



A Mission in Moldova

By Kerry Coughlin ('07)

Editor's Note: Kerry Coughlin graduated from Kennedy Catholic in 2007. She went on to Hamilton College, a fine liberal arts college in upstate New York, where she graduated in 2011. After her graduation, Kerry joined the Peace Corps. She was assigned by the Peace Corps to a position teaching English in Moldova, one of the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Kerry wrote the following article for Gael Winds:

I am often asked, "Why Moldova?" My first response is always, "Well, I didn't

have much of a choice... I just filled out piles and piles of paperwork and went through weeks of frustration and suffering before the US

Government finally told me, a year later, that I'd be teaching English in Moldova." But there is so much more to that question. How did I really come to be here today, to be this person?

When I look back on the past twenty-two years, it's often difficult to really sort out the influences on my life. I've come into contact with so many people, been so many places, tried so many things, and I honestly feel that even the seemingly in-

significant interactions in my life have had some sort of impact on my life, whether



it's realized or not.

I think back to myself at Kennedy Catholic, Kerry Coughlin circa 2005 or so. I was a bit of an overachiever, and my slightly more cynical self now would call that Kerry a bit idealistic. I fancied myself somewhat of an amateur activist – you could find me pushing a huge cart around after school collecting paper to be recycled or setting up tables in the cafeteria to collect donations for those suffering from the Dar-

fur crisis. My interests were all over the place, but in my core I felt the strong urge to change the world, or at least make a difference in some small way. The Peace Corps was but a twinkle in my eye.

And then came Hamilton College, one of many small liberal arts colleges in the northeast, but one that I believe provided me with an experience that none of the others could. I didn't have my bra burning years of protests that perhaps people at Kennedy may have expected. In fact, my social activist side was put on the backburner for a little as I was overwhelmed

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This Issue

by everything related to freshman year of college, most significantly the varsity swim team, which ate away slowly at my sleep schedule and social life for half of the year. In sophomore year I became more active again in other campus activities, first by leading a small group of students that grew in size every week to a local animal shelter.

Absolutely enamored with Hamilton and already itching to get out and do something in the world, I decided I'd rather spend my spring break doing volunteer work with fellow students instead of just sitting at home in Carmel. I applied for the alternative spring break service trip, but due to an unexpectedly high number of applicants, I was turned away. Three days later, an email came advertising a service trip on the US-Mexico border. I knew little about border issues. My knowledge of immigration came mostly from the offensive remarks about the recent influx of Central Americans in the surrounding area of my hometown. I went to the interest meeting anyway, and a few months later found myself camping in the Sonoran Desert and hiking every day to bring medical aid, food, and water to people crossing the treacherous desert, on the verge of death, but full of hope for a better life.

And that was when I

started to seriously consider the Peace Corps. I realized that I am much the person I am today because of the people I have been able to meet all over the world – they have constantly constructed and reconstructed my idea of what it is to live and what it is to be happy, from the people I met in Mexico, who had just been deported and pulled away from their lives of 20 years, to the children I taught in rural India, who never stopped smiling although they would never see in their lifetime the money many of us may see in just a year. And I began to have an answer to that question asked of me several years earlier as I asked for donations to send to Darfur – “Why aren't you helping the American soldiers in Iraq?”

There is much we can all do in the world. There are people we could help right down the street, and there are people we can help in Moldova, a country that I knew little of besides its mere existence before coming here. But all of these people touch our lives in different ways, and enable us to continue to grow and to help even more people. We may be Americans, but before we were Americans, we were human beings, and that is what ultimately unites us.

I had to give up a lot to be here – the normal post-grad life, proximity to family and friends, a boyfriend. I live with an incredibly loving host family, but I had lamented the fact that because

none of us spoke the same native tongue and our communication would rely solely on my ability to speak Romanian, that people would never fully understand or know me. There was one day here when I was going through a difficult time with a relationship back home, and my first instinct was to go on the computer, to find someone on Skype and let it all out. But right then my host mother Oxana came in the room and sensed I was upset. I told her the situation as best as I could in Romanian, but my words could hardly convey what had really happened and how deeply hurt I was. But she didn't need the words – she knew. Maybe Moldovans have a different idea of romantic relationships, and maybe we didn't have a common language, but she didn't need to be an English-speaking American to understand.

So why Moldova? I have new answers to that every day, everything from my frustrations to my successes. But I think Peace Corps, more than anything, is about touching lives. Most of my students will never leave the village and will never use the English I've taught them. But if I can touch just a handful of lives the way Oxana has already touched mine, then I think I have accomplished what I came here for. One person can't change the world, but one person can change the world of one other person. - K.C.

My Brother

By Andrew DeMarco ('14)

I'll bet you've never considered adopting a person from a land so different from our own, from a country on the other side of the earth. China, with a landmass of 9,600,000 square kilometers and a population of about 1.4 billion people, is the homeland of my new friend Jack Yu. Jack came from Shanghai to New York to study with me as a sophomore at Kennedy Catholic High School. Jack is one of over twenty Chinese students who have come to Kennedy Catholic this year.

I'm not going to lie; at first, I was reluctant to say yes to my parents when they brought it up over dinner one summer evening. I knew so many things would change - new rooms, new lifestyle - but I figured it was an offer that

could not be passed up. I was, needless to say, excited during that long wait outside the terminal of Kennedy Airport when Jack arrived. Every time the door from customs opened, I held my breath, and our welcome signs for Jack went up. One-by-one, the host families found their new family members, until it seemed as though we were the only ones left. Then the door swung open again, and there was Jack.

I made some quick judgments: He's tall, skinny and, friendly. On the ride home, we asked him what he wanted his English name to be. He insisted that we choose one for him, and with his approval we chose Jack. Other than that, the ride home was quiet. Jack slept for a long time the next day. You can't blame him - he had traveled through twelve time zones

to get here.

Jack enjoys our school, and he excels at mathematics. He's great at basketball too, and he can definitely join in a 3-on-3 game with the kids in my neighborhood. Recently, Jack and a group of other exchange students went to Chinatown. That must have been strange but oddly familiar.

One Friday night, we ordered Chinese food, and Jack knew some really good items on the menu that we never even noticed, such as pork buns. Next time we are going to let him order in Chinese. We took him apple picking last weekend too.

Every year my family and I go apple picking at Outhouse Orchards in North Salem. I think Jack really enjoyed it.

I wonder what it's going to feel like when Jack goes back to China for the summer. We will miss him, but for now we have plenty of holidays and memories to look forward to with him. - A.D.

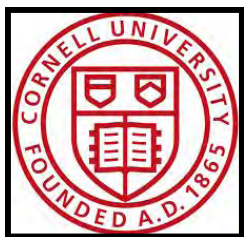
How to Pick a College

By Brendan Liberati ('14)

How do you pick a college? This is one question that plagues many high school students. Since there are so many choices, you have to narrow your choices. Some of the questions that you need to ask yourself are: 1) where in the country would you prefer to go to school, 2) do you want to go to a school in a rural or urban environment, 3) do you want to go to a large school or a small school, and 4) what school offers you the

best courses for your planned major or field of study?

I am a sophomore, but I am already thinking about these questions. I know I want to stay in the Northeast or the Mid-Atlantic states. I would prefer not to be in a big city environment. I also would prefer a smaller school, but I would not mind going to a larger school if it offered me better opportunities. I am considering a major in social studies, possibly pre-law. I am striving to get into a good school. The five



schools that are on my list of possibilities are Bucknell University, Colgate University, Cornell University, Georgetown University and Villanova University.

Another question to consider is, what are the qualifications that each university looks for in their applicants? You must remember that each university receives thousands of student applications, and only a small percentage are accepted for admissions. For example, Villanova accepts approximately 45% of the applicants that they receive. Both Colgate and Bucknell accept just over 30% of their applicants, while Georgetown



accepts 20% and Cornell

only 18%. [continued on page 5]

How Steve Jobs Changed Our Lives

By Lara Manbeck ('14)

The world has recently lost one of the most life-changing icons of our generation. Steve Jobs, who passed away on October 5 from pancreatic cancer, was one of the most influential technological innovators to ever live. His effect on our lives has been substantial. Seemingly everyone owns an iPod, the iPhone started the smart-phone hype, the iPad launched the tablet industry, Mac computers are exceedingly popular, and Pixar has changed the way we view animated movies. Without Jobs's ideas, actions and designs, life would not be the same. It's incredible for one man to affect how so many people live their lives. His actions have affected the way we communicate with others, as well as our perspective on communication.

Often called the Edison of our time, Jobs believed that it should take a genius to make a computer, not to use one. Under Jobs' direction, Apple placed a large emphasis on simplicity and design, making products more marketable to the mainstream audience. Instead of plastic, computers were made of stainless steel. When first converting from Windows to Apple,

I found the computer hard to use, ironically because it was so simple. Unlike Windows, which I had been using my entire life before then, the Macbook allowed easy access to everything. The desktop looked sleek and simple. This is a major reason why most people I know in my age group now own Mac prod-



ucts. Compared to Windows, for me the Mac operating system is easier to use and very straightforward. It allows people to buy an Apple computer and be able to use it without manuals or instruction.

Along with the Mac computers, Jobs also introduced the iPod. Though the concept was not new, Jobs was responsible for making it popular. In 2001, the first iPod was produced, sparking a digital revo-

lution. Never before could one walk around with a thousand songs in their pocket. Teenagers became addicted to these amazing devices, especially with the introduction of the iTunes store. The iTunes store, introduced in 2003, became the first digital service to gain so much commercial success. As of today, over 10 billion songs have been downloaded off iTunes. When I first heard of the iPod in around fourth grade, I had no urge to ask my parents to buy me one. But soon everyone in my grade had gotten one, and it was considered "weird" not to own an iPod. My parents bought me an iPod, and since then there has not been one day I haven't listened to it on the school

bus. We take them literally everywhere.

Even before I knew what a computer was, I was already being influ-

enced by Steve Jobs. Pixar, an animation company, has made countless movies that children will never forget. Pixar has made highly grossing animated movies such as Toy Story, Finding Nemo and A Bug's Life. When Jobs bought Pixar, known as The Graphics Group at the time, it was intended to be a graphic

"Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me ... Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful... that's what matters."

– Steve Jobs, 1955-2011

How to Pick a College Continued

How do you get into these colleges? First, you need to have good grades in high school and a high score high on the SAT. In addition to getting good grades, you need to be a well-rounded person, to separate yourself from other students; you have to be involved in extracurricular activities such as sports and clubs, and participate in community service pro-

jects.

How can you find out more about schools? You can go visit campuses of some of the schools that you are interested in. You can look up information on the schools that you would like to attend on the Internet. One good website to use is the College Board site, which provides information on a wide variety of schools. You

can also go to a college fair, where you can talk to students and administrators of the school. Gather all of your information and weigh the pros and cons of each college. Do your homework, do your research, and ask your guidance counselor for advice. Ask questions, get the answers, and choose your college. Good luck! - B.D.

How Steve Jobs Changed Our Lives Continued

hardware producer. After years of failure to sell its Pixar Image Computer, Pixar partnered with Disney and produced a number of successful computer-animated films. The animations are incredibly highly detailed and eye-catching. The plots are always original and captivating.

The effect Steve Jobs made on my life was immense. I haven't bought a CD in years. Everything can now be purchased

online through iTunes, which I download onto my Macbook, which then transfers it to my iPhone. Steve Jobs didn't invent the telephone, but he made the biggest changes to the telephone since its invention. Without my Apple products, I have many fewer ways of communicating with people. The thousands of pictures and videos I have were all taken with my iPhone's camera. My Mac holds all of my school work documents.

Yes, the products' functions could be replaced with similar ones made by competitors. But they would not possess the elegance and clarity of an Apple.

There are different products from a variety of different manufacturers, but these competitors would not be competitors if Jobs hadn't shown the way. What he did and how he did it have made a great impact on my life. - L.M.

Pajama Program

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Pajama & Book Drive!

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All donations will be given to underprivileged children through The Pajama Program of Westchester.

Look out for the blue bins by the main office and bridge!



The Inspire Reading Club at the 2010 "Stuff a Bus".

Finding the Cure Starts With Hope

By Ellen Spillane ('14)

When you or a loved one is faced with the fearsome diagnosis of breast cancer, it's normal to experience feelings like hopelessness, trepidation, and despair. In those moments, we are most in need of comfort, faith, and the hope of healing.

Approximately 200,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year; 40,000 are estimated to die from their disease each year. Each day women around the world hear the heart-wrenching words, "You have been diagnosed with breast cancer." In that instant their lives are changed forever. The most important question forms in their mind: Will I survive?

Although hearing the words "breast cancer" may seem like an end, it can be the beginning of finding hope, experiencing strength, and receiving support from people everywhere. The month of October not only represents the changing colors of the trees or the festivities of Halloween, but it also displays an event that is much bigger and more important as a whole. If it's October, it is time to think pink. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month spans the entire month of October. The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) organization is a partnership of national public service organizations, professional medical associations, and government agencies working together to help support breast cancer awareness and share information about breast cancer.

Breast cancer is one of the deadliest illnesses caused by malignant cells. To honor those lives that have been touched through this disease, people raise money by organizing activities such as parties, walks and marathons. The Susan G. Komen 3 Day 'For the Cure' Walk is a sixty mile fundraising walk, which is spread across three days, to raise money for breast cancer research. When Susan G. Komen was dying from breast cancer, her sister Nancy G. Brinker promised she would do everything in her power to terminate this disease forever.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a global breast cancer movement, was launched in 1982 as a network for survivors and activists to empower people and encourage cancer research. It has become the world's largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer. The people who volunteer to walk sixty miles in three days are helping mothers, spouses, sisters and friends get one step closer to a world without breast cancer. Throughout several parts of the world, The National Race for the Cure takes place to help save lives and increase knowledge of its cause, prevention, treatment, diagnosis and cure.

The most important thing during an illness is to never lose hope. By participating in Breast Cancer Awareness activities, we are giving our heart to all those who fight to survive. All things pink, from mugs to bracelets and all in between, are sold to raise money and honor the search for a

cure. The pink ribbon, and the color pink in general, symbolizes breast cancer awareness.

Pink is most commonly seen during October to express moral support for women battling against this horrifying disease. It represents the apprehension of breast cancer, hope for the future, and the charitable goodness of people who support the breast cancer campaign. Breast Cancer Awareness represents the incredible strength and courage each patient possesses.

During October, we admire the thousands of heroes who endure the sufferings of cancer but never give up their fight. The portrayal of faith, bravery and hope show the true heroism that can be revealed even in the darkest of times. Breast Cancer Awareness month is a time for everyone to realize the overwhelming challenges posed by breast cancer, the optimism and positive environment that we can provide, and the love and care we should give to each person who is holding on for their life. We can all join the fight, one step at a time. - E.S.



A Sad Remnant of Hurricane Katrina

by Amy Sniffen ('14)

In eastern New Orleans, adjacent to Interstate 510, lies a woe-begone amusement park. Within the fence that surrounds it, the park is riddled with smashed windows, dilapidated buildings, rotting rides and ruined statues.

The statues in particular are what set the overall tone of the park; shattered clown faces stare eerily from every corner, making the park seem like a haunted Halloween

house that never ends. The motionless rides once filled with children's laughter now stand unused and crumbling. Ghosts of unbridled enjoyment float through the air, but a somber and formidable shell surrounds the park, blocking them out. The spookiness of this abandoned playground has thus been preserved with little hope of revival.

In 2000, Alfa Smartparks, a major amusement park chain, opened an amusement park in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana. It was named Jazzland, which was derived from the rich culture of the surrounding city. For the two years Jazzland was operating, it was a bust. Eastern New Orleans was a bad part of the city, and it was too far away from other major tourist attractions. The people

who lived around the park were too poor to afford to go to an amusement park, and those who could afford it felt that Jazzland was low rent and small. With only four major rides, the park was considered to be rather shoddy, and the people who could afford the fees chose to go to other places.

In 2002,

Six Flags bought Jazzland and turned it into Six Flags New Orleans. Six Flags hoped the company name would attract more people than the other name had been bringing to the park. This theory, however,

turned out to be wrong. If anything, fewer people went to the re-named amusement park, because they felt that Jazzland had celebrated the culture and history of New Orleans with its festive decorations and other features, while Six Flags New Orleans was merely another corporate

amusement park. Six Flags also faced the same old problem that had plagued Jazzland: it was too small. While Six Flags added several rides, they were still only using 100 acres of their 400 acre plot, and all the surrounding space made the park seem even smaller. Six Flags tried to manage that problem by building a water park, but the plans fell through when disaster struck.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the New Orleans area, flooding many places including the low-lying section of New Orleans where the park was located. Six Flags New Orleans was submerged in ten feet of water for over a month. The damage inflicted by the corrosive saltwater was so severe that the park was forced to close down after the storm had passed, and it had no plans to reopen. The City of New Orleans asked Six Flags to rebuild and reopen the park,

but Six Flags claimed that the insurance money they received for the damage was not nearly enough

to cover the cost of rebuilding, and one of the popular rides was moved to a Six Flags park in another location.

Six Flags has now vacated the



A Story

By Gerard Ledley ('12)

Editor's Note: The first portion of the following story, by senior Gerard Ledley, was published in the Gael Winds Mini-Issue at the start of this school year. We now include below the story in its entirety.

The old cowboy hung up the phone. Sighing, he rubbed his weathered face with calloused hands. He had just spoken to a man with whom he had not spoken for many years. The man's name was Smith, and they had once been business partners; later, they were enemies.

He felt the tides of inevitability tugging at him, knowing full well where he was headed. But first, he sat down at his plain, wooden kitchen table to eat a plain, American meal of steak and potatoes. Shortly thereafter, he went to bed, laying awake at first, haunted by the enormity of the task he was about to set out upon, yet falling asleep underneath the weight of the same anxiety.

He awoke early, at first light, as he had done since twelve years of age. He was a cattle rancher, as was his father, and his father before him, the son of one of those European runaways seeking the plainness of his former life with the added peace of mind had only

by a free man untroubled. He put on the same leather boots and vest that he had worn for years, along with sturdy jeans topped by a belt and holster containing a basic cattleman's revolver. He walked around his small home, turning off the lights, one by one, nearly wincing at the finality of each light's sneak into oblivion.

At the door jamb, he sighed for a second time and walked out onto the porch. The sun had just begun to creep over the horizon, dispelling the mist and the chill of the night. He unleashed his dog that lay in front of him. The animal looked at him quizzically and licked his hand. "There's

a good boy," he said. The dog, as if reading his mind, walked down the steps, looked back over its shoulder, then began to trot down the driveway to the one main road in town, out of sight.

The old cowboy walked out to the small pasture that was still his, and opened the gate. His thin herd of cattle

looked up at him and then returned to grazing. He nodded to himself, realizing that they, too, would leave whenever they wished. He walked over to a stable, built once to hold more horses than he had



A Sad Remnant of Hurricane Katrina Continued

property. Talks have occurred to turn the property into a sports complex or a Nickelodeon theme park, but nothing much has come of them.

So the former amusement park stands as a monument to the damage inflicted by Hurricane Katrina. It is now just an empty shell, hoping to be revived. All the life has gone out of the park, and it stands like a body without

a soul. The absence of children's laughter permeates the park and acts like a blanket covering its potential. The empty paths winding through the park are soiled with misplaced dirt from the hurricane waters. Broken clown heads that were once merry jesters welcoming guests into the park are now spooky figures that lurk in the shadows, like attractions in haunted houses. Walls there are filled with graffiti — some carrying

messages of rebuilding and restoration, while others speak of the dangers that await unwanted visitors. Six Flags New Orleans, once a place filled with happiness, is now a graveyard of cheerful memories. Whether Six Flags will choose to rebuild or not remains to be seen, but the mystique and fascination that surrounds the park will never disappear. - A.S.

A Story Continued

ever owned. Inside stood one stallion, his partner since boyhood. He opened the gate to his stall, and the stallion, trained to obey the wishes of his master for years, walked out. The old cowboy rubbed the stallion's nose one last time, and then it ran off. He stood and watched him run off into the distant plains, still marveling at the creature's grace and intelligence.

Once more the old cowboy sighed, taking the ranch in all at once. His eyes fell on familiar spots, places where he had spent his youth, forging memories. The place was much smaller now than in his father's and grandfather's

time, and emptier, too, as he never found time for a wife or children. With a sad smile, he kicked the gravel, the same gravel he had kicked at a hundred times before, the same gravel he had scraped his knees on as a kid, the same gravel his beads of sweat had fallen onto during hard work, the same gravel that now, at last, welcomed a few unabashed tears. He got into his pickup truck and began to drive.

He drove through town, passing small shops and people on sidewalks who he had known his entire life. Normally, he'd wave to them, and they'd wave back, but not today. He lived in the city of Fortuna, North Dakota, which sprang up quickly along the rail line, but it had now dwindled to about a few hundred

residents. The owners of the railroad named it after the Roman goddess of luck, enticing settlers to the area. A wry smile crossed the old cowboy's face; the irony was not lost on him.

As the miles passed, and later, the states, he meditated on the call from Smith. He invited him to Manhattan to discuss their previous and ill-fated business venture, but the old cowboy knew he was only being invited to get corralled by lawyers into signing papers to absolve Smith of any legal blame. After all, Smith had fooled him out of a fortune. Doubtless, Smith had some new business venture, and he was trying to tie up loose ends from his past.

Days blurred together, as did

Movie Reviews

Moneyball

By Brendan Liberati ('14)

Moneyball, starring Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill, is a must see movie for everyone, not just baseball fans. This movie is based on a true story about the Oakland Athletics. The movie starts with real footage from a 2002 American League Division Series playoff game between the Oakland Athletics and the New York Yankees. The Yankees eventually won the series, but with a payroll of seventy-five million dollars more than that of the Athletics.

After that season, the Athletics lost their three best players to free agency. To baseball people, the Athletics were done. They needed to build their team back up.

Billy Bean (Brad Pitt), the general manager, recruited the assistance of Peter Brand (Jonah Hill), a statistician, from the Cleveland Indians. Billy and Peter began putting together a team by looking at players' stats, specifically targeting players that could get on base, despite other flaws. They ignored the players who cost a great deal of money, since the team had a limited budget. They also looked at players who scouts thought had flaws, such as bad legs, poor fielding ability, or simply being too old.

At first, things did not go well that next year. The Athletics were in last place in their division. But then once the team developed a synergy, it went on a 20 game winning streak. The Athletics made it to the playoffs that year, although they did lose in the first round. But

the Athletics' meteoric rise from the dead that season proved to other clubs that great teams don't need the highest paid players to win – they need players who contribute to victories in various ways. This strategy was eventually adopted by many other teams in the major leagues, including the Boston Red Sox, who used it to win World Series titles in 2004 and 2007. The strategy is commonplace today.

Moneyball shows you the action of a major league baseball team from behind the season, in the front office, unlike other baseball movies, which often provide you the viewpoint from the players' perspective. *Moneyball* lets you see it through the general manager's point of view, giving you insight into how a general manager puts together a team. Brad Pitt gives a riveting performance as Billy Bean, and Jonah Hill is entertaining as his walking and talking stat computer. Go see this movie. You won't be disappointed. Enjoy!
Grade = A+

A Story Continued

cheap motels and various country landscapes. No matter how hard he tried to put distance between himself and that little northwestern North Dakota town, his thoughts were still drawn back to it. It mattered little where he was or was headed, for his mind was still in Fortuna.

He still remembered that day he struck oil out in that pasture, how it spewed forth from the land like a major artery. It showered him in “black gold”, and he thought he was the luckiest man in Fortuna or in the world. He also recalled how a month later a man, Smith, arrived from New York in an expensive

suit and shoes, completely out of place. He said he had heard of the oil, and that he wanted the two of them to become business partners. A lot of sweet-talking later, the old cowboy signed some papers, and Smith left. Another month passed before a group of men arrived with machinery, and more papers explaining that they were taking more than half of his ranch. He was devastated, shocked that he had been duped so easily and deeply saddened that he had lost the land his family had held for generations. The pain and embarrassment stung him everyday as he saw the oil rig pump more oil, more money out of his land. It stung the most the day the well dried up, and the men left, leaving behind land dead and stripped of any use.

Thinking about still made him turn red with anger and resentment. He intended to gain back his pride, even if it meant he would never return to Fortuna. He softly patted the old cattleman’s revolver at his side.

He arrived in Manhattan and parked his pickup in a parking garage, eying the old truck sadly. He didn’t bother taking the garage ticket for it. He walked down the streets of the city, a complete juxtaposition. Everyone ignored him, however, and he reciprocated with cold silence.

He came to a crosswalk, across which stood a black skyscraper and Smith. The man wore an expensive suit, as always, and black sunglasses. He made no gesture to the old cowboy, but that was a greeting in itself. The old cowboy felt the blood rise

50/50

By Thomas Delfino ('14)

50/50 is a new dramedy (dramatic comedy) about cancer, life, death, and relationships directed by *Jonathan Levine*. The movie stars *Joseph Gordon-Levitt* as Adam, a 27 year old diagnosed with a rare type of spine cancer. His chances of survival are (obviously) 50/50. By his side through this tough time are his best friend Kyle (*Seth Rogen*), his mother (*Angelica Hudson*), and his therapist Katie (*Anna Kendrick*). Adam starts off calm about his cancer, but throughout the movie gets more and more anxious about his condition.

Though mainly dramatic, the movie is really funny especially *Seth Rogen*. Although he is seemingly

Movie Reviews

playing the same character he’s played in every other movie he’s been in, *Rogen* plays it realistically and good from a dramatic view.

pull through. One of the many highlights of the movie is a scene where 2 older, cancer ridden men offer Adam “macaroons”. It’s strange, unconventional, and hilarious.

Don’t go into this movie expecting *Pineapple Express*, because it’s not. If I had to compare this to another movie, it’s *Funny People*. The interesting thing about 50/50 is that it is somewhat based on a true story. The screenwriter of the movie, *Will Reiser*, actually had cancer with 50/50 odds. *Reiser’s* real life best friend *Seth Rogen* helped him fight through it. It’s a good thing he made it too, because if he hadn’t this great movie would not have been made.

50/50= 5/5



What’s great about his character was that at first glance he may seem like a jerk, he really cares about his friend. *Gordon-Levitt* was great in the movie making audience really care about Adam and wanting him to

A Story Continued

up into his ears, so much so that he couldn't hear the traffic around him. He did not think, but merely began to cross the street, reaching for the cattleman's revolver at his side. His eyes focused on Smith, a smile beginning to form. Then, unimaginable pain. He fell to the ground, still smiling. A man rushed out of his taxi, looking around, eyes bulging. He looked at the old cowboy, then to Smith. "I...I... uh...he," the taxi driver managed to choke out. "Drive, Drive,

drive!" yelled the woman wearing the mink coat in the back. The taxi driver returned to his taxi, and drove away, leaving burnt rubber marks on the road. The old cowboy lay there, staring at the sky, a sky similar to yet altogether different from Fortuna's. The smile relaxed peacefully. Smith was rooted to the spot. He wanted nothing to do with the situation. Yet, he still pitied the old cowboy. He was completely out of place; he never stood a chance. He represented a different time, a different ethic. He was the last American cowboy, living with the land, looking to profit off no one. He recalled the day they

met, how plain he was, how simple his life, how powerful his handshake and his gaze. He was a man who accepted nothing foolish, yet was too easy to fool. Smith had once heard of a cougar from South Dakota roaming all the way east, only to be hit by a car in Greenwich. He nodded in agreement with himself: here was a cougar, out of place, and not standing a chance. As sirens from police and ambulances droned in the distance, he turned and walked back into the skyscraper, realizing that he could rip up those papers his lawyers prepared.—G.L.



Open House this year will be on Sunday, October 23rd (from 1pm-4pm) and Wednesday, October 26th (from 7pm-9 pm) at Kennedy Catholic High School.

For more information, call

Mr. Brian Zawiski

(914-232-5061 ext.126)

or email him at

bzawiski@kennedycatholic.org

Join the Family Association for

Kennedy Catholic's

30th Anniversary Auction

Saturday, November 12th

6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

\$35 in Advance • \$45 at the Door

See back page for more details!



S P O R T S

Why Get Involved in School Sports?

By Elizabeth Varoli ('14)

Get out, get involved, and get active! Kennedy Catholic has some of the most inviting sports programs around. Whether you are a die-hard athlete, or you just want to get involved in your school's extracurricular activities, the Kennedy sports teams are perfect to join. The fall seasons are nearing an end, which gives everyone just enough time to get a little bit of extra practice in before the Winter Season starts up.

There are usually two teams per sport, varsity and junior varsity, and sometimes there's even a freshman team. The varsity team is usually open for participation by the older, more advanced Kennedy athletes. If you're interested in a sport, while still learning and want to be a part of a team atmosphere, many junior varsity teams have room for many students who are willing to simply try their hardest.

Many people love Kennedy sports, just because being around your fellow students after school can be fun. The sports teams create an en-

joyable atmosphere. Colleen Cahill, now in her second year on the Girl's Varsity Tennis Team, relates how inviting and nice her own team was to her: "As a freshman, all of the upper classmen made me feel welcome. They took really good care of me, and they were all really nice."

Part of being on a Kennedy Catholic sports team involves cheering on your teammates. Angela Longhi, a sophomore on the Girl's Volleyball

team, talks about how great it is to have her teammates boost her confidence on the court: "Our teammates' encouragement and support give us the motivation to play our best."

As an added bonus, our school has a first-rate cheerleading team, which turns out to support our school's student-athletes. The cheerleaders, some-

times known as the Big Blue Brigade, enthusiastically cheers on our sports teams. It is nice to have fellow students out to cheer you on. It's extremely encouraging.

Kennedy now also has three new sports fields – a new competition field, with a turf field; a new softball field; and a new baseball field, which opened last Spring. These fields are used by both the sports teams as well as the gym classes.

Our school is known for a very good sports program, where you can be develop your skills on the field while having a blast doing it. So get out and support your schoolmates as they take part in Kennedy's sport teams. Or better yet, get involved on a team yourself. See you on the fields!



HOMECOMING 2011

OCTOBER 15, 2011



Father Newcomb blessing Kennedy Catholic's new turf field.



Father Vaillancourt cutting the ribbon, opening the new field!



The Art of Tennis – A Report on the Girls' Tennis Team

By Julia Hughes and Elizabeth Terceira ('14)

As the 2011 Girls' Tennis season began, thirteen varsity players stepped out onto the court:

Jacqueline (Jax) Descloux, Colleen Nestler, Shannon Donohue, Natalie Burke, Amanda Peters, Victoria Santini, Lauren Kocz, Elizabeth Terceira, Julia Hughes, Elizabeth Varoli, Alex Standring, Colleen Cahill, Lara Manbeck and Dominique Vidal.

The team had grown from seven girls to thirteen girls from last year. All the credit is owed to our coach, Frank Zappoli. He was very patient at teaching the newcomers the rules and skills of tennis. Although tennis practice was a lot of hard work and dedication,

we still managed to experience many exciting and laughable moments.

The team's hard work in practice was helpful when we participated in our matches.

We played a total of fifteen matches – three matches each against all against the other schools in our league: Haldane, North Salem, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie and Pawling. Jax, Dominique and Shannon played singles; Colleen N., Natalie, Amanda, Victoria, Lauren, Elizabeth T., Julia, Elizabeth V., Alex, Colleen C., and Lara all played doubles. Haldane was probably our toughest competitor. They were a good and experienced team. Fortunately, we defeated them every time we played them. Overall, our regular season record wound up at 12-3. One of our captains, Shannon, went unde-

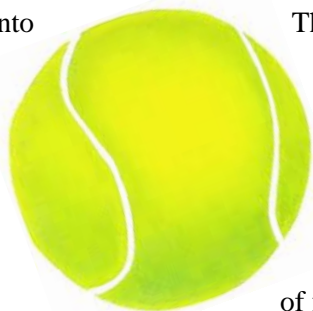
feated, winning all of her matches and compiling a record of 15-0.

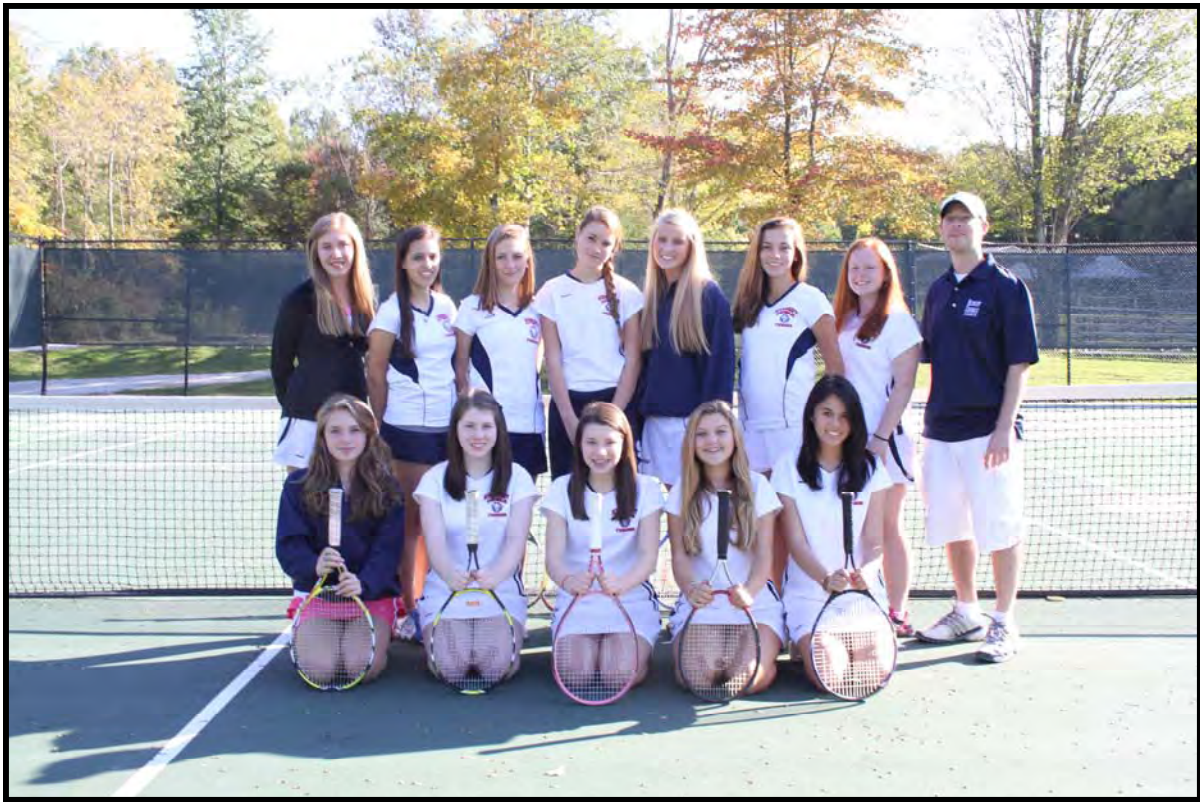
The league championships are coming up shortly.

The tennis season seems to have come and gone in a flash.

Our home courts this year were at Camp Kiwi, in Mahopac; there was never a dull moment at Kiwi, especially when the local puppy, Coco, visited us. As a team, we also had many fond memories, such as when Coach Zappoli drove the bus, and when we celebrated at Red Rooster after our last match.

As we look forward to the league championships, we know that we have already accomplished two things this year – we improved in our ability to play tennis, and we learned how to work together in order to succeed. - J.H. & E.T.





**"We let our rackets do the talking. That's what we are all about, really. We just go out and win tennis matches."
- Pete Sampras**



Coach Elliott

By Jenny Weisberger ('14)

Everyone has a story. Where our story begins and ends is completely out of our control, yet this is not what defines who we are. What completes our story is the way we fill up the space in between: our interests, the lives we touch and the legacies that we leave behind.

A great man who has touched and guided many lives is our very own Coach Larry Elliott. Coach Elliott has been a track and cross country coach here at Kennedy since 2001; however, he started his coaching career in 1987. Knowing this, it is quite surprising that Coach Elliott never truly made the decision that he wanted to run track until one day in his sophomore year in high school, when his friend saw him running fast in gym and suggested that he go out for track. Later, when it his own son ran track in high school, Coach Elliott started to take a greater interest in the sport. Every day he would ask his son what workout the team had done; he was always left maddened by the fact that he knew his son's team wasn't working hard enough. Pretty soon, Coach Elliott had had enough, and he decided to take action; he went to the school and was soon the new track coach of the Brewster track team. Thus was the beginning of

an extremely successful and extensive career.

In 1997 Coach Elliott became the head coach for the Brewster girls'



team; they eventually made it all the way to the Class B West-

chester County Championships. Throughout his days as a coach, Coach Elliott has been fond of many of his teams. But he also says you're



not going to get along with everyone in life. Nevertheless, he claims that he will never hold a grudge, and he will coach every member of his team to the best of his abilities.

Coach Elliott has particular respect for hard workers, who put everything that they've got into their effort. He's stated that, "In some cases, your tal-

ent level doesn't really matter; what matters is the effort you make to be the best you can be. If you do this, I will work with you until the ends of the earth and until the hourglass runs out." In fact, if you are a hard worker, Coach Elliott will reward you by putting you on a relay team with great runners, to give you a chance to win a metal and have your moment of glory.

Coach Elliott truly loves his coaching job. For the many members of his teams who he has coached over the years, Coach Elliott has tried to instill a sense of how to work hard and how to be responsible. Coach claims that the benefits of all of the hard work and responsibility will stay with you for your entire life. But still, he does have one regret: that there are many kids he has seen over the

years who seemed to have great potential, but who he never got to work with.

Coach Elliott is a man of great integrity. He has taught and trained many runners over a long period of time. He truly loves what he does, and it really shows in the ways that he expresses his fondness for all on

his teams. Coach is willing to give everyone a fair shot. But if you fool around and goof off, he won't even waste his time. As Coach himself has said, "If you want to be a good athlete, don't expect me to buy you a milkshake if we lose; and if you don't work hard, expect a kick in the butt."

- J.W.

A Fan Reports on New York Sports: The Disappointment and Excitement of Fall

By Matthew Tomaszewsky ('15)

Editor's Note: The following article relates the feelings of a fan of New York professional sports teams. Normally, our Faculty Advisor, Mr. Katz, would be eager to read a story about sports teams. But this year, Mr. Katz is still in shock over the collapse of his beloved Philadelphia Phillies in the first round of the MLB playoffs, as well as the evident collapse of his second favorite team, the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles. So we're going to have to present this article without any input from Mr. Katz. We know that Mr. Katz would be impressed by this author's knowledge of sports, although no one has ever come close to matching Mr. Katz's knowledge on the history of every World Series.

It is now October, and the season has changed to Fall. Fall brings with it many things: the start of school, the start of the NFL Season, the wrap-up of the MLB Season, and, in normal years, the start of an NBA season. This year, the NBA season looks to be very much in jeopardy because of a labor dispute. The baseball season brought a major disappointment for the Yankees. But the football season holds some possible excitement for both of the New York-area teams – the Giants and the Jets. Here is the story:

Disappointment: The New York Yankees lost in the ALDS this season to the Detroit Tigers. The Yankees won Game 1, lost Games 2 and 3, won Game 4, and then lost the deciding winner-takes-all Game 5, 3-2. This series was very disappointing for Yankee fans. Alex Rodriguez got a lot of criticism for making outs in the last game with the bases loaded in the 7th inning and to end the game in the 9th. Yankee first baseman Mark Teixeira and fan-favorite right fielder Nick Swisher also were criticized for not meeting expectations and having a terrible series overall. Long-time Yankees catcher and 5-time World Series

Champion (all with the Yankees) Jorge Posada may have played his last game as a Yankee, or maybe his last game as a Major League Baseball player. He struggled for much of the season, although he broke out in the Yankees short playoff run and ended up being one of the best hitters on the team. A pleasant surprise for the Yankees in their playoff run was left fielder Brett Gardner, who came through with a few clutch hits and RBIs. Rookie pitcher and the likely winner of the "Rookie of the Year" award Ivan Nova pitched well in Game 1, getting the win for the Yankees, but he lost the deciding Game 5 after giving up two home runs on back-to-back pitches and then coming out of the game with shoulder tightness after only two innings of work. AJ Burnett, a pitcher known for being either really good or really bad, but never okay, pitched Game 4. Many Yankees fans were worried that he would be the "really bad" lose the game for the Yankees, but as I turned out, he was the "really good" AJ Burnett and won the game, forcing the deciding Game 5. Yankee centerfielder and former Tiger star Curtis Granderson didn't hit as well

as many thought he would during this postseason, after having a tremendous regular season, but he definitely showed off his defensive skills; Granderson made two spectacular catches in Game 4. Robinson Cano had one amazing game (Game 1) in which he hit a grand slam and tied Yankees record for most RBIs in a postseason game with six. Finally, there was Derek Jeter. Jeter didn't perform like he did in his postseason glory days of 1996-2001; he did come through with a few clutch hits, but made the out at other clutch moments. In any event, he will still go down as one of the greatest Yankees of all-time.

Disappointment: For those among us who root for New York's other baseball team, the Mets disappointed yet again this season, finishing with a 77-85 record, fourth in the NL East Division, 25 games behind the division-winning Philadelphia Phillies. The one bright spot for the Mets this season was their superstar shortstop Jose Reyes, who won the National League batting title. He narrowly beat out Milwaukee Brewer Ryan



A Fabulous Day at West Point Football ... Almost

By Mr. Katz (Northwestern University, Class of '76)

On September 17th, I went with my wife and younger son to see my alma mater, Northwestern University, play a football game against Army. The game was played on the campus of the United States Military Academy, at West Point, about a 40 minute drive from Kennedy Catholic.

The Army football team has a proud tradition, having won three straight national championships, from 1944 through 1946. The team experienced a long stretch of

losing seasons in recent years, but last year saw a bit of a turnaround for the Army team. More important, however, is that the Military Academy is the training ground for many of our nation's famed army officers. Graduates include Generals Eisenhower and Patton from World War II, Pershing from World War I and Grant and Lee from the Civil War. Kennedy Catholic's own Tyrell Thompson is also a recent graduate.

Northwestern has a not-so-proud

tradition in football. We've only won one bowl game – the 1949 Rose Bowl. In my years there, our best season record was 4-7 – not so great – and in the years shortly after I graduated, the team went on a then-record losing streak of 34 games, stretched over parts of four seasons. Yikes!! On the other hand, the school is a terrific academic institution, so the football record shouldn't really matter too much. But then...

For those who haven't seen it, the Military Academy at West Point is a

A Fan Reports on New York Sports:

The Disappointment and Excitement of Fall Continued

Braun. The question now is whether or not Reyes will stay with the team, since he is now a free agent.

Disappointment: The NBA lockout is still underway. Commissioner David Stern cancelled the first two weeks of the regular season, and as we go to press, it looks like the season may not start before Christmas, if it happens at all. The lockout is causing backlash from many fans, as well as from NBA players. The main sticking point is how the owners and players should split the large amount of money that the league generates. Under the old agreement, the players as a group received more money than the owners, but the owners wanted to be the ones receiving more money under the new agreement. This is a very confusing and frustrating mat-

ter for many fans of the NBA. With some superstars signing with foreign teams (Kobe Bryant playing in Italy?), it doesn't look good that there will be a 2011-12 NBA season.



seeing any professional basketball this year.

Excitement: Finally, some good news. The New York Giants and the New York Jets are both looking like good football teams this season, although both still have their share of problems. It seems that the two teams are rarely both successful during the same season, although it has

happened on occasions. This year looks as if might be another of those years. The Jets, led by vocal head coach Rex Ryan, have a strong defense and a young and talented quarterback in Mark Sanchez. They also have a talented receiving group, led by former Pittsburgh Steeler Santonio Holmes and former New York Giant Plaxico Burress. The Giants, led by head coach Tom Coughlin, feature a strong defense led by Aaron Ross and Kenny Phillips. They also have a solid quarterback in Eli Manning, who can throw the ball to a young, talented receiving group led by Hakeem Nicks, Mario Manningham and Victor Cruz (a surprise who few had heard of prior to the Giants' week 3 game against Philadelphia. Both teams look like they can be successful this year, and hopefully, they will. Maybe we can even achieve that ultimate dream, a Jets-Giants meeting in Super Bowl XLVI.—M.T.

Many fans remain optimistic. But they know that there is a very realistic chance that we won't be

A Fabulous Day at West Point Football ... Almost Continued

wonderful place to visit. Set on the banks of the Hudson River, the Academy is an idyllic community of college buildings, barrack-

dormitories for the students and housing for Academy instructors. The campus and its

surrounding community are filled with American history, as well as American pride.

A football game at Army is really as much a pageant as it is a college football game. Michie Stadium is the site of Army's home football games. The Stadium is considered one of the great places to see a game in college sports. The corps of cadets at West Point attends the game en masse, dressed in the appropriate uniform for the weather that day. When we went, the cadets wore their dress pants, as well as their dress short-sleeve white shirts. The cadets stand throughout the whole game, except they are allowed to go to the concession stands at halftime with the rest of the fans. One regiment of cadets marches onto the field in formation, before it joins the other cadets. Another thing that happened before the game got started – three Army officers jumped out of a helicopter from a height of 5,000 feet. At first they looked

like tiny specks in the sky, but then they started to appear larger. At first, they seemed to be falling outside of the Stadium, but they



guided themselves over the center of the Stadium, and eventually they landed

precisely at midfield. That's not something you see every day!

The game itself was exciting. The Army team played their usual

marched down the field on the ground for yet another go-ahead touchdown. Northwestern had one more chance and moved into Army territory, but the drive was stopped on fourth down, and Army held on to win the game, 21-14. It was sad for me and my many fellow alums. The game had been promoted as a special trip for Northwestern alums who live in the New York area; there are clearly quite a lot of us. So even though we were far-outnumbered, the stands had many pockets of purple-colored NU fans.

Overall, however, I really enjoyed the experience of seeing a game up at West Point. Our shuttle bus trips from the parking area to the stadium and back afforded us an opportunity to see some of the sights of the West Point campus – an orderly place comprised of buildings that speak of our proud military history. If only the buildings could talk, what stories they



style; they ran the ball relentlessly, and they hardly ever threw the ball. Army went ahead by 7-0, then Northwestern tied it on a touchdown pass. Then Army went ahead 14-7, and Northwestern tied it on a very long touchdown pass – 80 yards if I recall correctly. But then Army took the ball and

might tell. So on the whole, despite the outcome of the game, it really was a wonderful day. And as I said to one of the soldiers sitting near us as the game ended, if my alma mater had to lose, I'm happy they lost to a school with such an honorable tradition.—F.K.

30th Anniversary Auction

Saturday, November 12th
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Evening includes...

- Christmas Shopping!
- Live & Silent Auction
- Cocktails & Appetizers
- Dinner & Dessert

Plus a FREE Money Tree Raffle Ticket with Admission!

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This year's prize list includes...

- 4 Touchdown Club tickets to Jets vs. Bills on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1 p.m. Sec. 219, Row 4, Seats 5-8 , 2 Parking Permits
- 4 Touchdown Club tickets to Giants vs. Redskins on Sunday, Dec. 18, 1 p.m. Sec 220C, Row 8, Seats 1-4 1 Premium Parking Permit
- Derek Jeter Signed Baseball
- Yankees Memorabilia from Sr. Christopher's Private Reserve
- NYY Fleece Blanket
- 2XL "got rings?" T-Shirt
- Pinstripes Christmas Ornament
- 4 Books: "A Splintered History of Wood" by Spike Carlsen, "Crossing Home" by James Penrice, "Roadside Baseball" and a signed copy of "The Early Polo Grounds" by Chris Epting '79
- Apple iPad
- Apple iPod Nano, 8GB, Blue
- Tiffany's Crystal Decanter with Balvenie Single Malt Scotch
- Foursome at Sedgewood Golf Course
- \$100 Travelers Rest Gift Card

And much, much more!



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