



LIFE

Sophomore Olivia Bloomhuff along with 1,500 others biked a 12-15 mile route on Labor Day in the Detroit Slow Roll.

PAGE 5

ACT TESTING

Saturday, Sept. 21 at 8 a.m. at North.

FALL PLAY

Friday, Sept. 21, Saturday Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 23 at 3 p.m. in the PAC.

FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN

Sunday, Sept. 22

RAISE THE ROOF CHARITY EVENT

Friday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Brownell Middle School auditorium.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO COLLEGE VISIT

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 5th hour in the Counseling Center.

IDEAS

I LONGED FOR THE DAYS WHERE KIDS' PHONES WERE DUMBPHONES, AND THE ONLY PEOPLE WITH BLACKBERRYS OR IPHONES DROVE BMWs AND WORE KICK-BUTT POWER SUITS.

New hybrid Honors Biology course ushers in era of technological learning

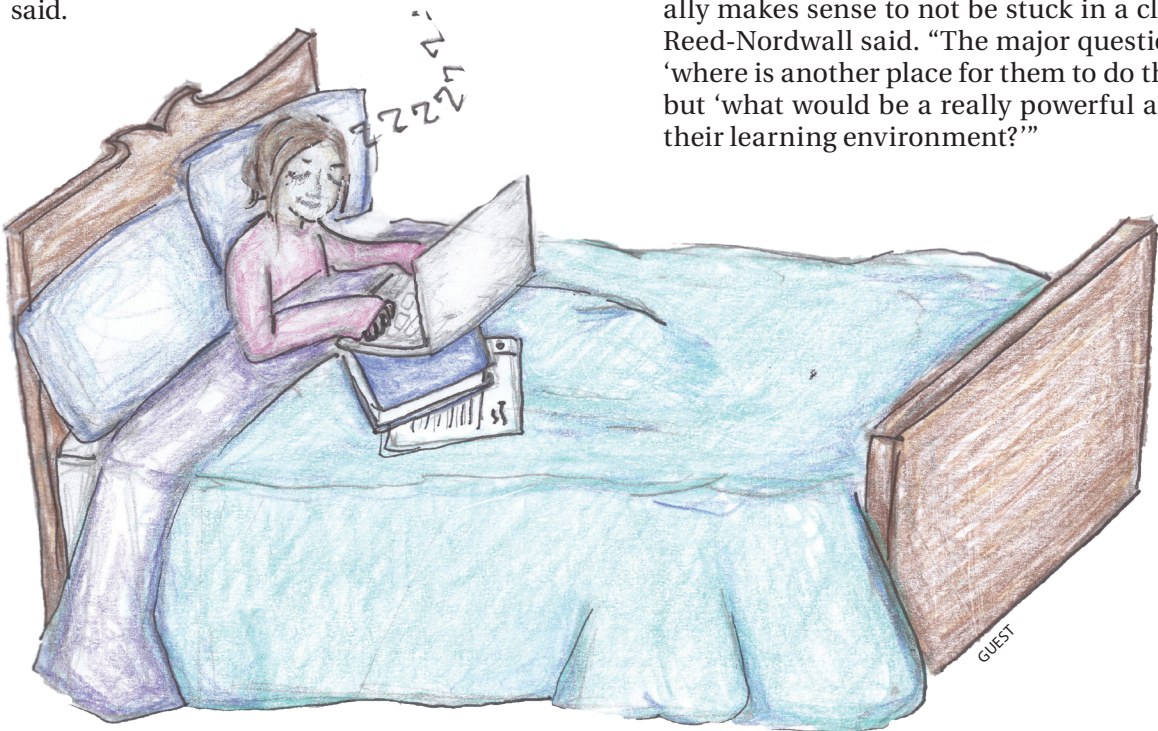
By Marie Bourke & Brigitte Smith
WEB CONTENT EDITOR & ASSISTANT EDITOR

“What if by June 12, 2014 you can showcase your theoretical model of solving some problem like cancer? What if you can compel others to think in a complex way?”

Students entered Susan Spiers’ first hour Honors Biology to this challenge at the head of their syllabus. Spiers is experimenting with an in-and-out, hybrid classroom teaching style which is designed to allow students a flexible schedule to complete their class work.

Incoming freshmen and sophomores registered to take Honors Biology were offered the opportunity to learn in the hybrid class. This new learning format is geared towards leading the next generation to solve real-life issues, such as cancer and global warming, through their applied learning and research.

“To next generation science, it's about applying it. It's about research. It's about thinking about what you know. There's some elements of memorization, the traditional kind that we're used to. There's some of that involved in every class. I think next generation science and that curriculum is pushing us toward ‘let's be real scientists,’” Spiers said.



District switches to Naviance

By Patricia Bajis
STAFF DEVELOPMENT EDITOR

The Class of 2014 will be the first to apply to college through the web service Naviance, as the previous program, Docufide, has been scrapped and replaced. All matters of the application process, for both individual and Common Application schools, will be handled through the site.

“Naviance is a computer portal that links the high school, student and the university all in one. It's like one-stop shopping. You can go on there and have your letters of recommendation sent to all of your schools, your transcripts (and) your applications,” counselor Jill Davenport said. “It will also give you graphs of where you statistically match up with other people that were admitted to the school. You can say, ‘I want to go to MSU, and I have a 3.00’, (and Naviance) will show you on a graph whether or not you can get in. It's a very clean way of keeping all of your application

process in one spot. Everything is in a pretty little package for you.”

Naviance offers services such as requesting transcripts, letters of recommendation and viewing and signing up for school college visits.

“It gives you a lot of options like Supermatch, where you can, similar to Career Cruising, answer questions, and the colleges that are best parallel to what you're looking for will pop up,” Davenport said. “It also gives you career interest inventories, again similar to career cruising, but it's all in one bundle so it's easier for you guys to maneuver it. The only thing that is not on here at this point is sending your ACT scores.”

Online management of applications was established a few years back by the School Board, and programs have been tested and replaced in order to find the most user-friendly and efficient way to apply. The school has gone through Parchment, Docufide and now Naviance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Digital Seminar classes cater to next generation

By Lauren Semack & Haley Reid
WEB CONTENT EDITOR & ASSISTANT EDITOR

There were the Baby Boomers, Generation X, a cluster of teens in 1966-1980 that at first used correction fluid on the typewriter, but were introduced slowly to the computer. Now, there is the Millennial Generation, or Generation Y starting in 1980 to current day that carry a smorgasbord of information in their pocket on tiny computers, being taught in classroom by using the tactics of School 2.0.

The idea of “School 2.0” was hatched in the early 2000s before wi-fi and smart phones were everyday tools used to navigate the technological world. The concept of “School 2.0” is a complete renovation and overhaul of what school has been like.

Digital Seminar was proposed by both North and South administrations in 2007 as a course that would challenge students to collaborate using technology and managing a digital footprint while learning about fresh, emerging technological tools.

Two pilot courses ran in 2008, but due to lack of interest didn't survive the first year. Revamped this year, the class is taught by Michael Spears who speculates that in 2008 it was harder to run a class that was computer based without the actual hardware in place like available now (i.e. classroom set of Chromebooks).

“Flash forward five years and we're saying a lot of teachers in the school are all having similar thoughts,” Spears said. “We really need a class that teaches students how to use these 21st Century tools for learning, for doing research, to make their lives easier, to enhance their productivity skills.”

In 2012, Spears along with Director of Education, Aaron Johnson and Principal Kate Murray submitted to the Board to reinstate the pilot course for the 2013-2014 school year.

“A group of us sat down last spring and the district basically gave us a day to work together and we came up with an idea for a class that we now call Digital Seminar. In order to run the class this year, we modeled it after the old Digital Seminar because it was already in the books, so it allowed us to fast track (in devising an updated curriculum),” Spears said.

One major issue with the curriculum of the original Digital Seminar course was that most of the technology used in class has already been integrated into the average school day, thus becoming minute lessons in the new course. Technology tools like Edmodo, Moodle and Blackboard, once considered in 2007 “cutting edge,” are now simply habitual resources for students.

The new course is more student interests driven and follows a more personalized exploration of topics.

“Mr. Spears has kind of described it as more of an independent class where he'll give you something to do and an amount of time to do it,” senior Josh Champney said. “He'll say, ‘here's (a) website, go ahead and look at it.’ He'll ask you some questions about it.”

With a grant from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education, Champney along with his classmates in this paperless class utilize a class set of Chromebooks, the laptop recently produced by Google, to navigate the web, most recently learning about safe searches.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GPNspire event strives to illuminate student voices

By Erica Lizza
STAFF REPORTER

The GPNspire Talks will be held on Friday, Nov. 15 in the PAC. The event is patterned after the TED talks but will be given by students for students. One North representative will be selected to join 12 other student speakers from different school districts to speak on the selected topic of inspiration.

“It's not just to inspire students. It's to help students have their inspirational voices heard so that they can inspire the world. That's the ultimate goal, to inspire the

world,” English teacher and event coordinator Jonathan Byrne said. “We didn't think that students had enough opportunities to do that. So that's what we wanted to create.”

The North representative will be selected to present his or her speech by a committee made up of one student, teacher and administrator.

“It can be something that inspires you. You could talk about something that you're inspired by; you could talk about an idea that you have that you think is inspirational. Or you could talk about a person that inspires you and what makes them inspiring,” Byrne said.

Students should submit video auditions of their speeches to <http://j.mp/gpnspire> no later than Friday, Oct. 11. Students will be notified of the selection by Oct. 30. Speeches should be approximately five minutes long and have a clear, inspiring message.

GPNspire talks should:

- Appeal to a wide audience
- Be approximately five minutes long
- Have a clear and inspiring message
- Be given without the use of notes or a script
- Be accompanied by at least one presentation slide (not required for audition)
- Be video recorded, published on YouTube or Vimeo, and shared by URL at: <http://j.mp/inspiretalk>
- Not be of a political, controversial, or religions nature



@myGPN

www.myGPN.org

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Switch to Naviance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Parchment was required by the state so that all transcripts were sent out electronically instead of paper being sent and mailed. And then the state (allowed) us to do it through Docufide, and now it’s through Naviance,” Davenport said. “We (switched to Naviance) because we felt it was more user-friendly for the kids. Today it’s the most effective program out there, so if it maintains its integrity of being the best, then we’ll stay with it. If it’s within our control and affordable to the school then we will stay with it until it’s no longer meeting the services of our students.”

Students are required to use the online service for all parts of their applications. Student information is also sent, upon request, electronically through the site.

“It makes me nervous that everything depends on this one program. If I make one mistake or a teacher or counselor does, then it could have serious repercussions,” senior Andrew Sharon said.

Senior Jordyn Parent shares some of Sharon’s worries.

“It is online, which can always be nerve-racking, not knowing where it’s actually going and if it got there, which is pretty important when applying to colleges,” Parent said.

Updating to the newest system has been a learning experience for students and staff alike.

“When (students) email me a question, I can’t necessarily (answer it) without sit-

Naviance Benefits

- Enables simple sign-up for college visits
- See how your GPA and ACT match up against those who were accepted and denied
- Allows students to request transcripts
- Can invite teachers for recommendation
- Allows students to view their application status
- “SuperMatch” pairs one’s interests with a college that best suits them

ting at a computer and pushing the buttons. I will love it, but it’s becoming completely familiar with it we all need to do. I’m learning the answers. We’re learning at the same time you are,” Davenport said.

Like past programs, Naviance is able to link a student’s Common App account with its services, allowing for the two accounts to share information.

However, recent difficulty with sending transcripts has caused issues between their connection.

“The Common App right now is having a crisis. If it’s a Common App school, (the transcript) didn’t get sent out yet, because things aren’t married yet. So until

the Common App situation is resolved, they won’t go out. As far as the regular applications, (records clerk Paula Staperfenne) started processing them, she just started. Part of that is because the system is new, we’re all making sure the I’s are dotted, the T’s are crossed and that everything is done right,” Davenport said.

Seniors were introduced to the program toward the end of last year and have had the program available to them all summer.

“It was confusing at first, but once I explored, I got the hang of how it worked. It’s a great idea, having everything right there on one website, but I’m old fashioned in the idea of sending things through mail and getting an acceptance letter in the mail rather than by email. It seems more personal coming in the mail,” senior Katie Perna said.

“I want to make an app related to sports because it’s something that I’m into.”

Spears claims though that one selling point of the class is the idea of students being able to manipulate the direction of the class towards their interests.

“In this class, I want to run it in such a way that if a student needs to ask a question, and it would really spark a good discussion in class, we’ll learn more about it in class in the future,” Spears said.

“There’s no reason why we can’t let the content of this class evolve as well. It’s a class that’s going to evolve a lot, not just semester to semester, but even from week to week.”

“It helped me. It helped assure me that there are going to be problems but there are people here to help me,” freshman Danielle Bennett said.

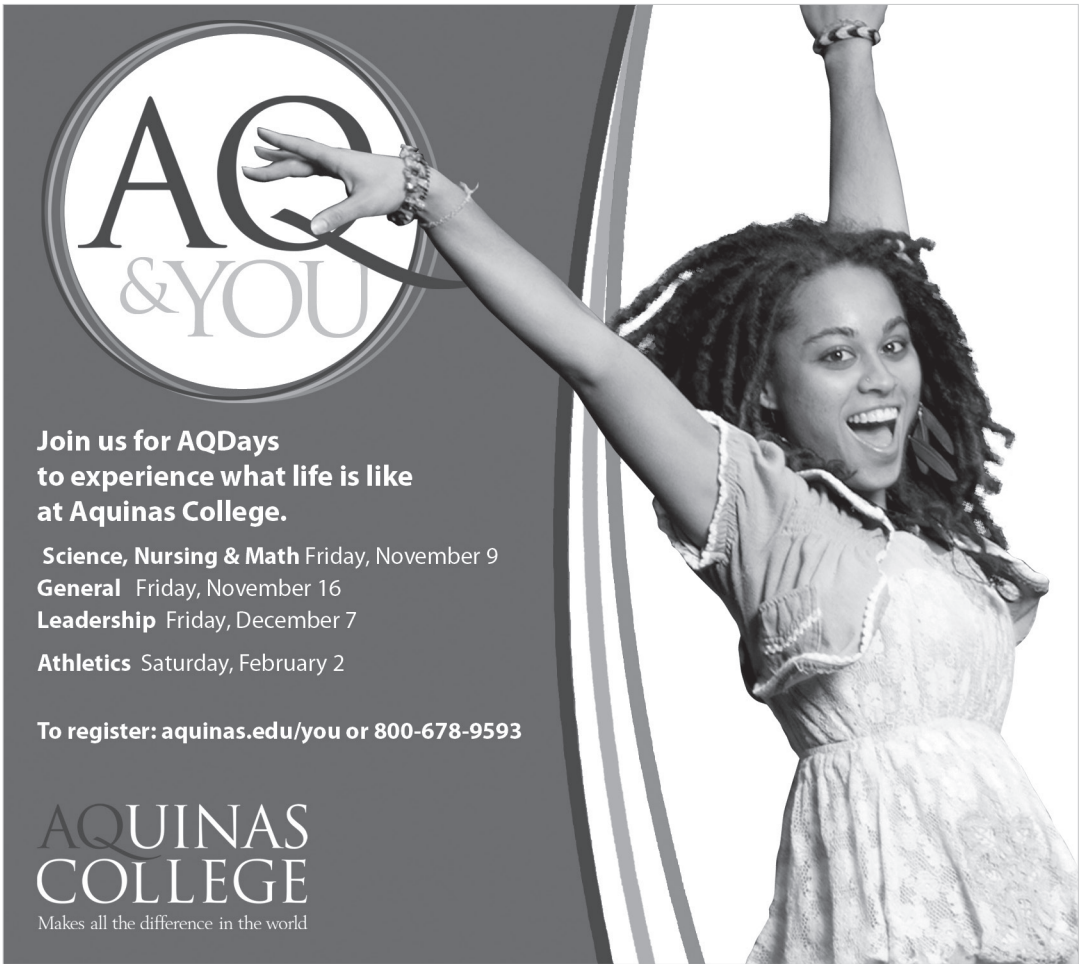
Link Crew has furthered their efforts to help the Class of 2017 by organizing future events to check up on their mentees. They also are seeking to expand their involvement with their underclassmen.

“They’re gonna be putting up locker signs on all the freshman lockers, just kind of ‘Hey, how’s your first week going?’ Then we’re planning, in early October, an all-freshman event,” English teacher Joe Drouin said. “We are going to take some of the Link Crew leaders to a Link Crew retreat for a day’s activity where they’re (going to) meet leaders from other schools and talk about what they’re doing and what they’ve done so they really can compare ideas with other school districts.”

Receiving the punishment of attending a day in the ALC has the same goal as ISS but takes a different view on it. In the ALC, students will have seven different academic core teachers, one for each hour. The teachers each specialize in one department (i.e. social studies, math, etc.) and assist students with work in that department’s subject. Some days will have preparation for the ACT, such as giving students practice test questions. The main goal of having the different teachers throughout the day is to help students catch up on homework.

“Our thought was ‘What could we do to help you in the bigger, higher-stake tests that are your future, like the college ACT-style test as test prep becomes more computerized where you could get instant feedback and so they could really come out and be better?’” Reed-Nordwall said.

By Radiance Cooper & Caelin Micks



Join us for AQDays to experience what life is like at Aquinas College.

Science, Nursing & Math Friday, November 9
General Friday, November 16
Leadership Friday, December 7
Athletics Saturday, February 2

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Link Crew leaders connect with their freshmen

The Class of 2017 had a different first day experience than those of previous freshmen classes. Upperclassmen leaders of the Link Crew welcomed incoming freshmen to North through engaging activities.

“My mentor was really nice the first day I met her, and they were good mentors,” freshman Megan Lowers said. “It was a pretty big help.”

After playing a few introductory activities, the freshmen were put in small groups and toured the school while being led by Link Crew leaders who recounted their own experiences at North.

Advanced Learning Center helps students

The administration will take an alternative approach to in-school suspensions (ISS) this year. In the old ISS model, students were individually responsible for filling their suspension time with homework from missed classes. The new Alternative Learning Center (ALC) will provide a structured school day for students and keep them academically focused.

“(What) we struggled with is for those students who it (ISS) is not necessarily a punishment, it is a gift where they don’t really want to be in school. So in a different way, they get away from the learning environment, so our thought was to try to find a different learning environment that has a different feel to it,” Assistant Principal David Reed-Nordwall said.

See what’s trending for homecoming 2013
Skye Salon + Spa has the answers.

- Hair
- Hair Accessories
- Makeup
- Nails

*Receive a purse sized hairspray, or \$10 off a hair accessory with any Homecoming hair service

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