



Seniors Have Their Say

Gael Winds asked seniors from the Class of 2011 to submit a piece about their high school years and/or their future plans. Here is what they had to say:

Ashley Evangelisto: I cannot believe that I am a senior in high school. The years have flown by very fast. I can still remember freshman year like it was yesterday. I remember meeting all my teachers who have taught me everything I know today and the people I would practically grow up with, my classmates. You learn a lot in high school – some good things that you take with you through college, and some bad things that you make sure you don't bring with you to college. You also learn how to grow up, and you realize that not everyone is who they say they are. You make friends who will become family to you and will stand behind you through the worst and the best of times, and then you'll have 'friends' who

will not be so loyal to you and will use you to get what they want.

The best message I can give is to stay true to yourself. God made each and every one of us in our



own way. No one has to change for anyone else, not to be popular or to fit it. Stand out and just be you; if people don't accept you for who you are, then they are not worth your time. You want people who will love you for you and you only. No one is worth you changing for, unless you want to change for yourself. Other than that, high school is an

amazing time in your life. Enjoy the time you have with your friends, because times goes by faster than you know it. One day you will be making friends, and the next day you will be going on your separate ways and forming your own life. Reach for your goals, and never give up. You can do whatever you put your mind to, but only if you work hard enough and just believe. Do not let anyone stand in the way of your dreams.

Ali Robinson: My feelings on the past four years are

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mixed. There were good things and bad things, as everyone has. Sophomore year was by far my favorite. I had a fantastic group of friends, my classes were amazing and I just had an awesome year all around. Freshman year was so long ago I can hardly remember it. Junior year was absolutely terrible; my classes were so difficult, and college was lingering too closely. It was irking me at every chance it had, and it was such a tease because it was so close yet so far. Senior year has just been the longest year; college was so close, and senior year was the only thing standing between me and the real world.

I have decided to go to Arizona State University, for reasons varying from the distance and warmth to the programs and opportunities that the school offers. I have ambitions bigger than this town, and I believe that Arizona State can help me achieve them.

Stephanie Prestamo: Despite the fact that my freshman and sophomore years at John Jay High School are a blur to me, I know that transferring to Kennedy was quite possibly the best decision of my high school career. In

the Fall of 2009, I started my junior year at Kennedy with positive expectations, mostly because I was excited about the opportunity I was given to essentially “create” myself, coming into a relatively new environment with nothing but a clean slate. The most impressive aspect of Kennedy had to be the genuine politeness of just about every person I encountered; even before the academic year started, I had a handful of kids talking to me through Facebook, which made me feel the most comfortable I have ever felt about high school. As junior year progressed, I noticed an increase in my academic ambition as a result of realizing my potential was far more than I had ever imagined. In the Spring of 2010, I joined the track team, which I quickly considered a second family to me because of the supportive and inspiring nature of every teammate, as well as their extraordinary talents. I finished junior year strong, and what seemed to be for the first time I was confident in almost every sense of the word.

My senior year is finally coming to an end, and I'm thrilled to say that my only desire has been fulfilled – that I leave school happy. I wouldn't have achieved this happiness if it weren't for the

fresh start I was given by transferring to Kennedy, all the teachers who believed in me, Mr. Schwartz for all his help in making sure I go to the perfect college for me, and lastly – all the support and loyalty of every friend.

Kim Gomez: People used to tell me that my high school years would go by in the blink of an eye. I never believed them until I woke up one morning as a senior in her last month as a high school student. Each day spent here at Kennedy was a rollercoaster, with many different ups and downs that have made this experience completely unforgettable. I'll never forget the many smiles put on my face by many of my favorite teachers, and the people I take great pride in calling my best friends. Just being able to call myself a member of the Class of 2011 has been the greatest experience I will ever remember and something I will always be proud of! Congratulations to the seniors of 2011! We did it. :)

Frankie Kelly: Throughout my four years at Kennedy Catholic, I have had a lot of fun. I have grown and matured tremendously. The kids here and many of the teachers have made my experience here a wonderful memory that will stay with

Seniors Have Their Say (Continued)

me for the rest of my life. I plan to use all of the life lessons that Kennedy has instilled in me in order to be successful.

Stephanie Ballard: Coming from a public school, JFK was a big change. I didn't know anyone and was nervous. Over these past four years, I have made amazing friends and gotten to experience a lot I wouldn't have gotten to experience in a public school. As a senior, I'm extremely excited to go off to school at the University of Alabama. At the same time, though, I have realized that I am going to miss everyone at JFK, because in one way or another, all the seniors have made an impact on my life. I have talked to every senior at least once, and it has made me realize that I wouldn't have wanted to spend my four years of high school anywhere else.

Jon Concepcion: My Kennedy Catholic experience was different from most students here. I come in every day with a parent in the school. This could be a good or bad thing, depending on how you look at it. It kind of changes my relationship with the faculty, because if I ever get into trouble, they know my dad is "just a walk away." But it's also changed my relationship with my father. My father and I start and finish our day together. In many ways, I'm fortunate to have this time with him and to learn from him. It's rare to have the relationship we have, and I think that Kennedy is a big part of it. I've grown as a per-

son, student and athlete here. I'm on my way to Uconn next year and hope to grow there as well.

Patrick Elie: I've been at Kennedy for less than a year, coming by myself, from a different country, to learn and improve my English skills and to experience something different, with different people and a different culture. I wasn't excited; I was scared, because it is a big deal to travel to a new school in another country by your own to learn something new. The only thing I was excited about was the fact of having the freedom of being on my own for a year. But I'm not going to lie; it is still hard being away from my family.

My first days at Kennedy were kind of difficult, because being a new student in the senior class isn't that easy, and neither is being an international student. But week by week, I was slowly getting known because of my accent and my catchy phrases, such as "Who cares?" and "I'm not talking to you," and the fear of not fitting in was going away. I'm not the most popular guy at Kennedy, but I think I've done pretty well, especially considering my circumstances. I've learned a new language, and I've met new people in a different country. This experience has been awesome. I got to be known as "DJ Pat," and the girls' varsity volleyball team called me "DJ Venezuela." Thank you for the opportunity.

I'm leaving Kennedy with a lot of

good memories. I appreciate how people treated me. I'm going back to Venezuela this summer. It's sad to leave friendships, but I hope to see you guys soon. Thank you very much, Kennedy, for the amazing year! Nos vemos pronto.

Nick Nole: My four years at Kennedy have been very good to me. They have helped me mature and become the person I am today. Kennedy is a good school, and it is a good way to prepare for college. I enjoyed my time here at Kennedy and made a lot of friendships that will last forever, while other friends here I may never see again. It took a lot of hard work, focus, determination and seriousness, but with all of that, I will proudly say that I am a graduate of J.F.K.

J.T. Dodge: My experiences at Kennedy Catholic have had an extremely positive influence on me. All the lessons that I've learned throughout my four years here will stay with me for the rest of my life. Things like time management and being courteous and respectful are things that are very important to learn for everyday life. Every single one of my teachers impacted me intellectually as well as morally. This is because all of my teachers gave off a positive attitude and filled the classroom with an energy that spread throughout the school and influenced the way that many students went about their days.

Seniors Have Their Say (Continued)

There was never a dull day here at Kennedy Catholic, and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every single day here. Of all the things we were taught, the one thing that will stay with me forever is to stay true to myself as well as to others. That thought was not part of the teachers' curriculum, but they taught it to me anyway. That just goes to show how big of an impact the teachers have had on my life – and, I'm sure, on the lives of my peers.

Tim Kazinduka: My four years at Kennedy, to say the least, went by very fast. Coming into the school I was very, very nervous. I did not know a lot of people. So I was scared about whom I should or should not open up to. But as time went on, I found out who my real friends are, and to be honest, I am still finding out. I went through a lot this senior year. I was down for most of it, but now it's all starting to sink in, and I am slowly but surely valuing what we as the Class of 2011 have created here at JFK, which is a family. That's what JFK does for you. It shows you the value of unity, which you might not get at any other school. For that, I thank JFK and all of the staff, for making me so close with everyone. And although you won't be able to see me next year at JFK, you can see me on the football field at SUNY Maritime.

Justine Kopec: It's weird to think that next year, I won't be back to Kennedy. I'm not even sure if I'm ready to leave. Four years flew by

so fast. It wasn't the easiest four years, but I wouldn't have spent them with anyone other than my senior class of 2011. You don't realize until the end how much you actually learn in high school. Day by day it seems like nothing changes, but in the end everything is different. You learn more than just book work. You learn about friendships, people and discipline, and you shape into the person you are meant to be. It truly teaches you life lessons. I grew to be a strong, individual woman, and I'm proud to say that Kennedy helped me become that. I look around at the people who have surrounded me for these years, and I realize how even though we all may not talk and socialize, in some way we are a family. We laughed together, cried together and made all the teachers crazy together. We made it through this step in life together. High school is that last bit of home before you have to go out by yourself, and as much as you say you hate it through the years, in the end you realize how much you are really going to miss it. I'm leaving Kennedy with the best of memories and friendships that will last me a lifetime. Class of 2011 forever.

Chris DeMaro: When I first entered Kennedy Catholic, I somewhat knew what to expect because of my sister and friends who went here. However, I was still nervous. But once I got past my nervousness, Kennedy Catholic High School truly brought me to my best friends and the people who care for me the most. I've had ups and downs throughout my time here at Ken-

nedy, but overall, I enjoyed it, and if I had the same chance to do it all over again, I would. High school was a very fun four years for me, and even though I'm happy to be graduating, I'm going to miss Kennedy Catholic. I'm going to miss all the students and even the faculty. I've come to know this place like the back of my hand, and it really has become a second home for me. It is a place where I really matured and became a man. In conclusion, I would just like to say that I'm going to miss everything about Kennedy Catholic and my time here.

Dan Cossa: A lot has changed during my four years of high school. In my four years, I never bought my lunch once in the cafeteria, but I still managed to gain 80 pounds since freshmen year. I have weight-lifted since freshmen year, yet I never stepped foot in a gym once because of my reliable weight set in my basement. My mom had cancer in 2008 and had to have surgery. My dad recently had to have heart surgery. These times were some of the darker moments I faced in high school. I still managed to get through them though, and so did both my parents, and they're both doing well now. Because of not making the baseball team two years in a row, I finally made the decision to play football for my last two years of high school. I made a lot of good friends and memories during my four years of high school.

Holocaust Memorial Ceremony Held at Kennedy

By Mr. Katz

On May 5, 2011, the Somers Holocaust Memorial Commission held its annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony here at Kennedy Catholic.

The Commission has been in existence for fifteen years. Its purpose is to promote education about the Holocaust and other genocides, as well as to hold an annual ceremony to remember the deaths of eleven million people in the largest genocide in history, the Holocaust perpetrated by the Nazis.

The ceremony included memorial prayers, as well as a candle lighting ceremony in memory of the people killed in the Holocaust. The Holocaust led to the deaths of eleven million people, including six million Jews; others who were killed included various minority groups, as well as an estimated two to three million Polish Catholics.

Fr. Vaillancourt participated in the ceremony, giving a speech of welcome as well as delivering the invocation. There were also musical performances: The Kennedy Catholic Select Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Toteda, sang the John Lennon song "Imagine"; a select group of the Kennedy Band, conducted by Mr. Brewster, played a composition by the French composer Maurice Ravel; and a group from the Somers High School Orchestra, conducted by Anne Harris, performed "The Prayer for Peace," by American composer John Williams.

In addition, the Commission gave out prizes to four students from each of three high schools – Kennedy Catholic, Somers High School and North Salem High School. Each year, the Commission sponsors a contest for students at Kennedy Catholic, Somers High School and North Salem High School to create projects which reflect the horror and/or meaning of the Holocaust or another genocide. The Commission provides monetary prizes to several students from each of the three schools, with each school having prizes for first, second and third place as well as honorable mention. The awards range from \$50 for honorable mention to \$250 for first prize.

This year, the winners from Kennedy Catholic were: First prize – Steven Rivera; Second prize – Maika Delacruz; Third prize – Raymond Fennell; and Honorable Mention – Victoria Towey.

The winning projects, along with many others from the three schools, were displayed in the Commons so that the people attending the ceremony could see them. As in other years, the projects included a variety of media, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, models, stories, journals, poems and PowerPoint

presentations. There were even a couple of websites created for the projects, and in prior years, the projects have also included musical compositions.

While most of the projects were about the Holocaust, the projects this covered other genocides as well. Among them were the genocide against Armenians which occurred during World War I, the genocide in Rwanda in 1993-94, the genocide in Darfur in recent years and the genocide in the 1990s against people in the former Yugoslavia. There was also a project about the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840s, which some historians consider to be a genocide committed against the Irish, who were made to give up their food in order that others could eat.

The ceremony is rotated on an annual basis among the three participating high schools. Next year, the ceremony is scheduled to be held at Somers High School.



LUKE MANNION COMES BACK TO VISIT

By the Gael Winds Staff Historian

This Spring, Kennedy Catholic alum Luke Mannion ('06) returned to school to pay a visit to Mr. Katz's Advanced Placement class on United States Government and Politics. The class, offered to selected senior students at Kennedy, focuses on the political system through which we select our leaders and how those leaders make policies for our nation.

Luke had been a student in the AP Politics class during his senior year at Kennedy. Mr. Katz remembers that "Luke was always an avid follower of current events. He often had an opinion on the issues of the day, and while I think it's fair to say that his positions were certainly strongly held, he always offered them with an open mind and with a respect toward those of other views. I wish our political figures could engage in their debates in a similar fashion."

Luke's appearance was initiated when Luke contacted Mr. Katz, asking for an opportunity to come back to Kennedy to teach the AP class for a day. As Luke put it, he wanted to return to Kennedy to give back something to the school that had done so much for him.

Luke led the AP class in a discussion of American military policy. His choice of topic is not surprising, given that Luke is about to graduate from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD. Luke will graduate later this Spring, and following graduation, he is being assigned, as a Second Lieutenant of Marines, to attend The Basics School

ins' brother, Jason, a current Kennedy senior, is planning to attend the Naval Academy in the upcoming school year, where he will be joined by Luke's sister, Breeda Mannion, a 2010 Kennedy grad. In addition, Kennedy grad Tyrell Thompson graduated from the United States Military Academy (West Point) last year.

Other Kennedy grads have also



gone on to various other military institutions of higher learning in recent years. One of them is Justin Strassfield ('06), a friend of Luke's who joined him on his recent visit to Kennedy.

in Quantico, Virginia for six months of training.

Luke is one of what is becoming a long list of Kennedy students who have gone on to attend our nation's service academies. Fellow alums Joe Davin and Jim Davin have also attended the United States Naval Academy. Joe has already graduated, and Jim is graduating this Spring, in the same class as Luke. The Dav-

Justin graduated from The Citadel, in South Carolina. He recently joined the United States Coast Guard, and he is finishing up his Basic Training this month.

By the way, Luke has graciously offered to speak with any Kennedy student who may be interested in learning more about his choice to pursue an education at the Naval Academy. If you are interested, please see Mr. Katz to get Luke's e-mail address.

What Time Is It?

Our intrepid staff asked the faculty here at Kennedy to ponder the question set out above – What Time Is It? On the surface, the question seems rather simple. But of course, as our teachers will tell us, things are not always what they seem. Deep thinking requires us to sometimes look beneath the surface to figure out an actual answer. Here, now, the response to this deceptively difficult question from some of the grown-ups in the building:

By Mrs. Morris: What a great question! It sounds easy enough to answer. The first thing that came to my mind was the typing drill book back in the day that would have the student type repeatedly, “Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country.” That might be adequate when learning the keyboard, but it just doesn't do it for me. Chicago sang, “Does anybody really know what time it is? Does anybody really care?” Actually, I do care, so that doesn't answer the question for me either. It certainly isn't Howdy Doody time. Well then, what time is it?

As I sit here writing this, it is the evening before for the Royal English Wedding. Unless you live under a rock, you know to whom I am referring. It is time for fanfare, pomposity, and grandeur across the pond. I can't open a paper or turn on a channel without seeing something relating to the occasion. I guess if I were a British Royal or an English commoner, this would tickle my fancy. And since my invitation must have gotten lost in the mail, my time will be better spent.

It is time for many things for me. Time to make up finals. Time to move my college student back home for the summer. Time to put the heavy clothes away and take out the summer ones. Time for sandals! Time to say a fond farewell to another group of gradu-

ates- a group who have always been able to bring a smile to my face. Time to assume my “summer mode”, which consists of a more laid back lifestyle and a much more flexible schedule. Time to think about doing all those annoying little chores that have been put off during the school year. Notice I said THINKING about them- not actually DOING them! Most of all, it is time for spending more time with my family, reading some good books at the beach, and continuing to thank God for ALL the blessings He has bestowed on me.

By Sr. Mary: The time is NOW. This is the most important moment in my life. What will I do with it?

By Mrs. Ioannou:

"As I was walking down the street one day
A man came up to me and asked me
what the time was that was
on my watch, yeah
And I said
Does anybody really know what
time it is
I don't
Does anybody really care
care
If so I can't imagine why
about time
We've all got time enough to cry"

Lyrics from the song "Does anybody really know what time it is?",
by Chicago

By Mr. Tieber: Time is a huge dialysis machine that filters the youth out of our blood and replaces it with experience and wisdom. Unfortunately, it is an arduous process, so it ends up killing us.

By Mr. Katz: What time is it? No, that's not a trick question. I don't ask trick questions – just challenging ones.

Now if you want to know what time it is, you really need to ask yourself a series of secondary questions: Where are you? When do you mean? Are you asking literally or figuratively? Are you using time as a simple measure according to a clock, or are you referring to time in a sense like that used by scientists who refer to the time on the Doomsday Clock (the clock that measures how close we are to the end of the world as we know it)?

Does this make the question any easier for you?

Good, I thought so. :)

The Social Network and Modern Revolution

By Dennis Devey ('13)

The first months of 2011 have seen major news stories in our ever-changing world. During the first few months, spontaneous uprisings occurred in several Arab countries in the Middle East, as young people in particular looked to undo the autocratic regimes in their nations and replace them with new political systems which reflected the will of the people.

In Egypt, one of the largest and most prominent Arab nations, the uprising led to the resignation of long-time leader Hosni Mubarak. While the change of government in that country reflected the larger movement for freedom in parts of the Arab Middle East, it also owed its success at least in some part to the use of social media which have proliferated in the world over the last several years. Sophomore Dennis Devey explores below the link between social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, and the political movement in Egypt.

In modern society, social networks and the Internet play an important part in everyday life. We use them daily to communicate, to organize, or just to look for information. Recently however, the Internet and social media networks like Facebook and Twitter have become forces for democracy and freedom. In Egypt, the Internet and social networks were critical to the protesters success in ousting President Mubarak, and their success has inspired people all over the world to fight for equality and justice.

The roots of the recent protests

against the Egyptian government can be found in a Facebook group for Khaled Said, a man who was beaten to death by policemen. This page for remembering a victim of police brutality soon grew into a focal point for dissent against the government. The administrator of the page collaborated with Egyptian bloggers and Tweeters to organize a day of protest, which sparked the demonstrations earlier this year. Twitter accounts were used to organize protests and demonstrations as the movement began to spread throughout the country. As the protests gained momentum, the Egyptian government shut down all Internet and cell service to the en-

tire country, but the Internet had already played its part and Mubarak was forced to step down soon after. A Tweeter credited with starting the movement wrote that *"Twitter is a very important tool for protesters, as evidenced by the fact it and Facebook were repeatedly blocked in Egypt as the protests flared up. We used it to campaign and spread the word about protests."* Many countries in the Middle East and Africa have begun protests, and the unrest continues, with protesters gaining power daily.

In recent months Facebook, Twitter and other social networks have played important roles in helping to organize protests in Egypt and other places around the world. These things that we use in our everyday life have become powerful tools of democracy that are capable of initiating global change.



"127 Hours": A Movie Review

By John Lopez ('12)

"127 Hours" is a movie

This film was directed

poverty. In this case, the obstacle involves overcoming a seemingly overwhelming physical challenge.



based on a true story. It is the story of a mountain climber who saves himself after a boulder falls onto his arm and traps him in an isolated area in Utah. It stars James Franco, who plays the lead character, Aron Ralston. Other major characters in the film are played by Kate Mara and Amber Tamblyn. "127 Hours" was nominated for six Academy Awards, including James Franco for Best Actor and the movie itself for Best Picture.

by Danny Boyle, who directed the 2008 smash film "Slumdog Millionaire." The screenplay for "127 Hours" was written by Boyle with Simon Beaufoy, who had previously written the screenplay for "Slumdog Millionaire." Like "Slumdog Millionaire," it is a story of a person's attempt to overcome huge obstacles. In the earlier film, it's an obstacle of living in an environment of overwhelming

"127 Hours" demonstrates the struggle of one man, completely stranded in the middle of a large canyon and trapped under a rock, to do whatever it takes to survive. This film shows that no matter how impossible something seems, one can never give up. I won't give away the most dramatic aspect of the story, but suffice it to say that some parts of this movie are rather gory. This is definitely a movie where you might need to cover your eyes at a certain moment, because it is so graphic.

But overall, "127 Hours" is a great movie. It will leave you in awe. I give it 5 stars out of 5. You won't be sorry you went to see it.

****SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT****

Gael Winds is looking for one or more student editors to join our staff for next year. The work involves deciding the paper's content -- both editorial (stories) and visual (pictures and artwork), finding students to write stories, doing the layout of the paper, and in general, putting out a high school newspaper.

You will work with our returning staff, who can show you the ropes of putting together a high school newspaper.

If you are interested, please contact Mr. Katz -- either in person or by sending an email to fkatz@kennedycatholic.org.

We look forward to hearing from you. :)

Music to My Ears

By John Davin ('13)

Could you imagine moving to a foreign country, learning a new language, and making new friends, all while continuing to do the hobby you love? I can't. Patrick J. Elie, a senior here at Kennedy Catholic, moved to Pound Ridge this August from Caracas, Venezuela. Elie came here to learn English and to be open to the opportunities available here in the United States. While adjusting to a new language and trying to fit in in a new school, he still managed to continue what he does best -- DJing.

Patrick grew up all around music and started DJing because of his love for music. He began DJing five years ago, when all he had was a laptop and a set of rented speakers. Patrick worked with what he had while in Venezuela, and he achieved a good deal of success there. Since then, he has been able to invest in a Numark mixer, a professional soundboard for DJs. Patrick was a very active and sought after DJ in Venezuela and continues his love for music here at Kennedy Catholic.

Elie has continued his love for music at Kennedy by

DJing at many school athletic events and by starting his own club (the DJ club). His music has helped lead our teams to victory and entertain the crowds in the process. With the soundboard, Patrick creates mixes with his own sounds and blends songs into them in order to find the style and emotions of his crowd.

Widely known throughout Kennedy for his skills with music, he has come to be called DJ Patrick. Patrick has thoroughly enjoyed DJing these events, and so did the crowds who praised him for his great mixes.

A strong believer in the saying 'practice makes perfect', DJ Patrick accredits his skill to a lot of practice and reading up on DJing. He reads DJing books in order to further his ability to understand the crowd and go in the direction that helps them express themselves through the music. When asked to explain how he DJs, Elie replied, "Every time I DJ an event, I come across a new crowd and accept the responsibility to interact with that crowd and experiment with them until I



find exactly what they like." DJ Patrick brings his crowds to a whole new level of enthusiasm and enjoys being given the opportunity of pleasing a new crowd.

This June, Patrick is moving back to Caracas, Venezuela, to attend college there. He would like to become a professional music producer one day and plans on pursuing a major in the field of music editing and engineering. Elie would like to stress his sincere thanks to the faculty and administration at Kennedy Catholic for the great education and numerous opportunities he has been given here.



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Kennedy Softball 2011

By Nicole Alleva ('13)

The Kennedy Lady Gaels Varsity Softball Team has gotten off to a strong start this season. The team is led by senior captains Katherine A'Hearn, Alyssa DiGrandi and Marina Cotarelo. Coach Pat Hogan is returning for her fourth season as head coach of the team.

This year, the team has played its home games at Katonah Memorial Park, while construction is completed on the new softball field on the Kennedy campus.

The team has started the season with a 7-4 record. The record in league games is a very strong 5-1, with two wins over Pawling and Arlington B, and a split of two games with Dover. Among the vari-



ous non-league games, the team has defeated Putnam Valley and Somers and lost a very tough 1-0 game against a very strong Our Lady of Lourdes team.

The softball team is currently preparing for its annual tournament at North Salem High School, which is being held on Saturday May 14th. The first

game of this tournament will be against North Salem, and it will also count as a league game. The winner of this game will gain an advantage for the League Championship. Following the tournament, the team has several more games to finish the regular season.

Last year, the team made it to the second round of sectionals. This year Coach Hogan has set the bar higher by setting goals of winning the League Championship and going even further in Sectionals.





2011 USA Gymnastics Men's Collegiate Championships

By John Davin ('13)

On March 25th, I attended the 2011 USA Gymnastics Men's Collegiate Championships, which was held at Springfield College's Blake Arena. I had never been to a gymnastic competition prior to this one. Gymnastics may not be one of the major, glamor sports on college campus. But it clearly requires a great deal of effort; I had never realized the amount of effort that goes into this sport.

It became very evident that gymnastics requires years of training, practice and discipline. All the years of practice culminate in a less than two-minute routine in front of two judges at a National Collegiate Championship. The gymnast who wins an event has to have a basically flawless routine. Each individual needs to focus and prepare both mentally and physically for his own events, but he also has to help fellow teammates by encouraging them, because gymnastics is also a team sport.

The team (cumulative) and individual scores used at the National Collegiate Championship come from the Code of Points. The Code of Points is a system used by judges to identify and assign value to

gymnastic movements. Every movement and acrobatic skill is listed, illustrated and assigned a specific difficulty rating.

The gymnasts competed for their teams' cumulative score on Friday and for eligibility to compete in the individual championship on Saturday. The athletes who finished in the top eight of their events on Friday were eligible to compete in Saturday night's individual championships.

The team competition was divided into two categories: Varsity and Club. Five schools competed in the Varsity Division, and five more participated in the Club Division. The Varsity competition was for Division II and III schools with gymnastics as a varsity sport, as well as for military academies. The Club team category was for two-

year or four-year degree-granting schools with gymnastics as a club sport. Individual events combined participants from both Divisions.

The team championship took place on Friday, March 25th. The schools competing in the Varsity Division were William & Mary, Springfield College, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Military Academy. Schools competing in the Collegiate Club Division were Arizona State, the College of Brockport, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Portland Community College and the University of Washington. Air Force won the Varsity Division, with William & Mary second and Springfield third. In the Club Division, Arizona State was the winner, with Washington second and Brockport third. Both Air Force and Arizona State were repeat champions from the prior year.



A Letter From An Editor

Dear Readers,

Working on a newspaper is tedious work. Sometimes sitting at the computer for hours can cause your eyes to blur and your fingers to cramp. The pages begin to blankly stare at you, literally blankly. A lonely editor would ask herself what should I write? Does this sentence make sense? Is the comma necessary? Is the layout too busy, is the font too small?

Luckily, this year, I have not been the sole editor of The Gael Winds. I have shared this job with my fellow classmate and my friend, Michael Campobasso. He was always that someone that I could turn to and ask if the comma was necessary or ask if the pages were in the right order. He would usually respond by taking the mouse and fixing it all, until he deemed it perfect and I agreed.

I have to say that working with him was a real pleasure. We will be sad to see him leave the Gael Winds Staff, but I know, as well as everyone else here at Kennedy Catholic, that he will succeed wherever he goes in life. We wish him the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Jena Lynne DiFrisco



John F. Kennedy Catholic
HIGH SCHOOL