

Alumni Pride

The Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy Alumni Association Newsletter



Table of Contents

Issue I, December 2014

Table of Contents	2
Dean's Letter	3
Rudis II is Coming to Town	4
Teacher Feature	5
Collegiate's Traditional Clubs	6
Collegiate Alumni Take DC	8
The Success Rooted in Collegiate Academy	10
The Dirt Baby	12
In Memoriam	13
Life After Academy	14
Then and Now	16

Dear Fellow Collegians,

To make this publication as appealing and interesting as possible, we need your help! Send us an update of what you've been up to—any special news, job successes, or other relevant information that you'd like us to know about. Please include your year of graduation in addition to your news. Links and photos are always welcome too. Submit updates to jkern@eriesd.org.

Additionally, we welcome your feedback. What kind of stories do you want us to publish more of in the future? Feel free to pitch us a story idea and become a contributor. With your help, we can ensure that our newsletter will always be your newsletter.

Sincerely,

Jon Kern '04 and the staff of "The Alumni Pride"

We could not have produced this publication without the tireless efforts of alumni and current students. I would like to thank my writers: Julia Bickerstaff, Jake Binder, Colleen Campbell, Keya Crandall, Lexi Ednie, Aubrey Favors, Ben Hartleb, Janice Lee, Dylan Pickard, and Michael Sorensen '13.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the design and layout of this work: Julia Bickerstaff, John Curtin '08 Maria Czerwinski, Nicole Glaz, Angela Jenkins, Dakota Palmer '14, but chiefly, I want to thank Janice Lee for her exceptional contributions.

Finally, several people volunteered to edit and give feedback to the articles and layout, and this material has been improved through their expertise: Leah Balsan, Kaela Bishop '08, Kim Davis '01, Erica DiLuzio '08, Dakota Palmer '14, Kristen Papson (Kern) '07, Jack Salter '07, Charles Santini '02, Mr. Rick Schneider, and Erika Smith (Bramblett) '03.

Thank you for your hard work and effort!

Anyone wishing to take part in planning events with the Alumni Association may visit the school website and view the "Alumni" tab (<http://www.eriesd.org/domain/1820>) for future meeting dates and current news.

The Dean's Letter



As Collegians, we recognize ourselves as hard-working individuals with a pursuit of excellence. Our alumni have associated themselves with universities such as Stanford and Yale, earning the titles of chief financial officer, editor and even doctor.

A few years ago, I was a civics teacher at Collegiate Academy, and I now have the privilege to be the dean. Our standards of the school have not changed; Collegiate Academy is still producing productive members of society that will conquer whatever challenges they may encounter in a lifetime. The connection between the past, present and future of our students has, until this year, relied solely on word of mouth. “Did you hear that a Collegiate Academy alumni is now a German teacher” or “Did you know that an alumni from the first graduating class got a job with the fish commission?”

The mission of the Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy Alumni Association is to provide a community through which alumni have the opportunity to remain engaged with their alma mater and create a lasting relationship that advances the academic and professional wellbeing of both current and former Collegians and staff.

Through communication and active involvement, the past students of Collegiate Academy will have the ability to impact the future of the school.

We are proud as an association to reopen the doors of our school to all who are willing to take part in something that could change the culture of our graduates.

The goal of the Alumni Pride is to share the voices and ideas of current students on subjects that will impact the past, present and future of our student body. This year, we will introduce new traditions in order to connect the different generations of Collegiate success.

Events such as “Holiday Homecoming,” the Falling Hollywood Concert and Alumni Association Meetings are only the beginning. Our group invites you to join us as we pave the way for a new and exciting legacy. With enough support, events such as an Alumni Rudi Awards will be made possible.

Our goals for the future include expanding our membership to include representation from the first graduating class in 2001 to 2014. We also hope to influence our current students by showing them career options and individualized paths of success.

We call you to take part in our mission to organize a network with goals to reconnect, inspire and advocate. Reconnect with your own classmates as well as teachers and graduates of other classes. Inspire the community and current Collegiate Academy students. Advocate for the traditions and success of our school.

Rudis II is Coming to Town

Article By
Keay Crandall
Layout Designed By Janice Lee

HOLIDAY
HOMECOMING

Rudis II

“All those involved in planning these events wish to bring the whole Collegiate family together and hope to spur school pride with the involvement of current students, teachers, and of course, the alumni of Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy”.

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

This year, students, teachers and alumni have begun to combine efforts in developing Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy's Alumni Association. Students have become greatly involved with the interworking of NPCA's Alumni Association this year by volunteering their time and skills to write for the alumni newsletter and aid in planning future events in hopes of expanding the Alumni Association.

The key event of the this year's NPCA's Alumni Association that will be alongside "Holiday Homecoming" is "Rudis II," ultimately a sequel to NPCA's annual Rudi Awards for students. Rudis II will take place December 27th 2014. This event will be open to all NPCA alumni and their families. Current students and alumni who have to date been involved hope that this will be an opportunity for all alumni to bring their families together in celebration of NPCA's school pride. Rudis II will be just like the original Rudis; the Alumni Association hopes to bring together musical acts and other stage entertainment provided by alumni. Current students hope to showcase clubs and activities that have become popular amongst students, and the school store will be open to alumni and their families to purchase school apparel. In addition, the association will be holding a silent auction. Crafts, face painting, and other activities are also being planned for the children of alumni.

All of those involved in planning these events wish to bring the whole Collegiate family together and hope to spur school pride with the involvement of current students, teachers and of course, the alumni of Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy.

Teacher Feature

Collegiate Academy Teachers of the Year

1998: Mrs. Huzenic	2007: Mrs. Holliday
1999: Mr. Maraden	2008: Mrs. Rees
2000: Mr. Lute	2009: Mrs. Iverson
2001: Ms. Holmes	2010: Mr. Lasher
2002: Mrs. Miller	2011: Mr. Rinderle
2003: Mr. Taylor	2012: Mr. Chase
2004: Mrs. Petri	2013: Mrs. Ditrich
2005: Mr. Matteson	2014: Ms. Olszewski
2006: Mrs. Crumbly	2015: TBD



Ms. Diane Olszewski of the math department at Collegiate Academy received the Teacher of the Year award in 2014. Teaching Algebra I, Algebra II, and Academic Sports League as well as being a coach for the Central Tech Girls Soccer Team, Ms. O's hard work and dedication to what she does made her the ideal candidate and recipient of this award.



Mrs. Erika Smith is a new face here at Collegiate. This will be her second year at Academy teaching Spanish I, II, and III, and she is enjoying every second of it. Having previously taught at Central Tech, Strong Vincent, and Pfeiffer Burleigh, Mrs. Smith loves the Collegiate atmosphere and is glad to be here. One of the things she loves and has noticed about Collegiate is that everyone takes care of each other. "There is no drama among the different friend groups and everyone respects each other," Mrs. Smith explains. One of her favorite events that she has experienced while at Collegiate is Beachwalk. After being at several public schools, she feels that Beachwalk really separates Collegiate from the other schools in the area. We wish you an even greater year here, Mrs. Smith!



Mr. James Fleming, a teacher for 17 years, with 15 of those at Academy, has some trouble remembering the names of the countless students he has taught over the years. After teaching Algebra I, Statistics, and now AP Statistics and Problem Solving at Collegiate, remembering names has to become an issue. In order to fix this problem, some of his students receive nicknames. When asked how the process started, Mr. Fleming states, "The process just happened; I've always called people weird names. Sometimes they just click with certain people." One of his favorite nickname stories deals with a man who now subs at Collegiate, Mr. John Salter. Mr. Fleming had him for class 8-10 years ago when he went to Collegiate. While he was taking attendance, he called out "John Salter," but Mr. Salter corrected him and said, "I go by Jack." So Mr. Fleming promptly gave him the nickname "JohnButJack," which Mr. Fleming still calls him to this day. Some of the nicknames Mr. Fleming creates stick with these people for the rest of their lives, making the nickname process a distinct characteristic of Collegiate Academy that is still around today.

COLLEGIATE'S TRADITIONAL CLUBS

Article By Dylan Pickard
Layout Designed By Janice Lee

Collegiate offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities to help expand upon students' education and allow them to pursue their own interests. Collegiate students take on extremely rigorous classes that often prove to be difficult and time consuming, but students still find and make time to form clubs and organizations that further challenge their minds and social skills. This extreme involvement with Academy's community earns enough of the school staff and administration's trust to hold fun events and celebrations of Collegiate's pride, honor and respect.

Model United Nations, abbreviated Model UN, is a club that was founded in 2002 by Christine Eller and is currently led by students like Jake Binder and Karley Nicolia, with Mr. Lasher serving as a guide and resource for them. Model UN has been very successful having won first place at four different conferences, including three times in a row at both Gannon and Mercyhurst, once at the Kent State Ashtabula Conference, and once at the George Washington University Conference.

Model UN is an extra-curricular activity in which students typically roleplay delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. According to Jake Binder, Vice President of Collegiate's Model UN team, "Model UN is a great way for students to expand their knowledge of the world and practice public speaking skills." Collegiate's team is one of the best and will likely continue its success at future competitions.

The **Green Team** is lead by Mrs. Petri and maintained by students to help make Collegiate much more environmentally conscious and conservative. The Green Team was started in the fall of 2008 to have high school students travel to elementary and middle schools in the district and teach students to perform energy audits. The Green Team now helps Collegiate by managing recycling and the reduction of waste systems, composting waste from school lunches, and by growing a school garden which produces flowers and herbs, and may eventually include vegetables. They also collect trash along 38th Street from Peach Street to Pine Avenue every fall and spring.

Regarding the future of the club, Mrs. Petri states,

"We will continue to look at ways to educate our school and regional community about positive behaviors that benefit the environment. We always need to revisit every program because we get new students, teachers and staff each year." The Green Team is a constant presence at Collegiate and is active in reducing waste and negative effects on the environment.

Collegiate functions as part of the Erie School District Robotics team which is officially known as the **CIA (Creativity In Action)**. Mr. Michael Hayes, a mentor for the Robotics team, describes the team, "It's a great example of something that gives you back all that you put in and more. Students who are motivated, who love a staggering challenge, and who are eager to learn and work hard will find that joining a FIRST robotics can be a positive and life-changing experience." FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization that works with schools to help promote the importance of science and mathematics in the education of children and young adults. Collegiate first officially participated in the program in 2005 and has helped out ever since. The CIA has won a total of 22 trophies including 2 regional championships and 3 Chairman's Awards (the highest team honor awarded by FIRST). Other awards were in categories like Industrial Design, Engineering Excellence, and Quality.

Currently the team is getting ready for its biggest fundraiser of the year - their murder mystery dinner theater. It's a comedic and interactive play where the audience is an active participant in trying to solve a theatrical murder. This year's event will be held November 7, 8, 14, and 15 at the East Erie Moose Club - tickets are \$25 each and kids are welcome. When build season comes, the CIA will be given a specific goal to accomplish and will be given six weeks to design and build a robot capable of achieving that goal. With enough effort, the team may go to the World Championship competition in St. Louis this April.

The **Academic Sports League (ASL)** is a very successful club and class that allows students to study, learn, and memorize large quantities of information regarding ten subjects: math, science, economics, art, music, history,



language and literature, interview, speech, and essay. Students that prove their mastery of these categories are allowed to compete with other students. From these competitions, Ms. Diane Olszewski and Mr. Brian Sheldon, the coaches for the team, select nine students to compete at the Regional, State, and potentially National level.

This year's overall theme is "New Alternatives in Energy: Ingenuity and Innovation." Regionals will be located at McDowell, States will be at Northwestern High School, and Nationals will be in California. The team took third place at Nationals last year and they plan to go even farther this year.

Collegiate's time-honored tradition of Beachwalk is important for two reasons. First, it helps to raise money for the Collegiate Academy Endowment Fund, allowing each academic department to award a scholarship to a deserving student every year. Some of the proceeds go to the student activity fund, and any proceeds above \$30 per student directly help to fund school improvements like the recent addition of new carpets.

Second, the event allows students and staff to have fun out on Presque Isle, walking for four miles next to the beach. This year's Beachwalk was warm and sunny, making for an unexpectedly perfect day to walk on Preseque Isle. The

rain and winds only arrived as students loaded back onto the buses to return to the school for the Chicken Toss. The students weathered the storm until the end of the competition when they were allowed to return to the building and dry up as they awaited the results of the raffle and Chicken Toss.

Another unforgettable event, the Sophomore Lockdown is a single night in the year where all of the Sophomores are invited to stay the night at Collegiate, being allowed to party, play games, play sports, watch movies, and participate in a dodge ball tournament. Many teachers attend and join the students as they enjoy the night as much as possible. It is only because of the administration and staff's trust that the students are allowed to stay in the building so late without completely trashing it, and the students continue to honor that trust.

As students continue to attend and progress through Collegiate, they learn more and more to take every opportunity they can to expand their knowledge and have fun. It is only with an excellent work ethic that students are able to go beyond their fundamental education and to pursue their goals in life. This is the attitude that lets Collegiate really shine and stand tall among so many others.

COLLEGIATE ALUMNI

TAKE DC

By Michael Sorensen '13
Layout Designed By Janice Lee



American University



George Washington University



Johns Hopkins University



Marymount University

The forward-thinking students of Collegiate Academy embrace not only academics in their four years of high school but also their extracurricular roles as politicians, scientists, journalists and service leaders. It should come as no surprise then that a hot spot for recent Collegiate graduates is the nation's capital – Washington, DC.

In the past two years, seven alumni of Collegiate Academy have chosen to complete their undergraduate studies in the Washington, DC-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) area. Three of these alumni graduated in 2013 and four are members of the Class of 2014.

The most popular DC-area school for Collegiate alumni is the George Washington University (GW). Alumni Leah Babins '14, Jessica Crist '13, and Michael Sorensen '13 have all made GW their home over the past two years. GW is the largest university in Washington, DC, with more than 25,000 currently enrolled. Tucked in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of DC, GW boasts its close proximity to national symbols of power being only blocks from the White House, the National Mall and the U.S. Department of State.

Only miles up the road from GW, Zach Binder '13 and Ellie Hartleb '14 have recently enrolled at American University (AU). Along with GW, AU is frequently ranked as the top politically active university in the country. As home to international students from more than 150 countries, AU is one of the most global universities in the world.

Across the Potomac River in Arlington, VA, Sam Trostle '14 has settled into the dorms at Marymount University. Marymount, being only a few metro stops from the center of DC, benefits from its easy access to a number of intellectual and social resources. Finally, Liti Zhang '14 is only a brief train ride away from her former classmates, studying at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Hopkins is a nationally renowned university, recently ranking twelfth on the U.S. News and World Report best university rankings.

The migration of young professionals to the nation's seat of government is not a trend isolated to NPCA alumni. The American Institute for Economic Research ranked the Washington, DC metropolitan area as the second best city for college students in their 2014-2015 rankings. Additionally, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, the fastest growing demographic in

the Washington, DC metro area is young adults.

The second-year college students of DC wasted no time in their first year of college in becoming active and engaged citizens of Washington. Binder, a former president of Collegiate's Mock Trial, has become a force on the AU Mock Trial team. In the summer of 2014, Crist interned for Veterans Campaign, an advocacy organization dedicated to electing veterans to public office. Crist has also been an employee of Georgetown Cupcake, a bakery featured on TLC's DC Cupcakes. Sorensen spent his 2013 spring semester interning on Capitol Hill for Erie's representative in Congress, Mike Kelly.

When asked why he chose DC as his college destination, Binder says the energy he gets from being in DC was a key deciding factor. Crist adds that being in DC, for her, is rooted in the opportunities for young professionals. She says, "I really enjoy the chances I get to attend events and meet important people from important government organizations and be a part of actual change."

As for the newest group of alumni, Babins, Hartleb, Trostle and Zhang all agree that they are working on transitioning to a college environment, settling on a field of study and deciding career opportunities to pursue.

On Sept. 27, 2014, the seven Collegiate alumni gathered at GW for a reunion lunch. At the lunch, they discussed a number of things that were new in their lives but also things they missed about Collegiate. The unanimous agreement among the alumni is that they feel exceptionally prepared for their college academics because of their four years at Collegiate.



"NPCA Alumni gathered for a reunion lunch on September 27, 2014 on the campus of the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Pictured from L to R: Michael Sorensen '13, Jessica Crist '13, Sam Trostle '14, Liti Zhang '14, Zach Binder '13, and Ellie Hartleb '14. Not pictured: Leah Babins '14."

Name: Leah Babins
Graduated from NPCA: 2014
College/University: The George Washington University
Major: Economics
What is a unique advantage of going to college in Washington, DC? "Being in DC allows me to attend a lot of political events. Earlier this semester, I participated in a rally in support of Israel and during the rally, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's motorcade drove by and he waved at us!"

Name: Zach Binder
Graduated from NPCA: 2013
College/University: American University
Major: History
What advantages has Collegiate given you? "I will graduate from AU in 3 years due to all the Advanced Placement and college credits accumulated from my time at Collegiate."

Name: Jessica Crist
Graduated from NPCA: 2013
College/University: The George Washington University
Major: International Development (with a minor in Spanish)
How did Collegiate help prepare you for college? "I find writing college papers so much easier thanks to the Collegiate English teachers. I came into GW far ahead of my classmates in writing ability."

Name: Ellie Hartleb
Graduated from NPCA: 2014
College/University: American University
Major: Print Journalism (with a minor in Marketing)
What do you miss most about Collegiate? "I miss the incredible sense of community."

Name: Michael Sorensen
Graduated from NPCA: 2013
College/University: The George Washington University
Major: Political Science (with a minor in Psychology)
What was your favorite moment of your first year in DC? "I met the Speaker of the House in the Capitol Building last year during my internship."

Name: Sam Trostle
Graduated from NPCA: 2014
College/University: Marymount University
Major: Political Science
What is your favorite part about living in DC? "I really enjoy and benefit from the number of cheap and free events that are available to the public."

Name: Liti Zhang
Graduated from NPCA: 2014
College/University: Johns Hopkins University
Major: Molecular and Cellular Biology and also a Pre-Medicine Track
What have been your favorite parts of college? "I have loved being able to meet new people, the independence of college life, and the freedom to study something I am interested in."

THE SUCCESS ROOTED IN COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

Written by Lexi Ednie

Layout Designed By Nicole Glaz

Anna Rose Welch is a poet who has recently been recognized in *Best New Poets: 2014*. She graduated from Allegheny College in 2011 and received her Master of Fine Arts degree (MFA) from Bowling Green State University in 2013. Her poems are riveting as she captivates the readers. Welch says, "I fell in love with poetry when I was in third grade. I'd always been a writer, and my parents were always encouraging me to my literary pursuits."

Her parents were always helpful in her pursuit of poetry. They bought her blank, hard covered books for her to place her stories in. One summer, her parents enrolled her in a writer's workshop at Gannon University.

During her four years at Collegiate, Anna participated in poetry and fiction workshop classes. However, her creative talent goes further than poetry.

"I was a part of the orchestra and an alto in Chamber Singers. I also was an editor for the school literary journal, the Forum," says Welch.

As for her poems, Anna

will start one when all of a sudden an image or phrase appears in her mind, while she is reading poems from other authors or from research.

"During my master's program, I would go to the library and wander aimlessly through the stacks, pulling books off the shelves that had strange titles or that were about subjects I knew



Anna Rose Welch: Class of 2007

nothing about," she explains.

It is no surprise that after years of workshops and classes, Anna finally received recognition from her poems. It is also no surprise that when she found out that she was a finalist for *Best New Poets: 2014*, she was

dumbfounded.

When she was younger, she found the *Best New Poets* anthology and was jealous of all of the writers in the book, so to finally be included in the anthology was shocking for Anna.

There is always that defining moment in somebody's life when they realize they can become successful. For Anna, that moment occurred during her master's program.

She finished her master's program with a draft of a completed book, which usually does not happen for people during graduate school. She started sending her book to contests, a major way that poets publish their books. With only being out of graduate school for a year, Anna is quite successful given that she is already a finalist in this major poetry anthology.

Anna does not forget that Collegiate has helped in her success. With Collegiate's extensive course offerings, Anna had no trouble participating in many creative classes.

Welch says, "Collegiate gave me a wonderful four years, during which I learned to appreciate language and critical thinking in a variety of texts."

Brian Williams, formerly Brian McNair, graduated from Purdue University of Engineering in 2007 with a degree in engineering and received his MBA from the University of Texas-McCombs in 2012. He recently started a new online business after receiving a grant. His business, Purchase Black LLC, is an e-commerce website that is, for the most part, an African American focused Amazon.

To receive the \$10,000 grant from The National Black MBA Association Incorporated's Innovation Whiteboard Challenge, Brian had to pitch his idea to a panel of judges using only a white board and a marker.

To develop the idea for his business, Williams had to convince the University of Texas-McCombs to allow him to specifically study black business success. However, there were some obstacles during his study. Williams says, "I realized that African Americans have a large

opportunity to improve our community through something as simple as spending more money with one another. However, I found that a conduit to do so was needed. As I thought of how a conduit could be created, I began to develop my idea for creating one myself."

Thus, he began the final step of the journey that would eventually end with Purchase Black LLC. Although he did not realize it at the time, the real start to creating his business began in high school.

While at Collegiate, he fell in love with math and science because they describe how the world works; this helped develop his interest in engineering



Brian Williams: Class of 2003

"[Math and Science] are the building blocks for how things are made, how nature operates, and how the largest discoveries are discovered," says Williams.

Williams believes that Collegiate truly helped to stretch the limits of his

mind. Also, Collegiate allowed Brian to believe that he could go as far as he challenged himself.

During his high school years, Brian participated in United States Academic Decathlon (USAD), also known as Academic Sports League (ASL). USAD/ASL gave Williams the skills needed to absorb an enormous amount of information in a short period of time and to only use important information. When these skills are applied to engineering, it is easier to prioritize the time and effort that is required to complete a task.

Even with receiving the \$10,000 grant, Brian does not believe that he is successful.

Williams says, "For my life, I measure success by the size of the positive impact I can have on the lives of the communities I care about, and by that measure, I am not yet very successful. I have an excellent education rooted in Collegiate Academy;

However, when I can say that other people's lives are better than what they would have been without me, at that point, I will find myself successful."

The Dirt Baby

Article by Jake Binder

Layout Designed by Maria Czerwinski

There is a mysterious creature hidden within the halls of Collegiate Academy. It lurks in the shadows. In dark corners and places out of reach it is often found. Nobody knows where it came from or how it got here, just that it is hidden. Its name is the Dirt Baby.

The Dirt Baby is a symbol of Collegiate Academy culture. For years it was essentially a game of hide-and-seek played by the entire student body. Students found it, signed their names, then hid it for the next unsuspecting victim.



It appears to be a sack of flour, covered in pink tape, with a face drawn on it. It is approximately one foot high, and maybe five pounds. It's actually pretty conspicuous, so even when hidden well, it tends to stick out.

Personally, I have had two experiences with the Dirt Baby. The first was in the Spring of 2012. I was walking down the stairwell adjoined to the Promenade when I saw some seniors reaching for it on top of the doorframe. I then helped them bring it down. We all signed it and the seniors hid it.

The next time I saw it was in the fall of 2012. I was walking up the same set of stairs with, at the time, juniors Sam Duncan and Alex Storer. We reached the top landing when I saw the Dirt Baby sitting across some pipes toward the ceiling. It was too high for any of us to reach, but luckily we had a football with us. It took a few tries, but we successfully knocked the Dirt Baby off of the pipes and secured it. We took it back to our homeroom, King TV, and that was the last we saw of it. Since then, there has been little to no news on its location, and it seems as though it has gone missing.



Still the search continues for many students at Collegiate. "I spend a lot of time looking for the Dirt Baby" said junior, Alex Dzuricky. "My older brother knew of people finding it, so I really want to." Though his searches have yielded nothing, Alex remains optimistic. "It's fun to just explore the school, even if I don't find anything."

The disappearance of the Dirt Baby is disheartening. Its absence is the absence of something which brings students together, and exemplifies Collegiate Academy culture and history. The fate of the Dirt Baby remains unknown, but until its return, there will be something missing from Collegiate Academy culture.



Photos by Curtis Waidley

In Memoriam

Written By Ben Hartleb

Before recognizing the outstanding teachers of Collegiate's past, it is important to remember those who have passed on, but nonetheless had a profound impact on our school and culture. Dr. Gornall, one of the most impactful Collegiate Academy faculty members ever, is credited with the creation of our school's motto which we live by today, having Beachwalk named in her honor, and serving as our longest tenured dean, passed away in 2010. Mrs. Grode, beloved former Spanish and French teacher, known for her love of traveling the world, passed away in 2009. Mr. Colao, the former computer teacher whom students loved because of his tireless work ethic and the effort and enthusiasm he brought to teaching, passed away in 2012. Mrs. Iverson, one of Collegiate's favorite Language Arts teachers because of the passion she brought to the classroom and her desire to spread her knowledge, passed away in 2013. All of these individuals are sincerely missed, and their attitudes, accomplishments, and contributions to the Collegiate family will be forever remembered.



Mrs. Iverson



Mrs. Grode



Dr. Gornall



Mr. Colao

Life After Academy



Ms. Holmes

Ms. Holmes, beloved former Collegiate English teacher, taught at Collegiate from 1998-2012. She was renowned for her ability to connect with students and help them achieve to the best of their abilities and become expert readers and writers. She stopped teaching in the 2011-12 school year, when she accepted grant to become an academic coach to teachers, although she stayed put and worked from an office at Collegiate. After working in this position for a year and a half, she relocated and switched jobs, becoming the assistant principal at local Lincoln Elementary.

Ms. Holmes loves her new job, which she describes as unpredictable and challenging, but challenging in a good way. However, leaving Collegiate was one of the hardest decisions of her life, and she was extremely reluctant to leave. She misses being able to see the learning happen in front of her in the classroom and misses the students and the culture that is unique to Collegiate. While she misses Collegiate, she is extremely excited for a new opportunity. She feels that she is still teaching in a sense, by helping the teachers improve which then trickles down to the students. She hopes to eventually establish Lincoln as a successful and well-rounded school where many of the graduates move on to Collegiate for high school.



Mr. Chase

Mr. Chase's ties to Collegiate go back further than most. He has taught all over the Erie School District, moving between Strong Vincent and East before accepting a position in 1982 to teach at the original Academy. He was there for ten years, leaving to teach at Strong Vincent and Central, before coming back to teach at the reopened Collegiate Academy in 2002. A tech wizard, Mr. Chase was famous for his fun loving attitude and sense of humor, as well as his passion for teaching. His guides are still used in classes today, a testament to his amazing teaching ability.

After retiring from teaching in 2012, Mr. Chase has enjoyed a relaxing and fun life. Growing up golfing all his life, he became the Strong Vincent boy's golf coach in 2002, a position he still holds today. He has a passion for teaching and the desire to make people better, evidenced by his involvement with the SV golf team and his help in the Erie District Golf Association junior tournaments. He moves between Erie and Florida, where he works part time at a golf course. He misses the culture and the whole Collegiate experience. Nowhere else do students exhibit the hard work and dedication to not only their work, but to the school, than they do at Collegiate, he says.



Mrs. Crumbly

Mrs. Crumbly, a wonderful, passionate, and energetic teacher of Collegiate's past played a major role in shaping the current culture and many of the traditions we hold near and dear today. Mrs. Crumbly quite literally did everything. A jack of all trades, she began her teaching career bouncing between local Erie schools such as Wilson and Twin Tech, spending 18 years there teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. This time fostered the growth of a passion for teaching and the desire to not only instruct, but to truly help students in every facet of their lives.

Mrs. Crumbly came to Collegiate in 1999, only two years after its reopening, teaching both freshmen Social Studies and Spanish, serving as a symbol of inspiration to her students like many of her teachers were to her. She accomplished much in her time at Collegiate, showing both her wish to educate and her love of fun. Bringing in speakers for Black History Month and hanging honor roll banners in the hall to recognize the academic achievements of students were her ideas and are traditions we still have today. She also started the first prom fashion show, illustrating her fun loving nature. Staying true to her past actions and retiring from Collegiate in 2006, her view of retirement is atypical. Rather than relaxing and enjoying a calm life, Mrs. Crumbly has stayed busy by working part time as a curriculum director at local charter schools as well as devoting much of her time in volunteer work at St. Mary's Nursing Home. Though she left nearly a decade ago, she maintains that Collegiate is still a huge part of her and that she misses it dearly.

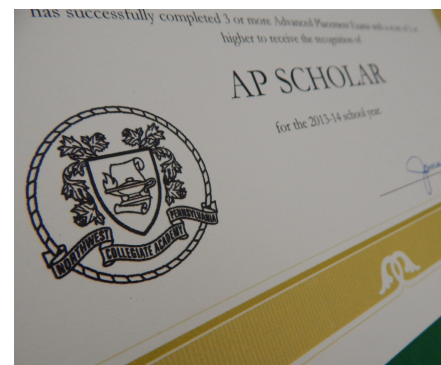
Change has come to Collegiate Academy in many new and exciting aspects. One obvious change is a record breaking freshmen class consisting of 236 students. With the largest freshmen class in the history of the school embarking upon what will soon become a memorable and rewarding journey, it is certain that Collegiate Academy has come a long way since its start in 1997.

A LEADER IN EDUCATION

One of the major changes we've seen is the number of Collegiate Academy students earning AP Scholar status. This past year, the class of 2014 had more than 25% of students receive AP Scholar honors based upon their performance on Advanced Placement exams. Concerning the entire school, 7 students were recognized as National AP Scholars and 102 students were recognized as AP Scholars for 2014. When the numbers were compared to other schools in Pennsylvania, Associate Dean, Rick Schneider, reported, "Collegiate also has nearly 2% of all AP Scholars in the Commonwealth out of 619 high schools." In short, the amount of AP Scholars at Collegiate Academy is but a mere representation of the tremendous talent found within its walls.

Also in the realms of academic achievement, last year Collegiate Academy was presented with the national Blue Ribbon Award for its high student performance in 2013. There was a special ceremony commemorating the event, where special guest, Susan Corbett presented the award to the school. The award is granted by the U.S. Department of Education to schools with academic distinction.

Last year marked the first year French was no longer offered at Collegiate. Although it is sad that an Academy tradition has come to an end, many students are thrilled with the addition of Rosetta Stone to the language department. With this innovative enhancement in language instruction, passionate linguists are able to tackle different languages such as Italian, Russian, and French! As if the Rosetta Stone program is not groundbreaking enough, Collegiate Academy added a Latin program last year as well.



KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

Although much has changed in the past few years, students and faculty still proudly celebrate traditions such as the famous Winter Olympics. Just last February, the entire student body participated in the Winter Olympics End Hunger Games for its first time. The quadrennial Collegiate Academy tradition started off with an unforgettable opening ceremony headed by Student Senate Supervisor, Mr. Taylor, and Student Senate President, Dakota Palmer. Once the Olympic cauldron was lit, the games began a week later with a race to the finish in the legendary Iditarod. Activities present during this event included old favorites such as snow bowling and human curling among many others. Aside from the multitude of entertaining activities provided to students at this special event, the real heart of this tradition lies in the school-wide donation to the non-profit organization, Heifer International. The proceeds helped to provide essentials to families in need learning how to become self-sustaining.

As students and faculty continue to remember the school's roots, every once in a while a new tradition is started. One such tradition is the #NPCA4LIFE Concert, which received its first inaugural concert last March. The goal of the concert was to bring together the alumni and their families, along with current faculty and students. Participants in the event were treated to a spectacular performance by the up and coming folk-rock band, Falling Hollywood, which included alumni Nick Taylor and Bill Frackowiak.

Collegiate Academy continues to evolve with each passing year. With freshmen classes increasing in size, constant innovations in education, and school-wide celebration of both new and old traditions, it is no wonder that both faculty and students are appreciative and proud of the culture that is Collegiate Academy.



Join the Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy Alumni Association!

The Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy Alumni Association is looking for members from the 2001 graduating class onward to join our newly established alumni community.

(Re)Connect

Catch up with members from your graduating class, or start building a network of graduates from other classes.

We are currently working on our first newsletter and are planning social events.



Inspire

Give back to the community and make a positive impact on current students.

We are planning a program to engage with current students to share our professional and university experiences and career insight with current students.

Advocate

Be a strong voice in the Erie community and support your alma mater. Help the school to continue to continue the pursuit of Always Reaching Higher.

Want to join or have questions? E-mail us, check out our website, or connect with us on LinkedIn.



[E-Mail](#)



[Website](#)



The mission of the Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy Alumni Association is to provide a community through which alumni have the opportunity to remain engaged with their alma mater and create a lasting relationship that advances the academic and professional well-being of both current and former Collegians.



Rudis 2

2014



Join us for Collegiate Academy's first annual Alumni Christmas celebration, Rudi's 2!

December 27, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Northwest PA Collegiate Academy

Make your holiday memorable and spend it with some old classmates!

Reminisce about old memories and make new ones!

Come start a new tradition with us!

Food

Tours

Entertainment

Auction

Activities for

Kids