln, the time he does get he uses well. Levitt spends his time on screen sympathizing with soldiers and, much like a child, forever trying to convince his parents to let him do his part and fight in the war.

Levitt's lack of screen time turns out to be a fair trade off because it leaves ample space for actress Sally Field to absolutely nail her role as Mary Todd Lincoln. Field's performance is almost scene stealing. She captures the worrisome character of Mary Lincoln and delivers a gripping performance



throughout the film, as she gets into shouting matches with the President over the safety of her husband and sons.

If the film was more about Lincoln's personal life rather than the 13th Amendment, it would surely leave one wondering who the star of the film truly was. However, it's not all gold, here. Some minor characters over-do their parts, breaking the trance and leaving you feeling like you just walked into a bad re-enactment on a class field trip.

The film's greatest drama surrounds the work of Lincoln's team as it desperately tries to win votes in the House to ensure the 13th Amendment gets passed. The House debates turn dialogue heavy. (Ill-timed bathroom break will leave viewers lost).

The minor flaws are saved by effective dialogue, particularly Lincoln's delightful monologues, which depict him as a joker and a storyteller. Overall, the entertainment value is there, if you're willing to look for it.

Athlete of the Issue

Justin Garcia, Div. 384



Favorites

Color: Blue

Food: Chicken

Movie: 21 Jump Street

Musical Artist: Blink 182

Class: Adventure Gym

Sports Team: U.S.A Gymnastics

Moment: Having the crowd cheer for him and at Pep Rally when he did windmills in front of the seniors on the cheerleading team.

Q & A

Warrior: What obstacles did you have to overcome?

Garcia: People judging, questioning me about my sexuality. At first it really bugged me but then I just kind of dealt with it and ignored them.

Warrior: What made you want to join cheerleading?

Garcia: I wanted to try and get some scholarships and my friends really motivated me. They knew I was in gymnastics so they told me to go for it.

Warrior: What do you do to motivate you before competitions?

Garcia: I listen to music to calm my nerves.

Warrior: How dedicated are you to the sport?

Garcia: I'm very dedicated to cheering. I go to practice everyday and train hard.

Lane Football wraps up season with loss in City Quarterfinals



Lane defenders pressure the Dunbar quarterback into throwing on the run in their 48-0 win at Homecoming.

By Victoria Figueroa & Karina Maya

The Varsity Football team dominated the Dunbar Mighty Men 48-0 in this year's **Homecoming game**.

After the game was rescheduled three times because of the teacher strike, Lane was able to win their third straight game, moving their overall record to 3-2. The team showed off to a crowded house as fans steadily trickled in, nearly filling up the stadium by the third quarter.

The football team did not disappoint, playing aggressively and putting constant pressure on Dunbar's quarterback who threw mostly incomplete passes. Defensive player Kendric Brantley, Div. 356, shined in leading the defense in tackles.

Lane scored an early touchdown in the first quarter and held the 7-0 for the remainder of the half. Dunbar moved in striking distance of the end zone at the end of the second quarter, but could not capitalize before time ran out.

Going into the second half, Lane quickly proved they were in total control of the game. Within the first minute they sacked Dunbar's quarterback for a 10 yard loss.

Lane made few mistakes while taking advantage of those made by Dunbar. The defense even put points on the board by forcing a fumble that was recovered in Dunbar's end zone. The resulting touchdown created momentum that Dunbar could not match.

Quarterback Jack McLaughlin, Div. 368, scored two touchdowns and passed for more than 100 yards.

McLaughlin praised the entire team saying that even though he expected a challenge from Dunbar, "Lane's offense looked great and the defense played amazing."

The win gave the boys a lot of confidence.

"We feel like we can beat any team in the city," McLaughlin said after the game.

Lane kept their winning streak alive when they beat Whitney Young on Oct. 5, 34-26 and then Curie on Oct. 12, 14-13.

By the end of their conference schedule, the team qualified for the **State playoffs** for the first time since 2008. Once again, however, they were outmatched by a suburban team, losing to Maine South 42-7 on Oct. 27.

The team still continued to practice after that to prepare for **City Quarterfinals** against Harper on Nov. 3.

"We had to bounce back from our loss and stay focused as well as overcome our nervousness about the game against

Harper," Brantley said.

In addition to practicing everyday, the team prepared by watching and studying film of Harper's games. Lane had never played Harper before. The preparation was not enough, as Lane suffered a 46-14 loss, ending their season.

Lane did not score until the second half when McLaughlin threw a touchdown pass to Tony Abreu, Div. 378. But by then, they had a lot of catching up to do.

"We started off with a low tempo because we thought we were going to go out and destroy them," Abreu said. "By the time we were able to get things rolling and going our way, it was too late. They had a big lead too early in the game."

Many players thought they underperformed in the game, perhaps not giving Harper enough credit.

"We started off a little lazy," McLaughlin said. "We should've executed every play like it was the most important play of the game."

Offensive guard Taylor Weathers, Div. 356, agreed.

"We learned not to take situations lightly and to take advantage of all the moments that we can. Whether you're in for one play or the entire game, you have to give it all your effort," he said.

For seniors it was the last game of the season and for some the last game they'll ever play.

"It sucks for something you've devoted 10 years of your life to, to just end," said Ian Rundquist, Div. 359. "I will always have the regret that I didn't give it enough. Like 'what if I had just pushed it a little harder in practice, or ran a little faster in conditioning, or fought a little harder during the game, maybe it would have turned out better'."

Even though Lane didn't start off aggressively, they picked it up in the second half and played hard until the very end.

Damian Polak, Div. 471, is not yet a starter and did not play, but sees the season as a success for this year and a good omen for next.

"This season was awesome and even though we didn't win, it was a great improvement from last year's season," Polak said. "We achieved many of our set goals. The whole team worked hard and set a high standard for next year."

"It was a disappointing way to end the season because I know we could've beat them," Weathers said. "But at the same time I don't have any regrets. I ended the season with my teammates and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else but with them. They were like my family."



Fernando Navarro, Div. 374, lunges for the ball in the Oct. 27 Sectional game against Glenbrook North, which Lane lost 5-4 after the game went to a penalty kick shootout.

Strike stops Boys Varsity Soccer Team from competing in Showdown

By Victoria Figueroa

After an encouraging 1-0 win against Leyden High School, the Boys Varsity Soccer team's hopes were cut short due to the CTU strike not allowing coaches to be present at practices or games. The Soccer team qualified to play in the Pepsi Showdown tournament, but because of this policy, the team was not able to participate.

No CPS team is eligible to compete without a coach. As soon as the CTU strike began, all union teachers could not interact with students at school-related events. The boys, who were set to face Huntley in the next round, were forced to forfeit the game and as a result were eliminated from the tournament.

"[The team] knew if the teachers went on strike we would miss games," said defender Elias Contreras, Div. 381.

Foreseeing this problem, the team thought of having a parent step in, but later ran into problems such as when they should sub in play-

ers. This is something they would not know how to do according to Nicholas Santos, Div. 363.

The Pepsi Showdown would have given the team and Lane much more than just a potential championship.

"The Pepsi Showdown brings out the most college scouts out of any other tournaments we have," Santos said.

The tournament not only serves to prepare for the city conference games but also to potentially open the door to scholarship opportunities for seniors like Santos who plan to play soccer in college.

Doing well in the tournament would have brought additional media attention to the team, which also could have won the attention of college scouts.

The Pepsi Showdown is not only the largest high school tournament in the U.S., but is arguably the most prestigious.

It is the only high school tournament in the United

States that does not charge an entry fee as it is an invite-only tournament. The top 16 ranked teams in Illinois are invited along with 16 other teams. This year Lane was one of four CPS high schools invited

and one of two who survived the first round of the tournament. Both CPS teams were forced to forfeit their respective games.

Participating in the tournament would have potentially given the team a state ranking and valuable experience playing against quality opponents.

"We wanted to get better and get a good sense of what playing for State would be like," Contreras said.

The boys on varsity were preparing for the tournament since the beginning of their season.

"We were practicing and conditioning almost every day since the beginning of August," Contreras said. "On weekends and in the summer, practice and conditioning would go from 6 am to about 10 am."

The team had started conditioning earlier this year; they increased the time they played as a team together compared to last year. This helped their communication and chemistry on the field and made the players more confident than in years past. To them the thought of winning the tournament was not so unbelievable but a very realistic goal.

"Since the beginning of the year we thought we could win every single thing," Santos said.

The team's disappointment was made worse when they learned that the eventual winner of the tournament was the same team Lane eliminated last year in the State playoffs.

pepsiSOCCER
SHOWDOWN



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Dignam adjusts to new position, brings changes to Lane

By Claudia Maj

As I walk into Dr. Dignam's office, I catch him with two phones in his hands. Stacks of papers surround him on his desk. He puts one of the phones down and signals for me to wait a minute. As he hangs up the second phone, he lets out a sigh of relief.

When Dignam found out a couple months ago that he was going to be Lane's new principal, he couldn't wait to share the news.

"The first thing I did was call my family, I have twin daughters in 4th grade, and they were all very happy to hear the news," he said.

Then the hard work began. Over the summer, began major overhauls to Lane in an attempt to "bring the school into the 21st Century."

Dignam hired four new Assistant Principals to help in the work. (See story below). The technological upgrades, however, would be costly.

SMART boards were installed in 27 classrooms, a new Apple computer lab was built, and Ipads were bought and issued to core-subject teachers.

Money for these projects came largely from a campaign spearheaded by Lane's PTSO called "Shoot for the Stars." The campaign has raised over \$100,000 all from generous donations, but the goal is to reach \$750,000.

Dignam, who was once a student at Lane himself, wants Lane to be more competitive with other schools.

"When you walk into the classrooms at Whitney Young, they all have SMART boards installed, and our students deserve better too," he said. "This will be a multi-year process, but we will continue installing SMART boards into our classrooms."

A variety of new courses have also been added this year and 31 new teachers, many with specialized skills to teach them, have joined Lane. Though these changes have required cutting other classes and teaching posi-



Dr. Dignam works in his office.

tions, Dignam is resolute in his conviction that Lane and its curriculum must evolve to better prepare students for the requirements of today's workforce.

Not all changes are happening within classrooms. Lane might soon have a rowing team, taking advantage of the school's proximity to the north branch of the Chicago River. This, along with flag football and field hockey clubs, will expand Lane's already huge Athletic department.

With a very busy and hectic start of the school year,

Dr. Dignam has not yet found the time to completely settle down in his office.

"I work out of the office daily but I have still not had enough time to sort things out and make it 'my own,' he said. "I may have time to do that during the winter break."

In between emails, meetings, and phone calls, Dignam has found time to display on his desk his name plate and a photo of his two daughters. Both serve as reminders of his great responsibilities.

Teachers transition to assistant principal positions

By Almasa Pecanin & Isaac Ceh

Once classroom teachers, some familiar faces at Lane are now helping run the school as assistant principals.

Ms. Beck is one of the four new assistant principals at Lane this year. She is not a stranger to the process of changing positions at Lane. Beck began her experience at Lane as a student teacher, was hired as a biology and genetics teacher, and taught for four years. Last year, she was hired as the Lane Tech Academic Center coordinator before moving into her newest position.

"I still miss the classroom. I absolutely love seeing the students so engaged in their classes," Beck said. "When I went to observe two physics classes on Sept. 26th, I kind of felt a little jealous of the teachers."

Still, Beck says the transition into her new position was very smooth. She now oversees the Alpha program, which is similar to what she did as a teacher — teach Alpha students. She also oversees the AP program and the LTAC.

"Going into any position, you want to look at the way programs are currently run, and what things you may be able to add to it," she said.

Beck hopes to make sure all students in the Alpha program truly have a passion for science and wants to provide them with more opportunities.

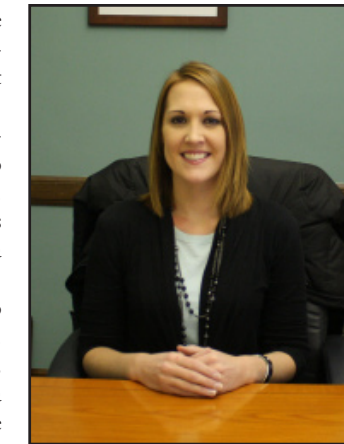
This year, Dr. Dignam implemented the rule that every student now has to take at least one AP class. A change Ms. Beck is hoping to make is the addition of an AP night for parents so they have an idea what AP classes are like.

"Because we're having every student take them, I think we have to provide parents and students with a better idea of how much work they actually require," she said.

Another former teacher who has become an assistant principal and is hoping to expand the college experience at the school and prepare students more for when they leave Lane is Mr. Ara.



Mr. Ara



Ms. Beck

but would be taught on the college level and students would be able to receive college credit for them.

Mr. Ara is also looking to expand the Arts, Music, Tech, and Athletics departments. Although he misses teaching classes, Ara believes he can accomplish way more for the Art department as an administrator than he did as a teacher.

Ara worked as an art teacher at Lane for the past seven years and also worked in the Computer department his first two years. One of the changes Ara hopes to make is to feature more art in Lane's hallways.

This began with the re-painting of the hallways on the fourth floor by staircase M. Ara wants to make the art done by Lane students more visible on the fourth floor, second floor, and in front of the main office.

Ara has already made changes within the Music department.

"One of the things I was able to do for the Music department was to get the band a chance to practice in the Lane stadium," Ara said.

With good comes the bad, though. There can be many difficult tasks as an assistant principal.

A big transition Ara had to make was working longer hours after school. Each member of the administrative staff has to work one late night per week, staying until about 7pm.

The demands on his time now are much greater than when he was an Art teacher.

"When I was an art teacher, I didn't have a lot to bring home other than prep work and grading," Ara said.

He said another one of the difficulties is that he now has to make the divide between how he treats his friends in and out of work.

Many of Ara's former students were upset to see he is not teaching anymore. However, because he was a well-liked teacher many believe he will be a great assistant principal.

"I think he was able to, in some way, relate to the students because he was a teacher," said Mia Isberto, Div. 364. "He was always welcoming. He was really easy to talk to and he has a youthful spirit."

A temporary addition to the administration is Ms. Hanly, who previously taught in the English Department.

Hanly is not new to the administrative life, since she spent half a year as an administrator at a different school. She is hoping with her new job that she can help teachers at Lane work to their highest potential. She is also

hoping to find a way to interact with students through this job, since she doesn't have the full one-on-one experience like she did as a teacher.

"I definitely don't miss the grading, though," she said. "It's nice to finally have a Sunday to myself."

Many of Hanly's former students, including Andy Kajcsaracz, Div. 376, believe her teaching skills will help her with her new role as assistant principal.

"Class never got out of control and she always managed completing everything as a teacher, such as grading all the essays and tests," Kajcsaracz said. "I believe she will have no problem managing her job as assistant principal."

Being a part of a great team of administrators is what Hanly says is her favorite part about being an assistant principal.

"We work really well together," she said. "I'm not sure I would have that same bond with another team."

Hanly says she and the other administrators know each other very well and pointed out that their personalities blended very well together.

"We can be serious and get work done, but we also know how to laugh at the end of the day and goof around with each other," she said.

As for a typical day in the life of an assistant principal, the four administrators all agreed that a "typical" school day did not exist.

"Every single day is unique," Beck said. "There are a lot of meetings that just pop up last minute."

Mrs. Hart said she has not had two similar days since she began working as an assistant principal.

"Every day is wonderful and an adventure," she said. "Just like the students, I'm learning something new every day."

Although there are many perks of being an assistant principal, Hart didn't hesitate for a second when she

said her favorite part was the interaction with the faculty in the building.

"I feel like I work with the best staff in the city," she said. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."



Mrs. Hanly



Mrs. Hart

Lane offers 21st Century classes new this year

By Claudia Maj
& Gabrielle Onyema

As she walks into her 6th period class, Shanice Hilliard, Div. 358, sets down her book bag and walks over to her robot.

Mr. Durham gives the class instructions and the students break away into their groups. There are six groups containing four or five people in each group, and every group shares one robot. After everyone knows what their role is, they begin to do their jobs. Certain students prefer to work with their headphones on, while others socialize with their partners while working. Together, Hilliard's group continues building their little robot, which they named "Durham Bot."

"Durham Bot is about the size of a small shoebox, he can't carry too much," Hilliard said. "The bigger the robot, the more weight it can carry."

The students are building the robots to learn how they work and how different programs make the robot move in different directions when they give it commands.

Robotics is one of many classes that has been added at Lane this year. Other classes include Arabic, Mixed Media, Organic Chemistry, Aquaponics, AP Chinese, Foundations of Engineering, and AP Latin.

Mixed Media is a class taught by Ms.



The new aquaponics classroom features contraptions that create a symbiotic relationship between fish and plants.

McMeans. The class focuses on introducing students to various two-dimensional media and how to use these materials in combination with one another.

"I started the class based on my own interests in utilizing multiple materials," she said. "Lane has a wonderful art program and I saw it as an addition to the course offerings to appeal to the students who were interested in combining craft processes like embroidery [for instance] with traditional art processes like paint-

ing and drawing."

In science, Lane is now offering Organic Chemistry for students.

"[Organic Chemistry] can be hard, so no one should be ashamed if they are a little bit behind. But this is also the only high school level organic chemistry class in Chicago," said Troi Valles, Div. 358.

Another new 'organic' class introduced at Lane this year is Aquaponics. A new classroom has been built for this class with glass windows on the wall al-

lowing students in the hallways to have a peek inside and see what the students are working on.

"Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture and hydroponics. So basically you raise fish, break down their waste, and use it as a fertilizer for the plants," said Brian Watkins, construction manager for the Aquaponics room.

The class will be taught by several different Lane science teachers.

"It's the kind of class that answers the

questions like, 'what's the connection between the ketchup bottle and the tomato on the vine?'," said Watkins.

Walking inside of the room, a student can smell earthy scents, hear the splashing of running water, and see several different plants sprouting up from rock beds and growing on the walls.

"It's a great way to see the different ways you can use technology. You can grow your own food even in a nontraditional way," said Andrew Fernitz, also one of the room's constructors.

Arabic has also been added to the list of many language classes offered at Lane. It is taught by two new teachers: Mr. Danja and Ms. Daifallah.

"I want my students to love Arabic. We don't want to drill them because the language shouldn't be memorized off a notecard. It should flow," Daifallah said.

Salim Omar, Div. 465, said his choice of taking Arabic has turned out to be a good one.

"When I walk in class, it feels like I'll have a lot of fun. The teacher is funny and his jokes help the class pay more attention," Omar said.

The class has also changed his opinion of the language.

"I expected it to be really harsh, but the teachers know what they're doing," said Omar. "I think people should know that Arabic is not an ugly language. It's actually very beautiful."

Texting now allowed in halls

By Karina Maya

When Dr. Dignam announced that cell phones could be used in the hallways, the auditorium erupted into cheers. Students would not have to worry about being caught in the hallways and being sent to the discipline office.

Allowing cell phone usage was just one of a few rules that have been changed. In addition to texting in the hallways, during passing periods and the lunchroom, students can also listen to their iPods and boys are allowed to wear earrings.

"The cell phone policy has been outdated for years," Dignam said. "It's unrealistic and hypocritical, students were constantly getting in trouble for simply looking at their cell-phones in the hallway."

Students can also listen to their iPods during passing periods.

"If I was a student, I would probably want to listen to music with the longer 5 minute passing period," Dignam said.

However, students need to be responsible in order for the new policy changes to stay intact. They need to keep in mind

that electronics are not to be used in the classrooms and while texting is now allowed in the hallways, making calls is only allowed in the lunch room.

Another rule that changed is that previously boys were not allowed to wear earrings but now they are. The reason for the rule was that earrings could signify a gang affiliation. Dignam did not think this realistic.

"Boy's learning isn't going to be affected by whether or not they wear earrings," he said. "Since girls can wear earrings so can boys. Just like how guys can't wear hats and neither can girls. The same rules should apply to everyone."

Some of the students found out about the new rules even before the teachers. Dignam didn't want to say anything before the rules meeting.

"Everytime something happens or something is said, 20 rumors fly around," Dignam

joked.

While new policies are being implemented, some agree with them and some dislike them.

"No matter what I say or do, there's always going to be someone that is angry," Dignam said.

"The cell phone policy has been outdated for years."
-Dr. Dignam

New policy requires IDs be worn on Lane lanyards

By Aubrey Caraballo

School officials have made wearing IDs with lanyards mandatory this year. Students who have been at Lane longer find the new custom hard to adjust to.

"I am a senior now and it is not what I'm used to," said Lizzie Green, Div. 378.

Green does not wear her ID all the time. She puts it on whenever she is asked to.

"If I know I am going to come in contact with a security guard, it is necessary to wear it," she said.

Senior class vice president Mykee Hugh, Div. 377, said the lanyards are not the issue

"It is fine they make us wear them for our safety," he said. "It is not cool they forced us to pay for them."

The lanyards were mandatory to buy on the student fee sheet, but not every student received one. Everyone who did not buy a lanyard was given a debt.

"They should have just included them in the standard fee this year," Hugh said.

The Lane lanyards are the only ones

allowed to be worn inside the school.

"I do not see why it has to be a Lane lanyard," said Carina Coss, Div. 375. "If I have this one for free, why do I need a Lane Tech one?"

Coss also pointed out that it will be hard to make sure everyone wears their lanyard because the school has over 4000 students.

Some students do not like the lanyards, but others do not think they are a big deal.

"Just put the thing on!" said Wendy Franklin, Div. 451. "If everybody wears it then no one should be ashamed to."

Franklin said the lanyards are not too bad because they are not noticeable.

"It is not like it is affecting my wardrobe," she said. "It is just a little string with an ID on it."

Wearing lanyards prevents students from always going into their book bags to take their ID's out.

"It is always within sight around your neck," Franklin said. "The school does not always have to ask where it is."

Coss said it is weird to wear them because ever since she was a freshman they were considered lame.

"It was mostly freshmen who wore their IDs," she said. "Now you can't tell which class is which because everyone is wearing them."

Even though wearing lanyards is out of the ordinary for the upperclassmen, the younger students can create a new trend.

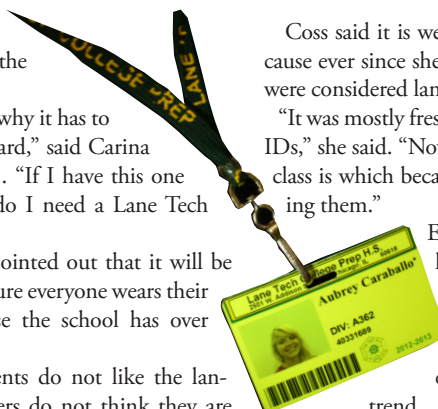
"The freshmen look up to us," Coss said. "If we wear our IDs then everybody else is going to wear them."

Kyle Miller-Davila, Div. 668, said he would wear his lanyard even if nobody else did.

"I adjusted to [the rules] and I do not like breaking [them]," he said.

Even though he wears his lanyard whenever he is in the hallway, sometimes he will take it off in class.

"It could get irritating when you wear it all the time," he said. "But you can take it off if you are in a class where the teacher won't mind."



School Store now run by PTO

By Matthew Wettig

With a change in administration, many major changes were made around the school, one being the planned termination of the school store.

Luckily for students, the Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) took charge and began running the school store.

"He [Dr. Dignam] asked if we wanted run the school store, if we wouldn't have there wouldn't be a store right now," said Melissa Morales, Vice President of the PTSO.

The PTSO has been busy making changes to the store, from giving it a fresh coat of paint, to restocking it with several new items, ranging from

newly designed T-shirts to sweatshirts. The store is only open on Fridays, from 11am until 1pm.

Morales said that these would be the store's ideal hours, but with things still changing, nothing is official yet.

Currently, only cash is accepted, but Morales said that they are in the working towards accepting debit/credit cards.

The store is currently being run by eight PTSO volunteers, with the funds benefitting the "Shoot for the Stars" program, which attempts to equip all of Lane's 150 classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, including SMART board technology and instructor iPads.

Lane does not currently have an online store, but the PTSO has set their sights on reopening it.

Wendy's serves up trays to help science department

By Priscilla Monsivais

During the strike, teachers yelled, held up posters, and marched up and down the street. While Mrs. Trine also did this, she was also cooking up an idea.

The Science Department needed a way to get trays. Five different classes all used one lab room, so teachers setting up their own materials for labs turned chaotic.

The science teachers knew there was a definite need for organization and trays were the answer. They could set up the materials for each student on a tray, and have it on the counter for their students to pick up. But the budget bought the more important materials first, and trays were not included.

"Why don't we ask local businesses around Lane to donate some?" Mrs. Trine said to herself.

So she and a couple chemistry teachers asked around. After trying several businesses they finally walked into Wendy's. The General Manager, Mary Gregory, was more than happy to donate trays. She talked to her boss, and they ordered

around 30-40 small and large trays.

Gregory said she did it because there are good people at Lane. The staff has always been nice to her and kept her informed of when Lane students had a day off, football games, Homecoming, so they could anticipate smaller or larger than normal crowds.

"Because the [kids] are the business, they take care of us," Gregory said.

She decided to show her appreciation for the teacher's kindness by giving them the trays.

Gregory was also sympathetic towards the teachers because she understood the feeling of being shut down by people.

During Halloween, Wendy's offers Jr. Frosty coupon treat books for only \$1. Ninety percent of the sales go to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Gregory took it upon herself to take this offer to the streets and ask for donations. But like the teachers, she has been denied.

Gregory knew that it was not too much out of her way to get the trays, so she would do it.

"It was like, you look out for me and I'll look out for you," Gregory said.

CPS

teachers

On Sept. 10, 2012, the Chicago Teachers Union went on strike. This was the first teacher strike in Chicago since 1987, and left approximately 350,000 students out of school for seven school days.



Ms. Schnell and Mr. Hencinski work the picket line outside Lane.

CTU fights for new contract

By Diana Castro

Mr. Parsons stood on a garbage can at the end of the first day of the strike and riled up the teachers.

“Rahm said it was our choice to make this strike happen. That’s not true,” he yelled. “They want a fight? We’ll give them one, and we are going to win!”

On Sept. 10, CPS teachers began their seven-day strike after CTU (Chicago Teachers Union) and CPS failed to reach an agreement on the new contract.

“There were a lot of issues in the contract that were upsetting the teachers,” said Lead Picket Captain, Parsons.

Parsons said that Rahm Emanuel “basically tried to prevent teachers from striking” with SB7, a bill that reformed teacher tenure and rights to strike.

Parsons said Emanuel thought “he could shove the contract down [teachers’] throats and [we] would not be able to do anything about it.”

One of the issues concerning teachers was merit pay, which Emanuel “took off the table.” Another issue was the way teachers would be evaluated.

“Basically, what the mayor is proposing is that you guys, Lane Tech students, take a lot of standardized tests and how well you do on those standardized tests determines how much money the teachers get paid,” Parsons said.

With the new evaluation system, teachers will be rated on a 1-4 scale (with 4 being the highest) in four different categories. The scores will be averaged for the overall evaluation score.

Teachers were also concerned with how “good teaching” would be defined. Many were worried that the new evaluation system would justify cutting or freezing their salaries, or even firing teachers whenever the district wants.

Parsons said that this evaluation system would narrow students’ education and education is about opening their mind to new ideas and experiences.



Strike captain Mr. Parsons delivers a speech to rile up the crowd.

“When you say that everything hinges on one specific standardized test, the teacher is going to say, ‘well, I’m not going to take a risk about talking about this topic or idea. I have to prepare my kids for this specific test’,” Parsons said. “The teacher is going to relentlessly focus on one narrow test and not worry about what they can do to make the class more interesting or lively.”

While the evaluation system was one of the first issues CPS gave up on, other issues the Union was upset over held up contract negotiations.

For one thing, The Board decided last year not to pay teachers the promised four percent raise that they were contractually obligated in the final year of the contract. Additionally, CPS offered minimal raises to schools and teachers who volunteered to work the longer school day before the Union voted on it.

The bad blood left over from these

moves was reflected in comments made by several Union members.

Parsons said Emanuel was never really willing to negotiate with [teachers].

“He never really wanted a compromise and it took [teachers’] going on strike for him to take us seriously,” he said.

Parson said that teachers just want to be fairly compensated for their work.

“We have a situation where we have very, very powerful businessmen and women who want to fundamentally change American public education. And the one major change they want to make is that they want to make it a business, something that generates profit,” Parsons said. “But when you do that, you’re going to put the needs of the business making a profit ahead of the needs of the student learning. [Politicians] are fundamentally changing the goal of public education. [Teachers] don’t believe in that.”

Meanwhile inside the school...

By Gabrielle Onyema

Silence. No sounds of the footfalls of thousands, no chattering or laughter, no singing or rushing to class. Only silence.

That is all that was heard in most of the classrooms and hallways when over four thousand Lane students were absent from the building.

Since Lane was one of the schools designated a “safe zone” to stay open during the strike where CPS students could go if their own school was closed, administrators had to improvise to keep things running.

Several non-union CPS personnel were sent to Lane in the place of the absent teachers to watch over any students who decided to attend school.

And by any student, they meant any.

“Any CPS student could show up and play board games, watch movies, and other activities. They didn’t have to be from Lane,” said Nick Anagnopoulos, Chief of Security.

About 160 to 180 workers showed up, many of them bus aids, volunteers, and staff from other schools.

Though several workers showed up to school to help out, not nearly as many students attended during the strike days.

“Every day we had less than 40 kids show up,” said Anagnopoulos.

Many of the kids that came were the younger children of the non-union members working at schools.

The school day during the strike shortened from 8:30a.m. to 12:30p.m., though was later extended to 2:30p.m. due to the demands of some parents.

Without the teachers to instruct lessons, administrators resorted to preparing other activities for the younger crowd.

“They watched movies and played board games. Some had coloring books,” said Assistant Principal, Mollie Hart.

“They all did a variety of things. Some took attendance, some were leaders monitoring different groups of kids, and some were just sitting,” said College Coach from the College and Career Center, Robert Wallace. Wallace was in the center to give out college advice during the strike, so had little of that work to do with almost no high schoolers in the building.

So how was it for workers without the actual Lane students and teachers?

“We were missing the kids,” said Lunchroom Manager, Gabriela Gonzalez. She and the other cafeteria workers served the kids that did arrive, but with all the others missing, Gonzalez felt like Lane was empty.

“It was like your family is missing from your house, because believe it or not, we are all like family,” said Gonzalez.



CTU teachers rallying downtown

go

on

Strike

Teachers rally support from all over

By Kevin Morales

Janitors, a Cook County commissioner, complete strangers, and even a Presidential candidate.

These were just some of the people who came to Lane to show the teachers their support during the strike.

The teachers welcomed any support they could get throughout the seven school days they stood at the picket line.

Perhaps the most common form of support came from the streets. Cars honked, trucks blasted their loud horns, and police cars sounded off their sirens and flashed their lights. For each one, the teachers cheered loudly to show their appreciation.

Some drivers felt they had to do more than just honk. A few drivers actually pulled over along Western and got out of their cars to hand teachers gifts to show of their support. One woman delivered a wicker basket full of apples for the teachers before pulling away.

Teachers from neighboring schools in the city, such as DeVry University Advantage Academy and Alcott School for the Humanities, also came to join the teachers at Lane to represent their respective schools.

On Friday, the teachers received perhaps their most noteworthy visit from Jill Stein, this election year's presidential candidate for the Green Party.

Stein, who is a former resident of Oak Park, gave a speech explaining the importance of public education. She emphasized that changes needed to be made in order to make public education available to everyone.

Another brief visitor to the picket line was Cook County commis-



Green Party presidential candidate, Jill Stein, speaks outside of Lane in support of organized labor.

sioner John Fritchey. Fritchey stopped by to drop off cases of water for the teachers.

Stein's and Fritchey's visits pleased several teachers because it signified that their cause was gaining political support.

When the first week of the strike was about to come to an end, supporters were still showing up. This time they came in the form of janitors from Southeastern Illinois University. They joined the teacher's fight because they believed it affected organized labor. The janitors admired the precedent the teachers were setting in fighting

for a fair contract.

Antonio Ramirez, an SEIU Local 1 janitor, who spoke only Spanish was one of the many janitors present.

"Nosotros siempre vamos estar apoyando los maestros, y estamos dando el ejemplo que tienen el apoyo de nuestro union,"[We are always going to be supporting the teachers, and we're here to show that they have the support of our union] Ramirez said.

Ivan Moreno, the communications representative for SEIU came with the janitors to speak for those who couldn't be there.

"The teacher's fight is our fight. We believe that the teachers are fighting for the students, they're fighting for the best interests of the community," Moreno said, "and we want to be part of that fight. It serves as a good lesson; the teachers striking is a good opportunity for people to realize what's going on in the city."

Even with the numerous supporters who came, not everyone was content with the teachers' decision to strike. Occasionally, a driver would pass by yelling back at the teachers in frustration.

One driver yelled from his van, "Go back to work teachers!" In reply, the teachers held up their signs, cheered loudly, and continued on with their day at the picket line.

When the strike entered its second week, the number of people at the picket line had decreased a little compared to the first week. But as Mr. Parsons explained, even if supporters could not physically be there with the teachers, they were there in spirit.

Students come out in support of their teachers

By Marissa Higgs

Thousands of teachers marched the picket line the day the CTU went on strike. However, these teachers were not alone.

Several students showed up and joined in the fight and protest alongside them.

"I've been in CPS for 13 years and my teachers have always had my back. I feel it's my time to return the favor," said Robert Owens, Div. 379.

Owens was a part of a group of students who continuously showed up to the strike at Lane. He spent most of his time on Western Ave. across from the school chanting and waving posters.

With him was Celina Torres, Div. 374. She too felt as though she owed it to her teachers to support them during their strike.

"They do so much for us everyday and we just want to do something for them," she said.

Sofie Rodriguez, Div. 583, and Elise King, Div. 554, both have family members very close to the CTU.

"Both our parents are teachers and we wanted to show that we support them," Rodriguez said.

She and King brought snacks for the striking CTU members to show their support. The two girls made dozens of cookies and muffins to pass out to teachers.

Some students like Destinée Cambium, Div. 464, had specific teachers in mind who they wanted to support.

"I'm here to support all my teachers, but Mr. Davey, Ms. Irwin, and Mr. Rummelhoff helped me through rough patches and supported me so I'm here for them," Cambium said.

Asma Maghribi, Div. 390, also mentioned a specific teacher she was supporting by showing up to the strike.

"My AP English Language and Composition teacher, Mr. Bertenshaw, was by far one of the best teachers I've ever had. He's caring and considerate," she said.

Other students were busy at home staying caught up with their academic work their teachers assigned for them to do during the strike. One of Maghribi's teachers, for example, had a plan B in place to keep students on track while they were away from school. She was happy her teacher cared enough to plan out homework assignments.

Like the rest of Chicago, the student population was also divided when it came down to who was right and wrong. The students present at the strike were sure to voice their opinions on the subject at hand.

"We met students who feel that it would have been better without striking, but we feel there is no other way for [the teachers] to get their point across," King said.

The CTU strike created a lasting impression on several students across the city. Even former Lane students, like Beata Wisniewska, class of 2012, came out to support the teachers.

"I think this affects everyone. We need to stand up not only for education but people's rights in general," Wisniewska said.

Students were seen marching with music teachers, dancing on the sidewalks, and waving their signs in the streets. The presence of students was, at times, more noticeable than that of the teachers. The chants and shouting of the fall sports teams who met at Horner Park and marched to the strike loudly expressed their support for their teachers. Overall, the teachers seemed to enjoy the sight.



Students make signs to carry at the strike.



Lane teachers and strike supporters gather for a mass photo at the end of one of their morning rallies.

NEW KIDS ON



Anita Bakker

Subject – Environmental Science and Horticulture/Aquaponics

School – Michigan State (Undergrad) and DePaul (Masters)

Favorite movie – Rudy or Cocktails

First impression of Lane – “I liked all of the opportunities for science programs.”

Best HS memory – She played on the powder-puff team.

Most embarrassing moment – She fell with crutches freshman year of high school when the floor was slippery and ended up exposing herself to seniors because she was wearing a skirt.



Eric Cromer

Subject – US History, Contemporary American History

School – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and North Park University

Favorite movie – Field of Dreams

First impression of Lane – “Very big. The students are all nice.”



Liana Faletto

Subject – Art I and Art Appreciation

School – DePaul

Favorite movie – Pee-wee’s Big Adventure

First impression of Lane – “Gigantic and beautiful. I was intimidated by the teachers’ and students’ work.”

Best HS memory – She took an entire semester of art classes the second semester of senior year and took her required classes at home.

Most embarrassing moment – During a huge contest for marching band, she spaced out and took two steps forward earlier than everyone else and ended up faking a solo.



Michael Bielecki

Subject – Music Appreciation

School – St. Xavier University & Western Illinois University

Favorite movie – Shine

First impression of Lane – “It’s like walking onto an old college campus. You get the feeling every day of ‘It’s time to learn.’”

Best HS memory – He won a jazz competition senior year and marched during the half time show at the Sugar Bowl.

Most embarrassing moment – He was in the host band for a conductor’s workshop and one of the conductors asked him, “Do you play saxophone or just hold it?”



Marjorrie Custodio

Subject – LTAC Art and Art Appreciation

School – Illinois State University and Lorenzo De’Medici (school in Florence)

Favorite movie – Monsters, Inc.

First impression of Lane – “It’s beautiful.”

Best HS memory – studying abroad in Italy

Most embarrassing moment – She fell down the stairs in high school and got up like nothing happened.



Gerardo Gonzalez

Subject – World Studies and AP European History

School – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Favorite movie – The Godfather

First impression of Lane – “I was a student here so I’m excited to be back.”

Best HS memory – He ran cross country & track.

Most embarrassing moment – He went into the wrong classroom freshman year and stayed there for the whole class period.



Allie Canfield

Subject – World Studies and U.S. History

School – Indiana University

Favorite movie – Billy Madison

First impression of Lane – “I loved the vibe in the school. It seems like there’s a real lifeline.”

Best HS memory – She was homecoming queen, and liked spending that night with all of her closest friends and family.

Most embarrassing moment – Last year, she tripped over a chair leg, smacked her face on the desk, and knocked herself unconscious.



Assma Daifallah

Subject – World Studies and Arabic

School – Saint Xavier University

First impression of Lane – “It’s so big, it looks like it’s from movies.”

Best HS memory – Her graduation.



Amanda Damlos

Subject – Survey Literature and World Literature

School – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Favorite movie – Goonies

First impression of Lane – “It’s big. It’s awesome how polite the kids are.”

Best HS memory – She played softball freshman year and made varsity.



Rana Haddadin

Subject – Algebra I and Advanced Algebra w/ Trig

School – Illinois Wesleyan and Northwestern University

First impression of Lane – “I like it a lot here. I feel like all of the students are good people.”

Best HS memory – received the award for funniest laugh at senior dinner.

Most embarrassing moment – During second period one day, a spider crawled down the ELMO and she freaked out.



Jeff Carity

Subject – World Studies, Economics, and Entrepreneurship/Marketing

School – Northeastern Illinois

Favorite movie – All the President’s Men

First impression of Lane – “I was blown away by the size. The students were amazing, faculty too.”

Best HS memory – Spending time with friends and meeting new people.

Most embarrassing moment – When he was on his high school baseball team, he once wore his jersey backwards.



Mohammed Danja

Subject – Geometry and Arabic

School – DePaul

Favorite movie – Forrest Gump

First impression of Lane – “It’s huge; I always get lost. It’s very diverse, too.”

Best HS memory – He loved listening to American music during his high school English class.



Matthew Hudson

Subject – Guitar, AP Music Theory and Music Appreciation

School – University of Pittsburgh

Favorite movie – The Godfather II

First impression of Lane – “I was delighted by the intellect of the student body.”

Best HS memory – He played in pep band and playing hockey.

Most embarrassing moment – In one of his first gigs in 2003, he showed up without a guitar pick, a working amplifier, or a guitar cord. Other people were looking at him like ‘What are you doing?’



Elizabeth Chisholm

Subject – Art I and Art Appreciation

School – University of Michigan (Undergrad) and Columbia College (Grad)

Favorite movie – Life is Beautiful, Bridesmaids, and Amelia

First impression of Lane – “I was amazed at how all these students were so kind and responsible.”

Most embarrassing moment – When she was eight, she was called out for picking her nose in class.



Amy Diamond

Subject – Multimedia Arts and Design

School – Art Institute of Boston and Art Institute of Chicago

Favorite movie – A League of their Own

First impression of Lane – “Amazing. I student taught here, too.”

Best HS memory – She was really close to her art teacher senior year and her schedule was a half day of photography.



Allison Jackson

Subject – Alpha Biology and Aquaponics

School – Indiana University and Northwestern University

Favorite movie – Almost Famous

First impression of Lane – “It’s huge. Meeting all of the kids has been a great experience.

Best HS memory – She played soccer and track in high school.

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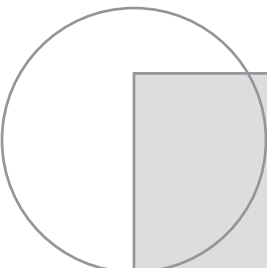
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GONZALEZ



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Most embarrassing moment – “One time, when I was eight, I was called out for picking my nose in class.”



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First impression of Lane – “Amazing. I student taught here, too.”
Best HS memory – “I was really close to my teachers senior year. My schedule was a half day of Photo. It was my outlet.”

THE BLOCK



Elizabeth McCarney

Subject - Spanish 1 and 2 Honors

School - Hood College in Maryland (Undergrad) and Middlebury College (Masters)

Favorite movie - Life is Beautiful

First impression of Lane - "I was really impressed by the students."

Best HS memory - Spending time with friends on her senior trip.



Devon Reedy

Subject - Beginning Orchestra and Music Appreciation

School - Vandercook College of Music

First impression of Lane - "This building is huge. I've never seen such a large high school."

Best HS memory - When she was a senior, she had a solo with her high school orchestra in the last concert of the year.

Most embarrassing moment - She walked into the wrong classroom and sat down and thought it was her class when it wasn't.



Shana Terai Snarrenberg

Subject - Chemistry

School - Washington University in St. Louis

Favorite movie - The Science of Sleep

First impression of Lane - "The students are all so motivated and involved in so many things. I love getting to know everyone and what they do; it gives me energy!"

Best HS memory - She performed Barber's violin concerto with a local orchestra.



Erin McMahon

Subject - AP Psychology and Early World History

School - The University of Minnesota and DePaul (Grad School)

First impression of Lane - "Massive! Gorgeous and everyone is really nice."

Best HS memory - She went to France and Spain, and was also in choir.

Most embarrassing moment - She was in a play in middle school and her heel broke during a dance and she tripped.



Vijaya Schnatterbeck

Subject - Counselor

School - Northeastern Illinois (Masters), post grad in Australia.

Favorite movie - I am Sam and Dead Man Walking

First impression of Lane - "I like the physical environment of Lane. It is an old building with character and history. The students are wonderful, polite, and nice. I even received chocolates and a card from one of them."

Best HS memory - Spending time with friends with whom she still keeps in touch.



Lindsey Springstroh

Subject - AP Bio and Marine Biology

School - Hope College

First impression of Lane - "I think the students struck me the most with how well behaved they are. Students here care about their education."

Best HS moment - She celebrated Mole day with her AP Chem Class on school track at 6:02 a.m. on Oct. 28.



Roberto Ocampo

Subject - Spanish

School - UIC

Favorite Movie - Big Daddy

First impression of Lane - "When I saw the building I was scared and overwhelmed. It told me there was going to be a lot of students."

Best HS memory - He joined a club where he met new friends who made his high school experience a wonderful one.

Most embarrassing moment - He was very sick and he was trying not to throw up and ended up making weird noises in the back of the class. Everyone stared.



Victoria Schnell

Subject - Chemistry

School - Miami of Ohio (undergrad). Masters in secondary science education at DePaul.

Favorite movie - Love Actually

First impression of Lane - "The staff and students are extremely welcoming. I am impressed by the students and feel lucky to be in the department I am in."

Best HS memory - She won the state championship in soccer.



Sarah Wain

Subject - Art Appreciation and AP Art History

School - Bachelors at William Jewell College

Favorite movie - Ferris Bueller's Day Off

First impression of Lane - "It's huge. It reminds me of my high school, which is really old."

Best HS moment - She sang at her graduation.



Lauren O'Malley

Subject - English

School - Loyola University in Chicago

First impression of Lane - "I student taught here and I loved how big it was."

Best HS memory - Instead of Senior Ditch Day, she and her friends went out to the parking lot where students decided to hang out wearing togas.

Most embarrassing moment - When she was in high school, she walked into the wrong English classroom and everyone stared at her.



Danielle Sharp

Subject - Chemistry and Forensic science

School - U of I at Urbana (Bachelors and Masters).

Favorite movie - Wall-E

First impression of Lane - "Great students. The even and odd hallways were confusing at first."

Best HS memory - She played on the tennis and soccer teams, and met great friends.

Most embarrassing moment - She fell down the stairs of the stage at her high school graduation after receiving her diploma and pretended to be okay, but her leg was actually bleeding pretty badly. She was able to cover it up because of the red graduation gown.



Katharine Whittaker

Subject - Honors Biology and Zoology

School - Penn State (Undergrad) St. Joseph's (Masters)

Favorite movie - Home Alone/ Mean Girls

First impression of Lane - "I loved how big and beautiful it is. And I love the murals on the walls. And the teachers are friendly."

Best HS memory - She had spaghetti night dinners with the cross-country team.



Alma Preciado

Subject - Italian 1 and Spanish 1

Education - UIC, and studied in Florence, Italy

Favorite movie - Volver

First impression of Lane - "Huge! It is incredibly diverse, both the staff and students."

Best HS memory - Senior year, she cut off all of her hair. She was inspired by the lead singer of The Cranberries.



Michelle Shimon

Subject - American Literature, Speech

School - DePaul University

Favorite movie - Ferris Bueller's Day Off

First impression of Lane - "It is enormous. I got lost for the first three weeks. Now I know what the 7th graders feel like."

Best HS memory - She was a cheerleader in high school and is still in touch with the team.



Marta Wilmes

Subject - Honors Survey Lit. and Honors British Lit.

School - Indiana University (Under grad). Depaul University (Masters).

Favorite movie - Little Miss Sunshine

First impression of Lane - "It's gigantic and the students are very nice."

Best HS memory - Her volleyball team won the city championship.

LANE'S GOT SPIRIT

From Spirit Week, to Pep Rally, to Homecoming, to Oktoberfest, Lane students show school spirit in many different ways.



Photo Credits to: Yearbook Staff, Paulina Wojtkowski, and Aleksandra Deren.