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Mailed in DC: Titans Witness History

By MINSANG KIM '10  
Staff Writer

First, there was Metro to navigate along with about one million-plus other riders headed to the National Mall. Then, there was a two-mile march through downtown Washington and down the I-95 tunnel under the Capitol along the eight-lane highway closed to vehicular traffic.

And finally there was the mall: three miles long, 300 yards wide and containing nearly two million chilled, but hearty fellow-Americans.

Ian Ahern '09 described his odyssey to witness the historic swearing in of our nation's first black president. Ian was one of the several hundred thousand lucky enough to get a ticket and a seat at the inauguration.

“My whole family are Obama supporters,” Ian gushed.

But getting into those seats was another matter. When he and

his family approached the seats, there were so many people you “couldn't see the floor.”

At first, there was an orderly line going to the seats, but twenty minutes before the inauguration, “there was a mob just running in the direction of the inauguration.”

A tackler on the varsity football team, Ian created a path through the crowd so his family could reach their seats in time for the swearing-in.

Nora Harrington '13, an eighth grader in Blake Middle School, reported that things weren't as crazy in the cheap-seats further up the Mall (about a half-mile away from the Capitol). But getting there was no easier.

Nora had reached Washington, DC after a nine-hour car ride the day before with her mother and sister Meg, and former WMA teacher Ms. Donahue and her daughter Molly.

They stayed with old friends in the Maryland suburb

of Bethesda the night before the ceremony.

The morning of the inauguration, they woke at 5 a.m. and rode bikes down the old C&O canal towpath along the frozen Potomac River in the dark.

It took them a couple hours to ride the ten-plus miles past Georgetown and the Lincoln Memorial to reach the mall shortly after seven in the morning. The temperature was an unseasonable 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

As they rode up to Mall, the sun began to peer over the horizon, and they were greeted with cheers from the National Guardsmen who had arrived the night before.

Nora said her group of family and friends were able to make it about halfway between the Capitol and the Washington Monument – in front of the old Smithsonian Castle and a Jumbo-tron.

There, they painted their faces with words like “HOPE” and

Continued on page 5

Trading Up: Bullish on Mattern

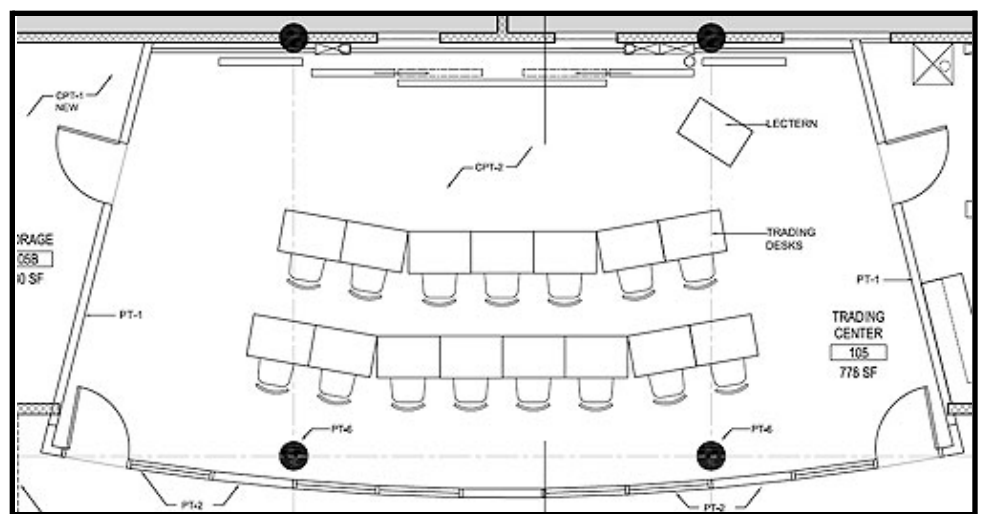
By STEPHANIE PAJAK '09  
Staff Writer

With the arrival of spring in 2009, Wilbraham and Monson Academy will have an exciting new asset that will provide students with an experience not yet offered at any other high school in America.

Having been under construction for many months, the Mark R. Shenkman Trading Center is soon to be finished, and much anticipation surrounds its grand opening.

The new trading floor will enhance the CEGS (Center for Entrepreneurial and Global Studies) program at WMA as well as help to develop the Academy's identity as “The Global School.”

The trading floor has been made possible through the generosity of Mark Shenkman, a 1961 graduate of Monson Academy and forty-year member of the Wilbraham and Monson Academy Board of Trustees.



The project aims to “raise students' understanding of global finance through hands-on trading experience and research and to expose them to a dynamic real-world financial environment.”

The Trading Center will be equipped with real-time news and data, as well as historical information and archived company and country reports.

It will include real-time trading simulation software, as well as analytical tools to construct portfolios, develop trading strate-

gies, and hedge financial risks.

There are multiple objectives behind the floor, including teaching concepts of economic literacy and the global financial system to students, as well as practicing useful life skills like research, analysis and presentation.

Once the trading floor is completed, it will benefit many CEGS and non-CEGS classes alike, and will serve as inspiration for new classes and activities at the Academy in the future.

## Editorial: Dress For Success

By KIMBERLY MARKER '09  
*Editor in Chief*

We all know the drill. As soon as the first snowfall of the season comes, it's time to get out the "winter clothes." Then come the days of tucking pants into furry boots, layering on warm ski jackets, and wearing comfy fleece pullovers...that is, unless you go to private school.

Being in dress code at Wilbraham and Monson Academy may be difficult for some in the fall and spring, but it becomes even harder in the winter.

Although wearing boots outside of your pants or with a skirt may not look very dressy, sometimes it is the only way to avoid the harsh weather.

Many boots do not fit inside of dress pants so girls wear them with skirts. Without leggings, this is not a desirable alternative to pants. Since leggings are out of dress code, however, it seems almost impossible to wear an acceptable pair of winter boots at school.

Another popular dress code infraction here at WMA is the ski jackets that students layer on over their blazers. Our dress code states that students may not wear athletic apparel or any clothing with large logos on it.

While this may be applicable in warmer weather, exceptions should be made when the temperature drops below zero degrees Fahrenheit.

Some students do not own any other jackets, and if they have already paid for one they should be



Greta Skinner '09 and Mr. Easler model the latest winter fashions

able to get a lot of use out of it.

Those students who do not wear coats at all resort to wearing fleece pullovers or jackets along with their blazers, and more often than not receive detentions for doing so.

I have seen many fleece pullovers that look dressy when worn over a collared shirt and tie, especially if they have buttons by the neck rather than a zipper. Fleece jackets should also be allowed during the winter as long as students do not try to replace their blazers with the jackets.

When winter comes around it is inevitable that dress code will be broken more often, but that is not because students become less attentive.

Dressing for cold weather requires more layers than usual, and while this may not always look entirely professional, it is necessary for the conditions.

Students should in fact



Perfectly Dressed

make a more conscious effort to be in dress code during winter, but teachers and administrators should be more lenient when it comes to cold-weather clothing. After all, when one of us gets a cold, all of WMA gets a cold.

## Do You Like Reading Books? How About This One?

By SARAH LYON '09  
*Staff Writer*

The library has recently acquired the first four volumes of Sandman, a series of comic books by Neil Gaiman. But if preferred, they can be called graphic novels by us literary snobs who feel that we are above reading mere comics.

But despite what we choose to label them, the Sandman, first published in the early '90s, is a feat of story telling that towers in both the comic world and the more accepted world of hard novels.

Consisting of 11 volumes, the series follows the tale of the Dream Lord, who goes by many names and is brother to Death, Desire, Despair, Delirium, Destiny, and a missing brother, who together make up the Endless.

In the first volume, Preludes and Nocturnes, Dream is captured and while he awaits his escape the dream world disintegrates, ensnaring people's minds and forcing them into a life of sleep.

Upon breaking free of his prison Dream returns to his kingdom where he must rebuild and bring order, but to do so requires his tools, which were taken from him.

So Dream sets out on his quest, and the reader steps into a world that is mysterious and twisting and certainly hiding much that it does not care to reveal, but disclosing more of the plot here would be unfair.

Know only that one issue contains a short story so well crafted that it won a World Fantasy Award and those higher beings that make the rules for such awards, feeling threatened, changed the rules so that a comic book could never again win out over a real written story.

So "...where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?" (The Book of Job as quoted by Preludes and Nocturnes). Perhaps some wisdom can be found here, in the realm of dreams.

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## Make Your Voice Heard!

Write a letter to the editor and you could be published in our next issue!

Kimberly Marker  
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## Oh What A Beautiful Play!

By GEORGIA MOORE '11  
Staff Writer

The Wilbram and Monson Academy players will present the classic musical *Oklahoma!* directed by Mrs. Susan Dziura the weekend of February 20-22. Ms. Lucy Shrenker will conduct the orchestra and Ms. Jessica Gaw directs the choreography.

Are you looking at this article and wondering, "what the heck is *Oklahoma!*?" Well, here is some history on the wonderful, classic musical! It was one of the first musicals written by Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstien in 1943.

The original Broadway musical opened on March 31, 1943. It follows the original play very closely, but when the musical was first released it ran too long so some small parts were cut from it.

The musical won a Pulitzer Prize and is one of the best known, best loved musicals of the 20th century. Many people do not know, however, that *Oklahoma!* is based on the 1931 play of *Green Grow the Lilacs* by Lynn Riggs.

The play later became a 'book musical' which is when songs and dances are combined

and made into a story book.

The play circles around the story of a young cowboy named Curly McLain (Jeremy Gilfor),

Laurey's good friends, is having a fling with a Parisian peddler (Louie Katz) while realizing that she is having trouble keeping her focus

featured dancers and see the emotion in everything the characters say.

The live orchestra is conveniently located behind the seating, making the toe tapping beat from the songs vibrate through the crowd.

When asked why she chose *Oklahoma!* for this year's school musical, Mrs. Dziura responded: "I wanted to do *Oklahoma!* for a couple of reasons. We've done all contemporary musicals since Mr. Dziura and I came here five years ago, and I figured it would be a good time to do a more traditional piece. I also wanted to use the theatre in a different way and *Oklahoma!* lends itself well to that. Also, I love *Oklahoma!*, it's one of my all-time favorites."

Performances are Friday, February 20 at 7:30 P.M., Saturday, February 21 at 7:30 P.M., and Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 P.M.

Mrs. Dziura also announced recently that tickets for the musical are free, but are available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Tickets will be available beginning February 2, so email [boxoffice@wmanet.org](mailto:boxoffice@wmanet.org) if you want to reserve tickets for yourself and your friends.



who lives on the rural plains of Oklahoma. He falls in love with the beautiful, but hard-to get Laury Williams (Amanda Pierce).

In the meantime Ado Annie (Katie Sloan), one of

on one man at a time!

The stage has been set up so that it is close to the audience, thereby drawing attention to the actors and actresses. The audience will feel the tempo of the energetic

## Ask Atlas

By VICTORIA MORDASKY '10  
and CAREY SHETTERLEY '11  
Peer Counselors

"Come on! ALL of us are cutting math. Who wants to go take that quiz? We're going to take a walk and get lunch instead. Let's go!" says the coolest kid in your class.

Do you do what you know is right and go to math class, quiz and all? Or do you give in and go with your "friends"?

Peer pressure occurs in schools every day, and dealing with it can be very difficult. It can have many different consequences, some serious and others light (like skipping one little math class). However, pressure from your peers may focus on highly questionable activities like drinking, drugs, stealing, or even hazing the class nerd.

Any kind of pressure is hard on a teenager, but it is even more difficult if the pressure is coming from your peers, people your own age whose opinion you care about. Your peers influence you no matter what. It is human instinct.

Fellow students can have a positive influence, too. A person in your science class may have taught you an easier way to memorize the periodic table. Good kinds of peer pressure include encouragement, advice, feedback, socializing, friendship, and new experiences.

Kids give in to peer pressure because they want to be accepted. Sometimes kids give in because they do not want to be the "loser" who says no and is embarrassed for not following the crowd.

It is tough to be the only one who says "no" to peer pressure, but you can do it. It helps to have a friend who is willing to say "no" with you. Paying attention to your own feelings and beliefs about what is right and wrong can help you know the right thing to do.

Inner strength and self-confidence can help you stand firm, walk away, and resist doing something when you know better. There is also a very easy solution and that is to just stay away from those who pressure you into doing things you would not like to do, or that you know are wrong.

In high school skipping

class is one of the most common forms of peer pressure. What follows are questions from fellow Titans.

**Dear Atlas,**  
**My boyfriend tells me to skip every E period, because that is his free period and he wants to spend time with me, but I really need to go to class. What should I tell him?** *Failing Math*

Dear Failing Math:  
You should tell your boyfriend that school is your number-one priority and make a compromise that you guys can hang out after school or sports. This way, you and your boyfriend are happy.

**Dear Atlas,**  
**Every Wednesday, my friends and I skip D period because our teacher never does attendance. But just recently he started to and on PowerSchool I have three absences! What do I do? My grade will go down and my parents will wonder why I have missed class three times.** *D in D period*

Dear D in D,  
First, you should stop skipping class for good. Second, you should tell your parents that you skipped because you got sucked into peer pressure and will never do it again. Work on getting your grade up (ask your teacher for some extra credit) and if your teacher confronts you about your absences, tell him or her the truth; a detention can't be that bad, right?

**Dear Atlas,**  
**Every night I get a massive load of homework, and I can never finish it during study hall. I end up skipping class because I don't want to confront my teacher and tell her that I didn't finish my work. My grade is suffering from all my missed homework and absences.** *Sad in Study Hall*

Dear Sad,  
Talk to your teacher, tell him or her your problem, but ask if you can come during x-block to make up some work. They will understand and maybe even give you an extension on your next assignment! But don't skip class, because avoiding it is not the answer.

## January Birthdays and Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Robert Dalby James Nietupski	2	3
4 Chelsea Goldrick Rachael Kantor Ariel Landers	5 Cici Cheng James Kim Vicky Lin Patrick Schmidt Betty Shen	6 Niko Konstantakos Sommer Mahoney Andrew Pehoviak Kevin Wang	7 Eastern Orthodox Christmas	8	9 Aj-Hija  Claire Bi	10
11 Megan Pehoviak	12	13 Jessica Smith	14	15 Ashley Drost  Landon Nam	16	17 Brandon Piquette  Sara Vincunas
18 Ashura	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  Ezra Bynum Ryan Choi	20 Ben Marcus	21	22 Edmond Bertheaud  Adam Ginsberg	23	24 Dora Huang
25	26	27 Trevor Moran	28	29 Caitlin Mitchell	30 Alex Nielan	31 Carey Shetterley

## February Birthdays and Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Donna Lee Ashley McFarlane	2 Groundhog Day	3 Abigail Flagg Ashleigh Morris	4 Stephane DuBaele Bryant Kwak	5	6 Michelle Wang	7 Mary Callahan
8 Vivian Lin	9 Richard Chang Lisa Hsieh Kathryn Sloan Kaylee Walton	10	11 Ryan Zomermaand	12	13 Derek Barnagian Caitlin Charette William Comey	14 Valentine's Day  Jade Ho
15	16 President's Day  Stephanie Duperre Anne Limbach	17	18 Margaret Skinner	19	20 Marcus Klebart	21
22 Alexander Sieburth	23	24	25	26	27	28

## Mailed in DC (continued)

Continued from page 1

“OBAMA” and watched the millions file by in the frigid morning.

By the time the ceremony started around 10:30 and for the next hour and a half, they were surrounded by Americans from all over the country who had traveled for days to be there.

People were shouting “Amen” and some were crying through the ceremony. “It was just amazing to be there at that historic moment in our history,” Nora said.

President Barack Obama’s inauguration carried great symbolic meaning for Americans and for the rest of the world.

Even in the age of cable television and continuous coverage, the Internet and YouTube, an estimated two million Americans showed up on the National Mall for the event – more people than any event in Washington history, including past inaugurations, the Million Man March, the dedication of the Vietnam War memorial, or the Reverend Martin Luther King’s March on Washington.

It came as no surprise that the inauguration had an unprecedented degree of security. According to Reuters, Homeland Security prepared for anything up to a chemical attack; about 8,000 law enforcement officials were on duty and another 32,000 soldiers and National Guard were present as well.

People attending the swearing-in ceremony were not even allowed to carry umbrellas. There were security checks and road blocks. Obama was provided a new presidential limousine that is heavily armored and reportedly carries its own oxygen tanks in case of gas attacks.

An estimated four to five million people flooded Washington for the inauguration, and a new beginning, perhaps.

Finally, after centuries of struggle, America appears to have broken free of the stains of slavery and segregation.

To remind people of that, notable icons of the civil rights movement were present, including the Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Reverend Joseph Lowery, who offered the benediction.

Meanwhile, at WMA, there were TVs turned on in the chapel and dining hall to enable students to witness this historic event. Some teachers directed their classes to the chapel, and teachers and

students milled around the choice seats near the TV in the dining hall.

Mr. D’Avanzo said the inauguration brought him back to his childhood when as an “eight-year-old boy sitting in front of the family TV set in 1963” he remembers seeing “police officials from Birmingham, Alabama set attack dogs on U.S. citizens, primarily people of color, peacefully assem-

even if it isn’t called marriage and that the term marriage is changed to civil union so arguments of religious sanctity won’t come up.”

Many of the international students were hopeful that international relations, which they felt had been neglected during the Bush presidency, will improve under Obama.



bling to advocate for equal rights.”

Mr. D’Avanzo interprets the Obama victory as a signal from the American people for “more openness in government and accountability from our leaders.”

Mr. Cook observed that the U.S. has “Martin Luther King Day, and the Civil Rights Movement, but Obama’s election makes those things real.” The inauguration, he added, “is a powerful statement that what we say, can come true.”

Russell Dinkins ’09, president of R.I.S.E. /S.O.A.R., commented that he was “very happy that something so historical happened.”

However, he said he “hopes that sometime during his presidency, Obama will allow gays to have the same rights as married people,

However, Raskin noted that “America and Russia haven’t had the best relations during the Bush administration. I hope that Obama and Medvedev can come together in cooperation to do what’s best for everyone.”

Several concerns were raised about the current global economic crises. Chris Hong ’09, president of WMA’s student senate, is worried that Obama may not be able to reinvent the world economy.

On that note, Mr. Kindblom, WMA’s economics guru, said “Obama’s economic plans for the U.S. are viewed by almost all economists as being necessary to resolve the matter in the U.S.”

“U.S. economists currently expect unemployment will reach double digits (10%), and that the effect of the President’s new stimulus plan will take 3-5 years to feel the full impact,” Mr. Kindblom explained. In the meantime, GDP may continue to slide in the short term, he cautioned.

Obama has quickly moved to keep his campaign promises (he has started the process of closing the prisons in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba) and to attack the financial crisis.

As Mr. Cook says, “20, 50, 100 years from now, I hope historians talk about the symbolism, but more importantly that we got better.”

*Mr. D’Avanzo interprets the Obama victory as a signal from the American people for “more openness in government and accountability from our leaders.”*

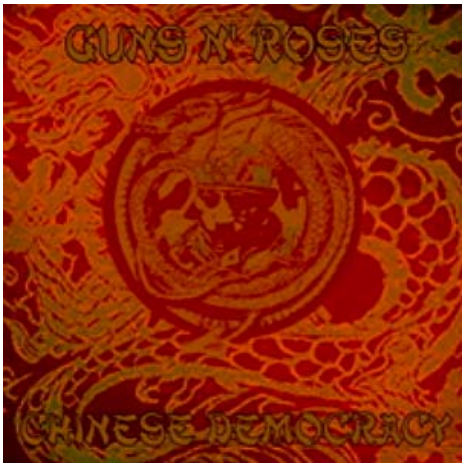
Max Ulrich ’09, a German boarding student, claims that according to what Obama said in Berlin, the new President has many interests in common with the German chancellor.

“We can assume from how he talked about German-American relationships [during Obama’s recent European visit] that his policies agree with the chancellor’s, especially concerning the Iraqi War,” Max opined.

“From what he said, we also know that he is going in a similar direction with the Germans in terms of economic policies.”

Vladimir Raskin ’09, who was born in Russia, said he “personally [is] a big Obama supporter” and believes that Obama is “the best guy for the job.”

## Music Reviews



### Guns N' Roses *Chinese Democracy* (Geffen Records)

By MAGISTER AYERS  
*Music*

Originally formed from the union of two L.A. glam-rock bands, Hollywood Rose and L.A. Guns, Guns N' Roses became one of the biggest selling bands of the late '80s. 1987's Appetite for Destruction spawned "Sweet Child o' Mine" and "Welcome to the Jungle," two tunes blasted as "jock jams" in every sports arena across the country.

After Nirvana and the grunge movement took over the scene, GN'R faded from the limelight, including guitarist Slash, whose trademark top hat can now be donned by any player's cyber-axe-man in the Guitar Hero videogame. Only frontman Axl Rose and keyboardist Dizzy Reed remain in the group, and Rose has successfully hired a slew of musicians (including members of Nine Inch Nails, Primus, A Perfect Circle, and the Replacements) to complete their first new album in fifteen years.

*Chinese Democracy*, which is currently banned in China because of its criticism of the Chinese government, is lushly produced for grandiose effect but with a healthy

dose of punk-rock sneer. The title track and "Shackler's Revenge" bring the sleaze with aggressive guitar leads, and "Riad n' the Bedouins" sports a "Welcome to the Jungle" pulse with more keyboards. "I.R.S." is a soaring number with Failure-like electronic beats, and "If the World" and "Sorry" marry trip-hop to Jimi Hendrix-esque psychedelia.

Rose attempts to relive the glory of their MTV ballad "November Rain" with two similar piano-driven cuts: "Street of Dreams" and "This I Love." "Madagascar" contains samples from Martin Luther King and reuses the same voice snippet from the classic film Cool Hand Luke that introduced the band's 1991 cigarette-lighter anthem "Civil War."

Rose's voice sounds better than ever, but the music is a mishmash of orchestrated and digitally edited rock that has the band updating their sound excessively. Though *Chinese Democracy* is a valiant effort, GN'R are at least ten years too late to have an impact on today's music scene.



### E For Explosion *Reinventing the Heartbeat* (Eyeball Records)

By PRIYANKA GEORGE '11  
*Music and Movies*

Hailing from Kentucky, E for Explosion's Jamison Covington makes a strong entrance onto the music scene with his band's debut album *Reinventing the Heartbeat*.

After opting to sign with indie label Eyeball Records instead of a major label, the former half of the group JamisonParker looks within himself for the music that marks his "rebirth" in the music industry.

Even though they've toured with groups such as Plain White T's and Motion City Soundtrack, E for Explosion's sound strays away from conventional pop music. I think their music is reminiscent of Boys Like Girls but just misses the mark.

The unique use of instruments causes the music to be both strong and soft at the same time, igniting more emotions within the listener than most modern songs do.

A couple of stand-out tracks on the album are "I Explode," which brings us a little closer to

classic pop songs without being completely unoriginal, and "Saving Lives," which showcases Covington's noteworthy vocals.

E for Explosion's *Reinventing the Heartbeat* will appeal to all kinds of music fans with its originality and breakthrough sound.

*"The unique use of instruments causes the music to be both strong and soft at the same time, igniting more emotions within the listener than most modern songs do"*

## Movie Review



By PRIYANKA GEORGE '11  
*Music and Movies*

Slumdog Millionaire offers to viewers a touch of Bollywood instead of the more predictable Hollywood. The story follows Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), a boy who is about to answer the last question on Kaun Banega Crorepati, the Indian version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? The movie immediately creates plenty of suspense as the audience waits to have their question answered: Does Jamal answer the final question right? While he is accused of cheating to

get as far as he did, he explains how he answered the questions, each explanation holding a story from his childhood in the slums of Mumbai. Jamal's journey of fear, hate, and eventually love makes for a fantastic movie filled with both sorrow and joy. As an Indian, I was pleased with the fact that director Danny Boyle captured India's poor and unfortunate slums as well as its advancement in the world. Indian composer A. R. Rahman had the same idea as he blended together the musical flavors of India, using popular Indian singers and M.I.A., a British singer of Indian descent. The myriad of songs supplies something for everyone, some of the more notable songs being "Aaj Ki Raat," "Jai Ho," and "O... Saya." All generations will enjoy this uplifting film that gives its viewers a taste of something different.

## Survey

### What's Rockin' Your iPod?

Hannah Epstein '14 – "Superstar" by Lupe Fiasco  
Rachel Ostrom '12 – "So Beautiful" by Dashboard Confessional  
Jessica Mayotte '11 – "Drops of Jupiter" by Train  
Amanda Pierce '10 – "Galaxy" by Jason Mraz  
Peter Pascarelli '10 – "Gimme the Loot" by Notorious B.I.G.  
Niko Konstantakos '09 – "Modern Guilt" by Beck  
Mr. Lombard, Faculty – "Short Skirt/Long Jacket" by Cake

*Contest winner from previous issue*  
01/23/09

Kodi Robitaille '10 correctly answered the trivia question from last month's issue: "Search/Rescue are a supergroup made up of members of two formerly famous bands. Can you name one of these bands?" The answer(s): Gatsbys American Dream and Acceptance. Kodi wins a package of new CDs, courtesy of the fine folks at Eyeball Records!

## Forestry Project: Going Green Has Its Own Rewards

By SARAH LYON '09  
Staff Writer

Most students think that they know WMA's campus, but they don't. Walk from the gym up to Wallace Blake, and you'll find only the main buildings of our school. Beyond Rich Hall and Mattern are roughly 300 acres that we rarely see and do not explore. However, a project has been brewing that will take faculty and students into these uncharted areas to explore the resources they hold.

Biology and chemistry teacher Paul Ekness has started a forestry project on seven acres of forested land spread over two separate plots on WMA's campus that will aim to manage the resources on school property. Part of this effort consists of identifying the resources on campus and then designing a resource management plan around them. Ekness hopes this will give the forests "a more multi-age element and increase biodiversity."

The two plots are located at the Mohawk fields and on the ridge by Memorial School, respectively, and consist of two different soil types. The plot by the Mohawk fields is drier and contains pine trees mixed with hard woods, while the other plot on the ridge is wetter and made mostly of hardwoods with almost no pines.

To observe the effects of different forest management plans on the two different plots, both were divided into two smaller plots. One acre at each site will be clear cut, while the remaining area of the plot will be selectively cut, meaning that only certain trees will be removed.

The acre that is clear-cut at each site will be used to study old growth succession, or how a forest grows back once it has been cleared. Ekness hopes

that the bushes and berries, some of the first plants to grow back in clear cut areas, will attract migratory birds that otherwise might pass over campus.

In selectively cutting the remaining acres at each plot, Ekness wants to take out certain trees while leaving others to grow into large, mature trees. He hopes this will "...encourage old growth type forest stands as we progress into the future, leaving more dominant

trees."

The beginnings of this project will lend itself to research opportunities and investigations into forest growth and succession. But this is not a science-teacher only party, Ekness hopes to get students involved in collecting data and in doing this, teach them about land



Russel Dinkins '09, Ayano Konakamura '10 and Luke Hong '10 look over their findings

management. After this initial phase of observation, one of the next stages will be to identify areas of

invasive species, such as barberry, on campus. From this a map will be developed showing the areas where invasives have made landing, enabling them to be monitored and hopefully kept in check.

This forestry project also has an economic side that ties in with the CEGS academic program. The trees logged from these two plots are going to be used to make various products that the entrepreneurial class will help to market,

such as baseball bats and picture frames. Also, the red oak that is logged will be used for the flooring in the new faculty housing to be built on campus.

Ekness intends for this forestry project not only to benefit the woodlands and provide learning opportunities at WMA, but also to be part of a larger statement about forest management in the United States. He believes that we should "think globally, act locally... We harp on the people in South America, but we don't manage our own forests."

He points out that the U.S. imports much of its wood, and that if the country were to put more of an effort into forest management, it would help make its own forests more productive and also provide jobs in this failing economy.

Ekness states that "there is a balance that we should probably try to achieve [between the forest and the economy]... We want a healthy, educated balance and it's not easy."

But with projects such as the one started here on campus, we are slowly working toward this balance, so that there will still be sustainable woodland areas in the future. Woodlands that not only provide us with natural resources, but woodlands that provide flourishing ecosystems for the wildlife that originally inhabited them.

## WMA Delegates Represent Malaysia at Model UN

By JEANNETTE VIENS '11  
Staff Writer

Imagine being in a room filled with at least a hundred other students, where you introduce yourself as the country you represent instead of your own first name, and argue and debate beliefs and opinions that may not be your own and you've got a glimpse of what Model UN is like.

Sixteen Wilbraham and Monson Academy students joined students from across the country and around the world to participate in the Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) 2008. Each school that participates in a Model UN conference represents a different country. Students (also known as delegates) must learn about the culture, laws, traditions, and government of their assigned country.

WMA had the honor of representing Malaysia, a Southeast Asian country. Delegates had to work on their research, position and topic papers until the time

came for them to make their way to Boston to debate such issues as biological and chemical weapons and the definition of terrorism.

That's only the tip of the iceberg, though. Once delegates arrive at the Model UN, they struggle

with the difficulty of finding common ground between themselves and the other students there, which can be difficult for some students.

These are the kinds of students who are so focused and determined that it seems like they are robots, knowing everything about everywhere, not just their own country. They seem so inhuman that it's almost too nerve-racking to talk to them until they say something like "When's lunch?"

I'm starved."

Model UN is a great opportunity to meet new people from all over the world, and it is easy when all you have to do is start a discussion about the topic you are debating.



WMA delegates at the Boston conference

Delegates are also allowed to pass notes back and forth while in session, so communication never seems to stop even when the unmoderated caucus

(Model UN speak for a break to openly discuss without a speaker's list) has finished.

Many of the sessions were held at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, where all 2,800 students participating in HMUN roomed over the course of four days, turning it into a mob of overtired overworked teenagers, who were consuming

way too much caffeine and sugar in an attempt to stay awake. That the hotel managed to survive such an ordeal is miraculous, especially when students were also sending messages such as "Chili" (instead of the correct spelling Chile) and "Fail" from their hotel room windows to each other and to the lucky pedestrians who happened to be walking by at the moment.

One afternoon session was held on the Harvard campus, so delegates were able to walk, shop, and eat their way around Boston before sessions began. They also had the opportunity to view the beautiful old campus.

Model UN is a challenging course from the first steps of research to the last steps of voting on a resolution, with many difficult procedures and debates in between. But when the last session has ended and a resolution has been passed, the feeling that you can make a difference is enough to make you want to do it all over again.

## Former Lady Titan Heads Girl's Basketball Team

By MATTHEW PAJAK '11  
Staff Writer

The Girls Varsity Basketball team appears ready to turn the page into a new chapter. At the helm is a dynamic duo of coaches who believe in a strong work ethic and having fun. Head Coach Marisa Barone '04 and Assistant Coach Stuart Whitcomb are both returning to WMA.

Coach Barone's bona fides include the WMA girls varsity scoring record as the only player in girl's varsity school history to eclipse one thousand points. In addition, Coach Barone played four years at Mount Holyoke and was captain during her senior year when the team made its first appearance in the NCAA tournament. She averaged nearly 12 points and seven rebounds a game during her senior year.

After graduating last spring, Coach Barone decided to continue with the sport she loves as a high school coach (along with her upcoming move to Connecticut to begin nursing school). Coach Whitcomb, who also teaches fresh-

man English at WMA, was assistant head coach for two years while Coach Barone was a student (the 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons). Both Coach Barone and Coach Whitcomb are excited to be back on campus.

Coach Whitcomb's humor shows just how happy he is to be back on campus, "I credit 82% of WMA's general atmosphere to quality human beings taking care of each other. The other 12% should be credited to Mr. Easler's maintaining order when human weakness drops by for a visit. The combination of humanity and structure makes this a very comfortable and safe place in which to raise a family and await my second career with the Sr. PGA Tour."

Besides the love for the school and its sense of community, these coaches came back to WMA to turn girls varsity basketball around. Their approach is to have fun – and win. Coach Barone believes that, with confidence, success will surely follow.

"This team has already come so far in such a short time," Coach Barone says. "My #1 goal

for these girls is for them to build confidence. They have so much potential but they need to believe in themselves a little more. I can already see some girls' confidence levels rising and it's awesome; their entire attitude changes both on and off the court."

Coach Barone believes in bringing out the best in every one of her players, and that means working hard in practice, "The most important thing to me in a player is someone who is a leader, supportive and gives 110% every day. You don't necessarily have to be the best player but if you have a positive attitude, cheer on your teammates, are supportive and work really hard every day, then you are a great player."

Of the talent this year, both Coach Whitcomb and Coach Barone are optimistic. Coach Barone added, "These girls have a lot of talent and so much potential. We have girls who are great shooters and can drive to the basket, and then girls who step up and take a charge or set a big screen. They all step up when asked to do so whether they are starters or jumping into

the game off the bench. From day one to the present day, they have all grown as players immensely."

Coach Whitcomb believes you can win a game if you follow three simple keys: dominate the boards, strike a balance between finesse and power, and laugh... a lot.

The captains this year have contributed to the team's early success. Guard and captain Nicole Grenier '09 is teamed up with guard Ayana Sugai '10; they run the offense with precision and quick thinking. Kenli Smith '09 is Chairperson of the boards and averages 10+ rebounds per game. Accuracy never hurts either, and that is what you get from Captain Chelsea Goldrick '09, who is arguably the team's best shooter.

And finally there is Kayla Peloquin '09 who keeps the team positive. Ashley McFarlane '09 has also contributed in all areas of the game but particularly from 3-point range.

The Titans are off to a promising start at 5-4, going into a big home match with Williston at press time.

## Hall of Fame Grappling Coach Cardone Recognized

By JESSICA WYSZYNSKI '10  
Staff Writer

At the end of 2007, Wilbraham and Monson Academy enthusiastically welcomed the new Athletic Center, which had been under construction for many months.

The new Athletic Center includes new locker rooms, a state-of-the-art weight room, conference rooms, and a redesigned wrestling room. The previous wrestling room was located in the basement of Smith Hall, but now it has a brand new space in the WMA athletic center.

This new area means much more than just the bloody, sweaty practices that are held within it; for many it holds hope for the prosperity of our future teams.

Out of these many people, one in particular stands out. In fact, WMA has seen to it that our wrestling room carries a plaque dedicated to him.

Mr. Philip Cardone is no stranger to our school, having taught in Monson Academy from 1961 until his retirement in 1970. He was a ninth grade World History and U.S. History teacher. He also coached wrestling, football, and boys' lacrosse teams.

After his retirement in 1970, Mr. Cardone was an active

member of his family's grocery business until he returned to Wilbraham & Monson Academy in 1981. In 2001 he left once again for a short while to work at Perennial Gardens. Last year, with much excitement, the WMA community was able to welcome back Mr. Cardone to our wrestling coaching staff.

Mr. Cardone has been a wrestling coach for 32 years and

has seen the best and the worst.

He coaches by his phi-

losophy of "Take responsibility for your actions, give what you're asked to give, do what you're supposed to do, and don't be a cry baby". When asked if he thought wrestling has changed since he started at Monson Academy,

he explained that he has seen major changes within the sport including less interest and discipline from student athletes, and a different

camaraderie.

When he was first part of our community, students were only allowed to leave campus one weekend per month, which greatly increased student involvement on the team and in the stands.

However some changes are due to the new rules for high school wrestlers such as changed weight classes, and much more paperwork.

These changes have not affected Mr. Cardone's deeply rooted love for the sport. His passion and dedication are outwardly apparent to students and faculty.

He is generally considered to be one of the best wrestling coaches at WMA. He is widely respected by the athletes and fellow coaches at the Academy. Mr. Cardone brought discipline back to the sport.

When he was asked how he felt about the plaque in the wrestling room being dedicated to him, he modestly replied "surprised and honored".

Mr. Cardone has been one of the most influential members of Wilbraham & Monson Academy, and now his name will live on in our community forever.

