



# Teachers grow beards to fundraise for men’s cancer

The race for the longest beard is on as male staff members compete against one another this month to raise money for men’s cancer. The teachers all raise money in their classes by selling various items to students, and all profits go toward the cause.

By Dalaney Bradley, Olivia Asimakis & Dajai Chatman  
PHOTOGRAPHER & INTERNS



Social studies teacher Brian Degnore likes the fun aspect the fundraiser adds to the month of November. “(It’s) a fun way to break up the monotony of the day and do something fun in an otherwise dreary month,” Degnore said. Although he finds it to be entertaining, he’s not sure if he likes his growing look. “I think it looks interesting, I don’t think it looks all that great but we’ll see how it ends up turning out,” Degnore said. “Growing out a beard can be painful, can be itchy and can be hot.”



Social studies teacher Sean McCarroll likes the awareness of other cancers that the fundraiser is bringing. “I had a beard to start with, so I wanna have the best, but it’s important to raise money, so we’re doing that. Usually you hear a lot about breast cancer and stuff like that, so we’re in it for the men’s awareness,” McCarroll said. McCarroll has had a beard in the past, so the fundraiser allows him to compare his past experiences with his current predicament. “It’s a lot easier than you think. I’m really digging the whole not-shaving-every-morning thing.”



English teacher Joe Drouin had a good start to fundraising, collecting \$15-\$20 of spare change from students in his classes. His strategy for the next round? “I can’t give away my secrets for the rest of the tournament,” Drouin said.



English teacher Andy Montague decided to participate because he saw how it could benefit men’s cancer, but sees no other perks to growing a beard. “Mr. Drouin asked me and it was connected to Link Crew, and I thought this was a great idea to raise awareness,” Montague said. “I hate it. It’s itchy. It’s gross. My wife hates it. She won’t speak to me. There’s very little about this that I like.”

## Ryan Lockhart

After about two years of hard work and hours alone in his room writing tirelessly, freshman Ryan Lockhart finished his novel, *The Company of Slag*.

“I start out by developing a world and certain regions and religions and a language, and then I start flushing out the specific details of the world,” Lockhart said.

Due to legal reasons, Lockhart wasn’t able to publish his work.

“I found this site called Teen Inc. and decided to publish through there. However, I decided to read back through the contract and saw that as soon as the book is published, I would lose all the rights to it. So I decided to stop partway through.”

Though he was unable to publish his first work, Lockhart is already working on his next novel, *The Dragons of Mok* and has written a short story, “The Samurai of Bvitchago.”

“It’s a lot of work, and hours of isolation, but the end result is worth it.”



## Alec Bessette

Junior Alec Bessette is finally back in the “Grosse Pointe bubble” after three years of being away. Bessette moved with his family to Pennsylvania after seventh grade because his dad decided to branch out his business.

“I moved to Mars, Pennsylvania, a small town outside Pittsburgh,” Bessette said. “It was very different than North. Since much of the area around the school was farmland, the area and the people had more of a rural feel.”

The differences between the suburbs of Grosse Pointe and the rural land of Mars was made obvious after Bessette moved back.

“At first it was very strange because I was used to the suburbs and I was in a small town with farmland surrounding it. However, once I got used to it and started making friends, it started feeling like home pretty quick,” Bessette said.

Although Bessette’s experience was positive, the difficulty of moving after rekindling new friendships is too much for him to be open to moving again.

“I wouldn’t make that huge of a switch again, especially now that I’m in my junior year, it’s easier to move when you’re in middle school, it gets a lot tougher once you’re in high school,” Bessette said.



## Matt Stander

Junior Matt Stander plays the guitar, violin, piano and drums – a talent, he says, that came with ease. Influenced by his father to take up these instruments, drums and guitar are more recreational for Stander, while playing violin for the school orchestra is where most of his time is dedicated.

“In fifth grade, my dad wanted me to play violin for school ... and that was the start of my violin career. And when I was five, my dad had me take piano lessons from my aunt, but I only took them for a year or two,” Stander said.

Even at a young age, it didn’t take Stander long to catch on.

“My dad was always pretty musical, and when I was in third grade, he bought me a guitar (and) started to teach me chords and stuff,” Stander said. “And then from there on, I just kind of picked it up myself.”

Moving between first and second chair violin, Stander wishes to continue playing the violin past high school, into college and then pursue it further as a hobby.



By Addison Toutant, Colleen Reveley & Kaley Makino

## FIVE MINUTES WITH Athletic trainer Sarah Florida

By Caelin Micks  
STAFF REPORTER



Athletic trainer Sarah Florida didn’t play sports in high school. She spent over 10 years studying ballet. “I was always the outside looking in not being on a team, but it’s a whole different mindset than ballet, which is why I love the team atmosphere to it, and the competition aspect is always fun.”

Athletic trainer Sarah Florida wanted to be on top of her high school career by accomplishing all her credits before her second semester of senior year. Florida wanted to find a valuable co-op program that would suit her best.

“When I was a senior in high school, I developed a program allowing me to volunteer for hospice during the school day,” Florida said. “I approached the school faculty about taking a first-hour class and sixth- and seventh-hour classes by leaving to volunteer the other hours in the day. I went to visit and care for hospice patients at the nursing home in my town.”

Caring for the sick was the program she felt most connected with, and that would be her home for her last semester of high school. With much gratitude after finishing high school and following through with her co-op program, Florida hoped this would stick at her high school for future students.

“It was extremely rewarding and also the focus of my senior AP English project. I proposed more programs like this being available to other seniors in the future,” Florida said. “I compiled surveys and statistics on willingness and readiness of the senior class

to do such a thing and presented it to a committee of school faculty.”

After putting so much work into this new opportunity and creating a “high school thesis” for English class, Florida wanted to make it unique and valuable for herself; she knew this was something that was possible. She worked with her hometown nursing home, which had hospice, to create the new co-op program.

“When I presented all the research from the class wanting to do it, (the school board) was like ‘oh my goodness, we think you are probably five years ahead,’” Florida said. “I proposed more programs like this being available to other seniors in the future.”

Florida is not afraid to do something out of the ordinary or create something new as she yearns to make herself known in everything she tries. Her new opportunity of being the athletic trainer has been and easy adjustment.

“My job is independent, and I have to make decisions and not be able to be afraid to change how things are done, since I am coming here being alone,” Florida said. “The morale of the students, really caring about their future and what they are going to do with themselves is incredible out here. That is the one difference.”

### What is your best quality?

“My ability to care about the people in my environment, be it work, home, or wherever. I truly care about everyone’s backstory, present circumstances and where they want to be. I make a point to help in any way that I can and to take the time to do so in the ways available to me. My athletes are a great example of being here at North and getting to care about so many wonderful students. They all have personalities worth getting to know, funny stories to tell, and hearts bigger than any other bunch of high schoolers I’ve ever worked with – they make caring about them easy and I’m blessed to have been added to the GPN family.”

### What is one thing nobody knows about you?

“I can be very competitive. Most people are surprised when my competitive side comes out. It’s good that I work in athletics. I get to be one big super fan for all of our teams. I want to win just as badly, if not more than, you all!”

### Did you play any sports?

“I have never. This is kind of the weird thing about me. Most athletic trainers were in athletics. I was always a dancer, and I didn’t even know what athletic training was until college.”