

Inklings

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STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL

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then & now



senior supplement 2009

Beyond Staples, Life Doesn't Come With A Study Guide

After years of living in Westport, ambitious graduating seniors will eagerly depart to many different parts of the country and the world. However, now that students are moving on to new experiences, they need to realize that success will not be a quantifiably measured in the world of college and careers.

Since they started high school as freshmen, students have studied their hardest to get the best grades, practiced their instruments for hours to get solos they wanted, and put forth immense efforts to be the best athletes they could be.

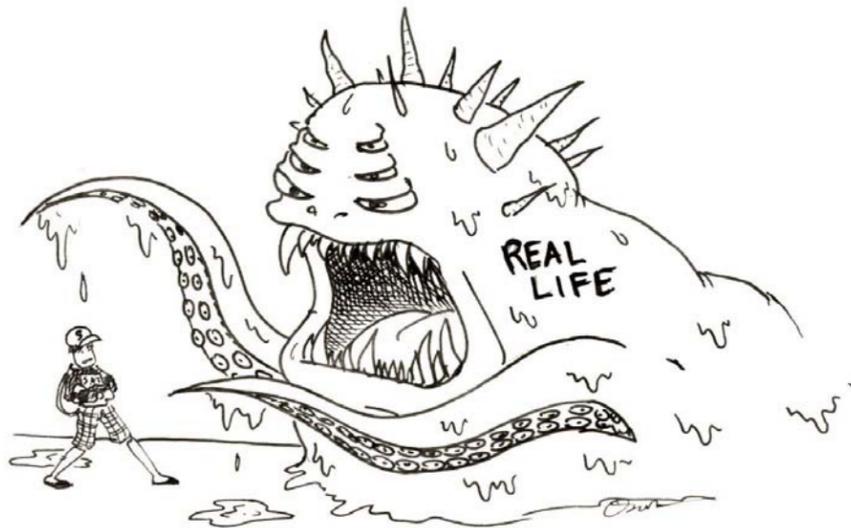
At the "number one school in Connecticut," the highest level classes are offered and there are countless educational and extracurricular opportunities.

Inklings EDITORIAL

Students have taken advantage of this, trying to obtain as many awards and distinctions as possible.

They have pushed themselves to stand out amongst their peers while also being pressured by parents and teachers to take an extra AP class or apply for an additional committee position.

Now that all of the seniors' hard



GRAPHIC BY OWEN KARRELL '10

work has paid off and they are off to new places, they still have the same ambition and drive that they had when they first began high school.

However, in the working world, success is not defined by a score, a ranking or captainship. Life is not an AP test; difficult situations cannot be reconciled by bubbling in A, B, C or D. Students do not have as much control over being the "best" as they used to.

Having been so used to measuring success with an objective ranking or title, it may be a difficult transition for

students who realize that the path to accomplishments is not as concrete as it had been in the past.

Now these students who will be working, traveling, or attending college will be presented with many new experiences and opportunities where they cannot rely on a textbook for an answer.

Most obstacles in life do not come with a study guide. The graduates must be prepared to be in an environment where success is not defined as clearly as it was in high school.

Surviving the College Process It Will All Work Out in the End

LEXI CIRCLE '09
Staff Writer

It will all work out in the end.

If you haven't heard these eight words before, you're bound to hear them before entering your senior year at Staples. They were eight words I woke up thinking about, listened to in the guidance department at school, heard my parents reiterate at the dinner table, and dreamt about at night. Needless to say, these eight words were the bane of my existence by the time college apps were due.

I did what everyone always says not to do: put all of my eggs in one basket.

Unintentionally, I became that girl your teachers and administrators will warn you not to become.

After first stepping onto the beautiful grounds of that one college, I was immediately engulfed by the picturesque landscape and seemingly ideal assets.

After three visits, endless website stalking, and interviews with just about everyone I could get my hands on, I knew every statistic and fact there was to know.

Although this school was my "reach," I soon convinced myself that it was where I would end up spending my four years at college.

Throughout the painful journey of deferrals, waitlists and rejections, those eight words kept reappearing: "it will all work out in the end." As a junior, whilst in the abyss of stress and chaos, it is nearly impossible to imagine your life any other way than what you hope for.

Surprisingly enough, ending up at that backup school you threw on your list at the last moment just to please your college counselor isn't exactly the bumper sticker you'd like to place on your car.

Backups and safety schools are more about reassurance than reality, right?

"Unintentionally, I became that girl your teachers and administrators will warn you not to become."

Well, for my twin brother, friends and cousins, these unvisited sites were never even sent an application.

However, for me, all 12 schools became real possibilities at some point or another. And again, those eight words were repeated by everyone around me. "It will all work out in the end."

"Easy for them to say," I would tell myself. "They probably ended up at their first choice school."

Well, it's been 82 days since that rejection letter came (168 days since the deferral from applying early decision) and I can't say I'm relieved.

Honestly, the stress has probably cut a good ten years from my life, the nail biting and knuckle cracking from my nervousness has ruined my hands,

and the feeling of not quite being good enough has left a bruise on my self-esteem.

The idea that I could do everything I was being told to do and still not get in was unfathomable.

However, despite this rocky path, I now see that the school I have chosen is, without question, the place I am meant to be.

Its strongest academic programs are a perfect match to what I hope to study; the warm weather, medium-size, and southern charm are each of the aspects I have hoped to find in a school since the beginning of my college search.

However, my one-dimensional mindframe forced me to turn a blind eye to these highlights and shed a negative light on what was in fact my perfect school from the beginning.

Having been on this roller coaster of emotions, I refuse to tell you not to get your heart set on one school, or to be open-minded, because I know that these words of wisdom will mean virtually nothing to a junior going through the process.

It is the stress and chaos that will guide you on your path towards choosing the ultimate college, and maybe 168 days later, you too will see the light beyond the tunnel.

Having perspective is key, and while it's difficult to find any in the moment, having been there, I can surely tell you with confidence that it will all work out in the end.

Inklings STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL

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Don't Think Twice, It's Alright

MIKEY MCGOVERN '09
Staff Writer

A surefire way to up the cheese factor in a nostalgic, meditative article is to start off with a cute little anecdote about the process of writing it...here we go.

I am sitting at my desk the night before the deadline of this column with a blank screen taunting me—still; it has been half an hour.

Before me lies the daunting task of condensing four years at Staples into four hundred words or so while providing some heart-warming and giggle-arousing thesis statement.

Starting backwards with the statement, I can't trace the thought to its origin; I begin with an instance and it sprouts five ugly, tangential, swine flub-bearing heads. I can't even think of an ironic title.

What's wrong with me?

I should blame our society for throwing information at us a million miles per minute; I should blame my lit ex paper for siphoning the last drops of critical analysis from my mind; I should blame Facebook for permanently distracting me from my work.

Yet, for some reason, I can find no scapegoat.

My problem is an internal one: I simply can't focus in on one aspect of my high school experience in fear of giving the short shrift to the rest.

I have let my devotion to the big picture get between my finger and the zoom knob.

Clearly, I am overthinking this.

Luckily, I am not alone. The class of 2009 is a pretty smart bunch I'd say, perhaps too smart.

I see it every day in period two Lit, affectionately known as the "psych ward": we leap to complex conclusions and extrapolations about a simple poem, seeing past the immediate yet necessary response.

At least I do.

The answer is beneath our noses, yet our eyes are stuck on a broad horizon.

"Don't overthink your college life like we all tend to do with those English assignments or problem sets."

Why? Our modern day minds are wired for overdrive; this affects more than just a comment in English class, it changes the way we live our lives.

Rushing from task to task—cello to college applications to calculus to changing the world, all in an average day—we are forced to make the most of what little time we do have.

So, what happens when we get a moment, voluntary or not, to think?

We fritter away the precious seconds by letting our thoughts perform mad dances, pulled in one way by the necessity to uncover an answer and in

another by the brief beauty of liberation.

How can one reconcile the two? Usually by procrastination: examples of this principle that come to mind are my current situation—writing this article just shy of midnight—and the delayed negotiations of a treaty to end the Vietnam War, halted by the crucial argument over the shape of a signing table. In short, there is no easy way, so we just put it off.

College, however, will be very different. For one thing, we will be doing work of a different nature: specialized classes that may require commitment to a path of life, calling for plenty of deep thought.

Mainly, however, we will have time for once; yet, the biggest mistake of all would be to let this long-lost friend lead you astray. In the words of T.S. Eliot:

"And indeed there will be time to wonder, 'Do I dare?' and, 'Do I dare?' Time to turn back and descend the stair."

The blessing of time can be a curse if not used properly.

Before you know it, four years will have gone by; before you know it, you may end up like Eliot's J. Alfred Prufrock "with a bald spot in the middle of [your] head," as goes the next line in the poem. Time waits for no one.

College will go by just as fast as high school (for some more than others) and it is a time for experience.

Your academic experience is only a part of your education as a person; the rest happens outside of the classroom.

Don't overthink your college life like

we all tend to do with those English assignments or problem sets; we will all have enough of those in our actual classes.

Spend time with new friends; call the old from time to time. Discover new talents; use the old to make a name for yourself.

Most importantly, don't lock yourself in a dorm room to put off making a decision on how to best spend your time—it will be time regretted.

Oh, and stay off Facebook.

As adults in the 21st century, we have a myriad of problems to solve in the world we will inherit.

No doubt we are smart enough, we just can't let insight cloud our actual sight.

A healthy balance of thought and action is the only path to success. It doesn't end with getting into college; that is only the beginning.

Now, what matters is that we each show the world an individual, not Play-Doh for society's mold to squash into place, but a fortified colloid with a mind of its own.

I am going to stop myself before alluding to the Robin Williams movie "Flubber."

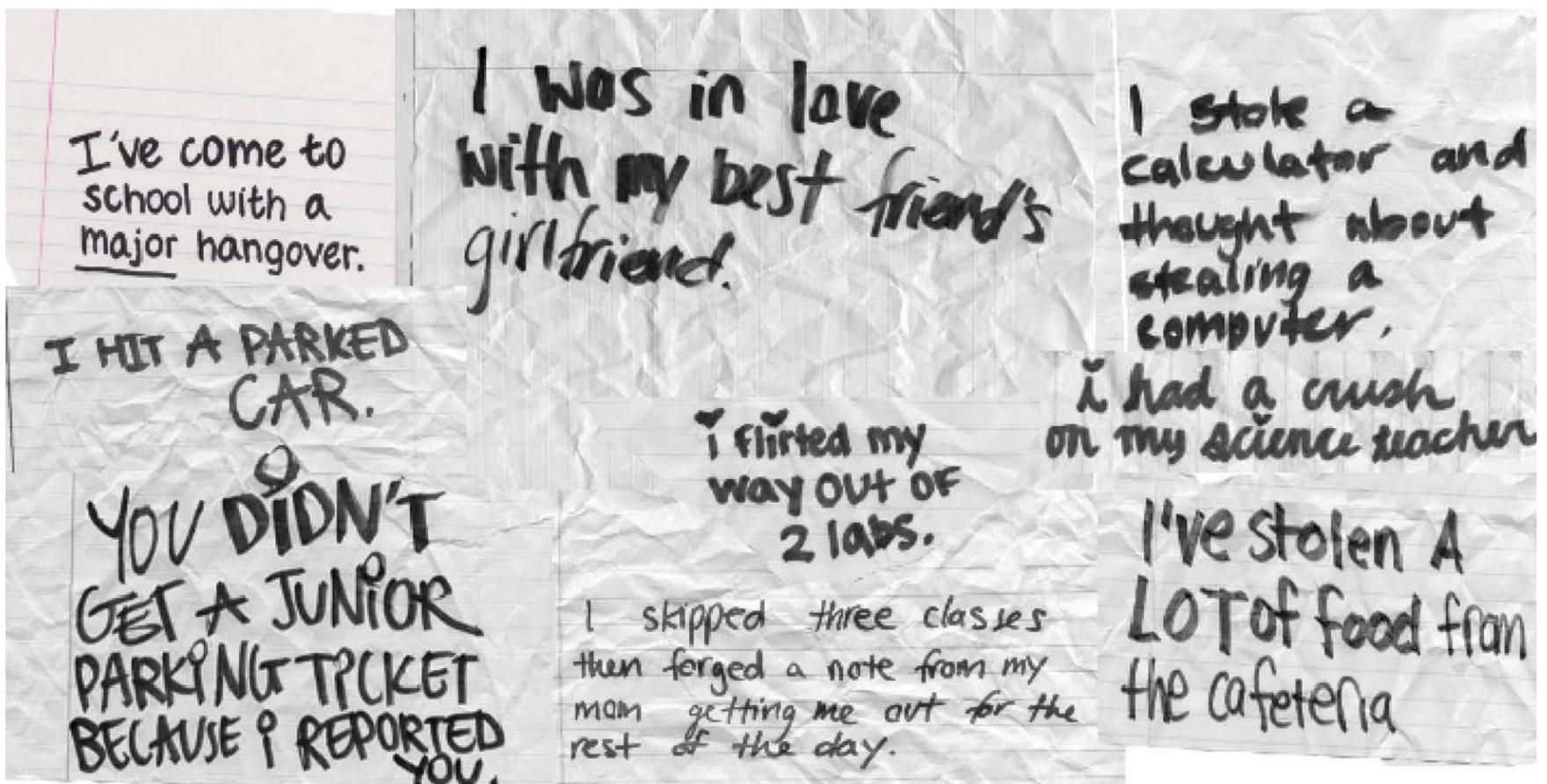
Too late.

(Hey, was that really my whole column? I guess that anecdote was useful after all—my tangential tendencies have proved fruitful for once. And I didn't even have to think that hard...)

So, class of '09, here's to overthinking less and living more, to having an experience worth reflecting upon—only when the time is right.

CONFESIONS from graduating seniors

Inklings went around the Staples cafeteria and asked graduating seniors to anonymously share their Staples-related secrets. Here's what we found:



GRAPHIC BY ANNIE NELSON '11

Thank You, Inklings Seniors!

Together, the senior editorial staff has dedicated years to the paper, while helping Inklings to reach a new level of excellence. They helped to ease the transition of a staff that has doubled in size, while working extra hard to produce twice as many issues. Their presence on the staff will be missed.



PHOTO BY ZAK SMOLEN '09

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Carly Machlis, Lexi Circle, Rachel Hartog, Zoe Hughes, Greg Keiser, Elizabeth Vance, Sarah Fox, Navi Somal, Mike Schneider. (Not pictured: David Mortner.)

The Top Nine

What the Class of 2009 will miss most about Staples High School

ELIZABETH VANCE '09
Staff Writer

9.

Superfans

WE SUPPORT STAPLES! Well, most of Staples. The big teams, at least.

8.

Parking

Actually, this one will probably plague us for the rest of our lives. And I hear in the real world you have to pay those tickets.

7.

Good Morning Staples

We get to miss portions of class, it's reasonably funny for a school sponsored program, and yeah, we get to miss class.

6.

The Teachers

No jokes here. You guys taught us a lot, gave us the benefit of your unbiased political views (okay, maybe one joke), and helped get us into college. We owe you one.

5.

The Many Faces of Robo

Since the "real" Robo left us for sunny Florida, many outstanding people have stepped up to take his place. Some were stricter than others, but in the end escaping from Staples all comes down to one thing: drive fast.

4.

Scoring an Excused Late Pass

Your car broke down, you were at the dentist/doctor/orthodontist/psychologist/nutritionist/mortitionist, you were sick fifteen minutes ago, there was traffic...your mom's going to call any minute now, anyway.

3.

Shiny Things

Ironically enough, most colleges *don't* have SMARTBoards in every science classroom, or plasma T.V.'s every three feet. Luckily, we have attended a high school which was just overloaded with shiny, superfluous technology. Tell me what the birthday board is for again?

2.

The Reasonably Priced, Delicious Food

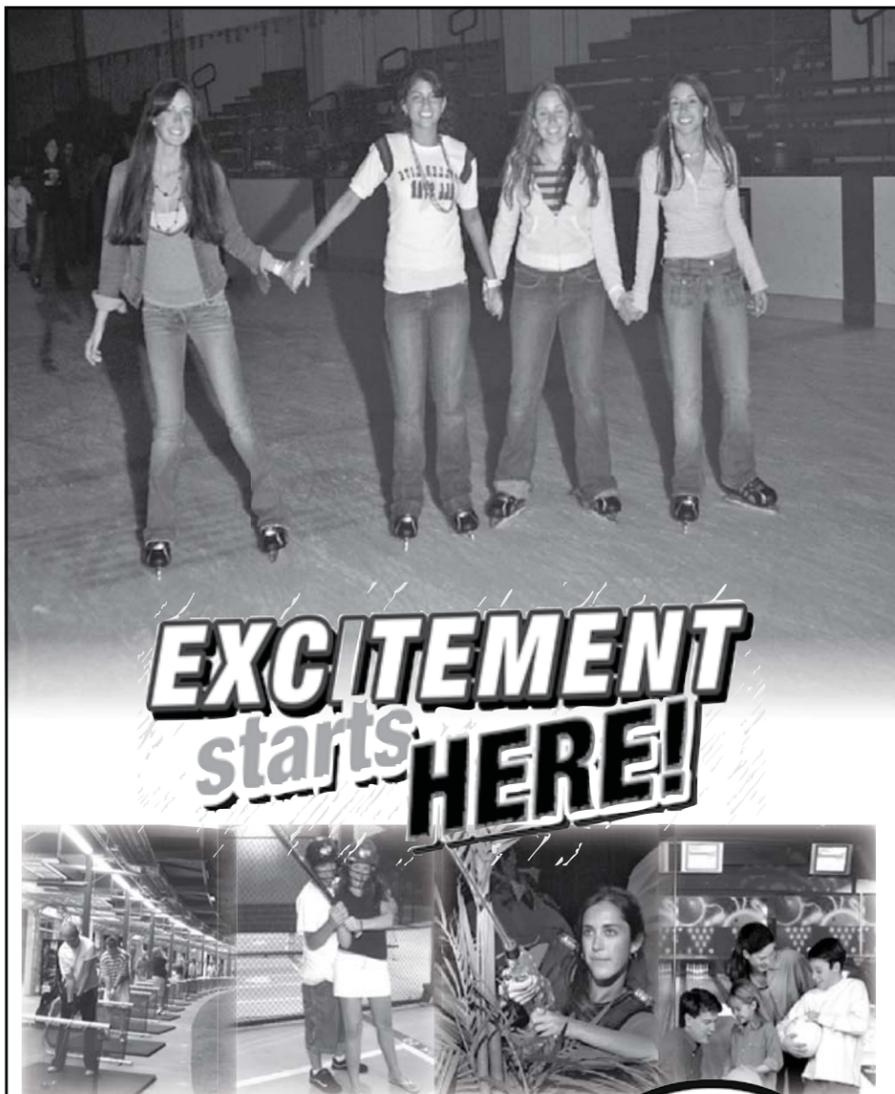
Four dollars for a parfait may seem unreasonable at first, but you're not looking at it the right way. This is delicious, pre-packed, five day-old yogurt, with frozen fruit. And besides, this is Westport; the only free thing is the salt—oh, wait a minute...

1.

Each Other

Facebook only does so much. Some of us have been in school together for thirteen years, some of us only came this year, but we've all made great friends here. Next year we'll be scattered across the country, and even the continents. That's an adjustment, even if it is time to move on.

So thanks, Staples. Really.



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Feinberg, Choi Graduate with High Honors

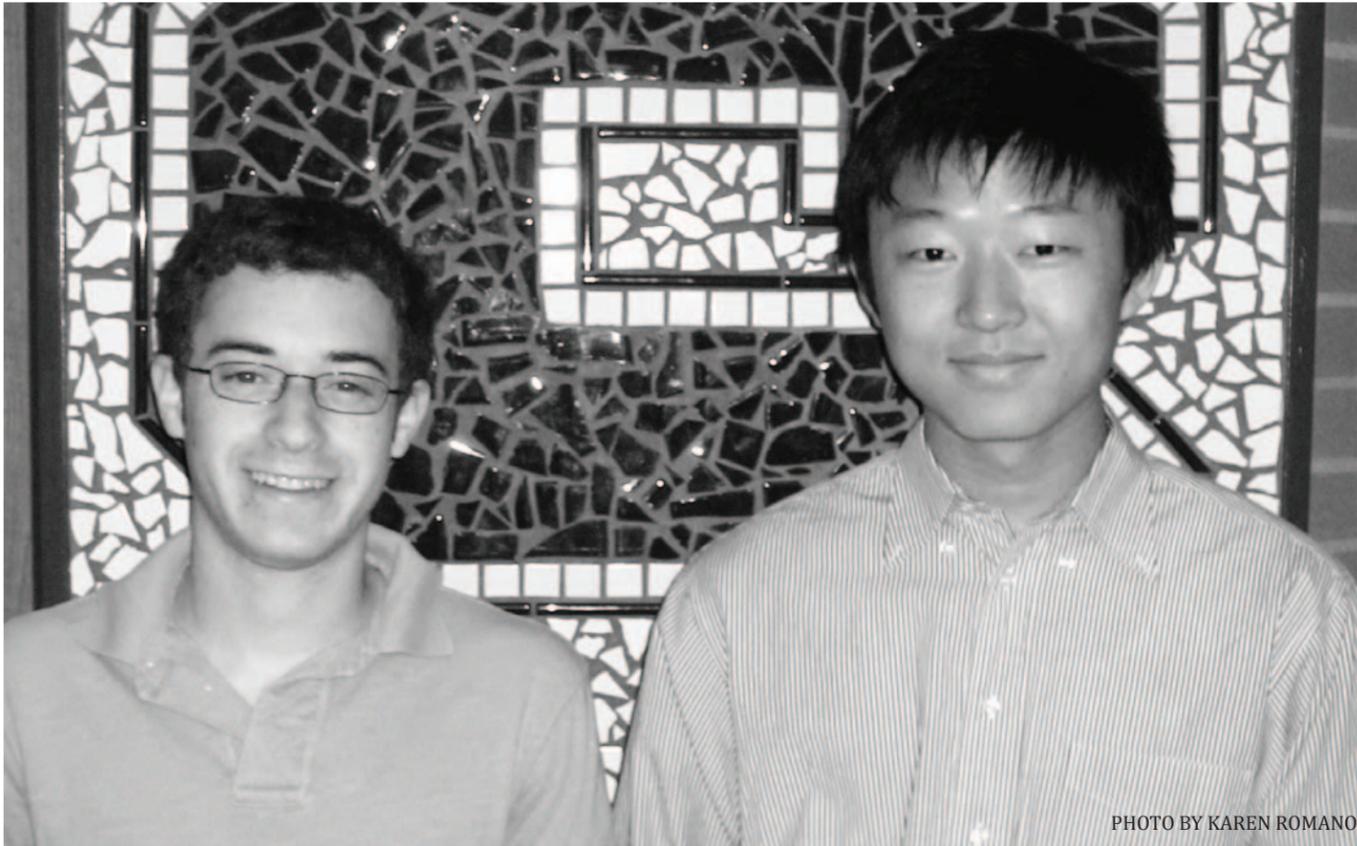


PHOTO BY KAREN ROMANO



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY MITCH FEINBERG '09 AND JONATHAN CHOI '09

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG: *At far left, valedictorian Mitch Feinberg '09 (left) and salutatorian Jonathan Choi (right) pose for a photo together. At top right, Feinberg as a kid gives the camera a thumbs up. Both sport headwear, as well as sunglasses to block out those UV rays.*

Mitch Feinberg Valedictorian

HARIS DURRANI '11
Opinions Editor

Mitch Feinberg '09, this year's valedictorian, said that while his interests have not necessarily evolved since childhood, he is ending his time at Staples with great confidence.

"I wouldn't say I've changed," said Feinberg, "[But] I've become more aware of who I am."

Like most other incoming freshmen, the first thing that struck him while entering high school was the height of other students.

"That was pretty much the main thing that was going through my head," said Feinberg. "I was anxious, of course, but more of a 'first day anxious' rather than a it's 'high school anxious.' I got used to it pretty quickly."

When he first entered Staples, the advice he was given warned him of a "difficult" and "demanding" curriculum.

"I kind of took it one step at a time," he said. "I do my best in what I am doing at the time."

Now nearing the end of his high school experience, Feinberg said his own advice for incoming freshmen would underline the importance of confidence.

"Try not to get caught up in the competition, and do what you like and what's best for you," he said. "Don't underestimate yourself, and don't limit yourself."

Feinberg says his kindergarten superlative would have been "Class Flirt," citing the fact that he would be the only boy at some birthday parties.

As a child, Feinberg's hobbies included building and playing with electricity sets. "There's no other thing like building your own craft and using it," he said.

In fact, most memorable moment during his high school years occurred this past summer, when he and his friends made a raft, and then rode it on the Saugatuck.

He also has had a great interest

in music, first picking up a saxophone in fifth grade; and at Bedford Middle School, Feinberg became a member of the jazz band for two years.

Later, he joined the Staples jazz ensemble and also the track team. He says that while jazz is more of a creative outlet for him, track is a physical one.

In addition to becoming valedictorian, his involvement in the track team contributed significantly to his confidence. He said that while he was not the most athletic team member, finishing each race delivered a feeling of completion.

"It's liberating," said Feinberg. "And there's the whole team aspect. It's a great bunch of guys to be around all day. The whole experience really helped me on a bunch of different levels."

According to Feinberg, as a kindergardener he could not have imagined the amount of running he does in track.

"I never thought I could run five miles straight," he said.

Feinberg also said that perhaps he did not put enough effort into his extracurricular activities.

If he could do high school over again, he said he would spend more time at track, and take his interest in the saxophone more seriously.

As for Feinberg's academic pursuits, he maintained the feelings he held before attending high school, holding a preference for a "balance" between his subjects. Feinberg was not drawn to any particular class, but liked to mix different areas of study together.

"I never really gravitated towards one thing," Feinberg said. "I always liked combining different stuff, rather than limiting myself to one area."

Feinberg plans on pursuing a career in business, attending Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

He said that he was attracted to business not only because the topic could mix various fields of study, but because it also appealed to his own personality.

"I've always been more of a doer rather than a thinker," said Feinberg.

Jonathan Choi Salutatorian

JJ CLARKE '12
A&E Editor

This year's salutatorian, Jonathan Choi '09 is not just a smart guy heading off to a top college next fall, he is also a break-dancing, naptime-loving, laid back teenager.

Choi excelled in all subjects in school, but Jon said that his favorite class of all was "A.P. English language with Mrs. Sawch."

Choi is the only Salutatorian at Staples to ever come from the ABC house; which is a huge achievement for Choi and everyone involved with the ABC house.

Besides being incredibly intelligent, Choi has been involved with break-dancing throughout high school. His passion for it has even influenced him to create a break-dancing club at Staples. "I was introduced to it by my younger brother who has a lot of friends who do hip hop dancing. I pursued it through classes and practicing whenever I had the chance to," said Choi. Choi has done some pretty advanced break-dancing moves. His biggest accomplishment in break-dancing was doing his first "airchair" which, according to Choi is "balancing your entire body on your dominant hand by putting your elbow against your side."

Even though Choi is a good break-dancer, he said that "there aren't enough opportunities around the suburbs of Fairfield County to break-dance at a bigger stage," so he cannot pursue displaying his skills. However, he said that he will pursue it throughout college, but after that he isn't so sure.

If Choi could have one class back from kindergarten to put into the Staples curriculum it would be naptime. He says that "high school students always seem so tired, and I love to nap."

But naptime isn't what he misses the most about kindergarten, he says that he misses California the most

because of "the weather, and how laid back everyone is." But as a kindergartener he was not so laid back. Choi says that his kindergarten superlative would have been "most active" because he played so much at recess.

When Choi arrived at Staples as a sophomore, he was impressed at how modern the building looked. He made himself right at home with the teachers here and with all of the privileges a student is given at Staples.

This year, not only has Choi achieved the honor of being the salutatorian, but in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge, his team placed sixth out of 160 teams trying to solve a problem about the economic stimulus package. Choi said that "it was interesting to actually find out the economics and mathematics behind the stimulus plan that was discussed on TV all the time. It was a rewarding experience." His team also included Justin Sherman '09, Naveen Murali '10, Kyle Beatty '09, and Jason Gandelman '10.

"During Moody's, Jon often took a quieter approach, letting the other team members argue loudly - instead he was content to tediously go through documents and help me crunch numbers," said Sherman.

"He also helped with the proof-reading of our solution paper... throughout the 14-hour day, he never let the complexity of the problem nor the setbacks we experienced decrease his enthusiasm," he said.

Choi is also very well cultured. He has lived in several places such as Korea, Washington, Arizona, and now Connecticut, "I've learned many cultures. I've gained exposure to different aspects of American demographics. I think I am fortunate enough to have a very wide scope of understanding of various perspectives."

A curious mix of low-key, humility and soft-spoken demeanor distinguish Choi from previous salutatorians. Choi's peers know him for his positive outlook on life and a great sense of humor.

Triple Threat Stagg: Student, Artist, Athlete

IAN PHILLIPS '10
A&E Editor

The high school career of Nellie Stagg '09 can perhaps best be defined by the famous quote by Mark Twain: "never let your schooling interfere with your education."

Indeed, Stagg has proven herself to be a well-rounded student, achieving in both the arts and sports.

As she heads to the University of Connecticut in the fall, Stagg carries an impressive résumé. In addition to being a volleyball captain, she was a two-year senior advisor to Builders Beyond Borders, and the recipient of the National Gold Medal in Scholastic Art and Writing.

"Nellie does not match the typical Westport student...the kind of student] who is pushing and working so hard just for grades and colleges," said her guidance counselor, Victoria Capozzi.

Stagg has also proven her ability to be a strong leader; in her junior and senior years of high school, she was made a senior advisor of Builders Beyond Borders.

"She always served as a natural liaison between me and the kids [in Build-

ers Beyond Borders]," said faculty advisor Michael Fulton.

"She doesn't bother people at 7:30 in the morning or 7:30 at night," he said. "She's just good at getting people to remember their mission and why they're there."

Her interest in graphic design, though, this was a late-found love for Stagg, stemming from a life-long interest in art.

"Any teacher I had could tell you how much I doodle," said Stagg.

But her most prestigious art award to date is in the arts category of the Scholastic Art & Writing Composition contest.

Over 140,000 applicants from across the country entered, and only 250 of those entries went on to win a gold medal. Previous recipients include celebrities Truman Capote, Andy Warhol and Robert Redford.

The vector image, entitled "In Formation," was created almost by accident.

Stagg says she often searches Google images for inspiration. While writing a paper on the oppression of women in Afghanistan, she found a pic-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY NELLIE STAGG '09

PHOTO BY IAN PHILLIPS '10

ART FROM THE START: Stagg's love of graphic design was found late in high school (see right), but her love of art began at an early age (see left).

ture of a group of Afghan women holding machine guns. Moved by the photo, Stagg used it for her vector project, which was submitted.

"The image and the message was so striking [that] I knew from the beginning, it might be a contender for this contest," said beginning design & tech teacher Carla Eichler.

For most, an award like this might come after years of experience in the arts.

However, Stagg's passion for graphic design did not arise until late in her

senior year. But she took this interest seriously and plans to continue the field of graphic design in college.

Looking back, Stagg realized that she hasn't changed throughout her first 12 years of schooling but evolved and ultimately learned what college will be like.

She recalls feelings of being lost on the very first day, a feeling that has now dissipated, but will likely reappear in the fall.

But Westport will assuredly see more of Stagg's art in the future.

Weinstein Goes From CTV to the Big Screen

LILA EPSTEIN '10
Editor-In-Chief

Whether she is working the spotlight for Players, videotaping a Wreckers basketball game or rallying for the election of politicians like Barack Obama, Emma-Jean Weinstein '09 is passionate about whatever she does.

It can be difficult for people of varied interests to focus their talents, but Weinstein is able to bring it all together through her filmmaking.

Weinstein first became interested in film while working at the television station for Coleytown Middle School, CTV. Now, she plans to major in film production at Emerson College.

"I like film because it combines a bunch of different things I am interested in," said Weinstein. "I'm interested in politics, [but] I'm also interested in the way people behave and why they make the choices that they do."

Weinstein began to make her

own films during her sophomore year. Along with Jane Siegal '09, she wrote her own script and then tried to organize the production of the film.

Weinstein said the film was about "high school relationships and dealing with who you think you are and how you see yourself, versus how other people see you."

Unfortunately, although many many students were involved, only half of the film was completed, and the project was never truly finished.

But Weinstein believes that when she gets to college, it won't be as difficult for her to pursue her film-related ambitions.

"I'm really excited to be surrounded by people similar to me," said Weinstein. "The people I hang out with aren't really interested in filmmaking, which makes it hard to get anything film-related done."

In addition to the narrative she co-wrote, Weinstein has been active in the Staples community, participating in activities related to film and communications.

"I've taken narrative film classes, done Players, did radio with WWPT," said Weinstein. "I've hung out with [video production teachers Jon] Honeycutt and [Mike] Zito; they are lovely."

Weinstein also attributes her interest in filmmaking to her passion for movies. Among her favorites are "Vicky Christina Barcelona," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "American Teen."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY EMMA-JEAN WEINSTEIN '09

DOUBLE TAKE: As excited and passionate as she was in Kindergarten, Weinstein plans on studying film in college.

Weinstein, who said she falls in love with movies, enjoys movies that have realistic elements and reflect something true about human behavior.

In addition to movies, she will be majoring in film production with a minor in political communication. Weinstein

will be able to combine her passion for movies, storytelling, human behavior and communication

"I can't imagine myself doing anything other than storytelling," said Weinstein.



Charles Winslow is Management Material

JESSE HEUSSNER '11
Features Editor

When Charles Winslow '09 first entered Staples, he had no idea where his future would lead him.

"My first reaction was 'Wow I have to spend four years here.'" said Winslow, describing his attitude when he first stepped foot in school. "I wasn't really daunted, but it was definitely a big change."

Winslow, now a senior, plans to attend the Hotel Management School at Cornell University next fall. Even though Winslow was originally undecided on what to do, he was eventually persuaded by a friend who went the same program at Cornell.

"I get to do two things in one," said Winslow. "There's a focus on hospitality and business, which I'm both interested in."

Over the past two summers, Winslow has been working in the community geared toward just those interests. He has assisted with a catering business and with a group called "Confident Learning." And, while Winslow admits that this wasn't exactly first hand experience, he says it gave him a behind the scenes look at the business aspect of it all.

Looking back on his experience at Staples, Winslow attributes much of his success in school to sports. Sports, in particular, drew interest from Winslow at an early age.

"My kindergarten superlative probably would have been most athletic," said Winslow. "I was into sports and pretty naïve in Kindergarten."

While Winslow grew to love basketball at an early age, volleyball is what

has really had an impact on Winslow at Staples. As a member of the eight-time defending FCIAC champions, Winslow claims to love the team camaraderie.

"Volleyball really opened up a whole new set of doors for me," said Winslow.

Staples volleyball may have even given Winslow the tools to succeed in hotel management, as he credits many of his leadership qualities to his volleyball experience as well. Perfecting that experience was varsity volleyball coach Bruce Betts, who taught Winslow a lot about being a leader.

"I'm going to miss the teacher connections," said Winslow. "I'm really close to a lot of teachers, and it's nice to have more focused, smaller class sizes."

In addition to the teachers, the students at Staples helped Winslow succeed both in school and as a person, in addition to assisting in Winslow's own maturation process.

"Everyone at Staples was always nice and willing to help," said Winslow. "Getting along with everyone at Staples is something I wouldn't be able to believe in kindergarten. I think we lose a lot of our negative qualities when we get older."

While Staples has certainly had a positive impact on him, Winslow does think there is one thing missing.

"Recess," Winslow said. "It would be the icing on the cake."

Four years later, everything seems to have come full circle. While Winslow certainly will miss the people at Staples, he is anticipating to finding a niche at Cornell this coming fall.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people and trying new things," said Winslow.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLES WINSLOW '09
A SPIKE AND A TYKE: Charles Winslow '09 (above) playing in a game for the varsity volleyball team, and as a toddler (inset).

De Valdivia's Love of Music Carries On To College

PIPPA HAZELWOOD '11
Opinions Editor

Growing up in a non-musical family, Lucas De Valdivia '09 took up the cello in fourth grade like any other elementary school student. However, unlike orchestra dropouts, he is now riding on a full music scholarship to the University of Miami.

"Lucas just has a very natural talent. Things just come more easily to him than other students," said De Valdivia's orchestra teacher of three years, Adele Valovich.

"Lucas just has a very natural talent. Things just come more easily to him than other students."

—Adele Valovich

On top of having a natural talent, De Valdivia has been dedicated to his musical career, practicing two hours or so every day.

"It sounds like a lot, but it's not really a big deal and I enjoy it, it's what I do, my release," said De Valdivia. "Plus, if I have a crapload of work it can always take the backseat

for a while, but if I don't, keeping up with my music is a definite priority."

Even when busy, De Valdivia makes music a priority. Like any other high school student, De Valdivia must balance his schoolwork with outside hobbies and interests.

De Valdivia has been taking private cello lessons since he first started playing in elementary school. He first took lessons at the Norwalk Youth Center, until three years ago when he was accepted into the Manhattan School of Music. He recently graduated from a pre-college cello course.

In the fall, De Valdivia will be majoring in music technology but intends to keep up with the cello, as it is a requirement of his scholarship and still a passion of his.

"I'm not sure where I see myself in 10 years; music technology is a really broad field it can branch off in many different directions, and it's constantly changing so I'm not sure exactly where it will take me," said De Valdivia.

Though De Valdivia's favorite artist is Ben Folds, he usually plays classical music on the cello and composes original pieces himself.

"I write my own music all the time, and will be playing it at the



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY LUCAS DE VALDIVIA '09
HELLO, CELLO: Lucas DeValdivia '09 (left) is shown with his cello in the fourth grade orchestra and again in his senior year (right), still playing the instrument.

'perform your own music showcase' at Staples. I also write songs with my friends it's just a hobby of all of ours," said De Valdivia.

He has played the same cello since the seventh grade and said he's grown attached, as it has become such a big part of his life.

"It's not named or anything, but it's still a part of me. For instance, if I bang it on a corner, I'll feel bad," said

De Valdivia.

Besides the cello, De Valdivia also plays the bass, guitar, and ukulele and is a member of the Staples choir.

"My greatest weakness is that I am so preoccupied with my music, I constantly have music playing through my head during the day during classes or when people are talking to me," said De Valdivia.

After Goal Shots, She Globetrots

Nicklin to Travel the World After Graduation



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY PHILIPPA NICKLIN '09

ALL AROUND THE WORLD: *Nicklin, captain of the girls' lacrosse team, plans to volunteer in India for three months and backpack through East Asia and Africa, where she will volunteer in an orphanage.*

CONSTANCE CHIEN '10
Features Editor

This fall, Philippa Nicklin '09 will not be attending college.

Instead, she will be embarking on a gap year with a friend, Sophie Gordon '09, traveling and volunteering for about eight months throughout the eastern hemisphere.

"I just wanted to get out and see the world," said Nicklin.

Their plans include volunteering in India for three months at an orphanage and a center for street children, continuing to visit New Delhi, Mumbai, and Goa.

Afterwards, they plan to travel through Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Australia, and Tanzania, where they will work the Ujamaa hostel with HIV/AIDS work and at an orphanage. Finally, they will go to South Africa for two weeks. Throughout their trip, they will be backpacking and staying in hostels.

Nicklin chose to take a gap year partially because she plans to study medicine in England, and this would leave her somewhat "trapped," she said. It is also traditional in England to take a gap year between secondary school and university, and her father encouraged her to take one.

"I also think that we are both interested in exploring other cultures and areas of the world," said Gordon.

Nicklin, who is British and has family and friends in England, plans to attend Emmanuel College at Cambridge University in England following her gap year.

She had applied to American schools in addition to the university, which was really the only English school to which she had applied, but once she was given a conditional offer (she must wait for her AP test results in the summer to ensure she is attending) to the university, she said she could not turn it down.

Nicklin says that her choice to study medicine was a natural one.

"I really love helping people and interacting with people," she said.

Nicklin also mentioned her inter-

est in human anatomy and her experience in working at a local hospital, saying that the English system has advantages for those studying medicine.

In England, undergraduates immediately enter study in medicine, which totals six years, as opposed to the American system, which involves undergraduate school and then an additional six years of medical school.

During these six years, Nicklin said, she will be limited in the type of courses she may take because of this specialization.

"It's just a very different kind of education," said Nicklin, referring to the specialized nature of undergraduate education, which is also evident in English secondary schools, in which students choose only a few subjects in their final years to concentrate on.

She is glad, however, that she went through the liberal arts experience and the free choice selection that Staples offers, which she said had allowed her to take interesting courses, like African Studies, that were unrelated to her future academic plans but interested her nevertheless.

Nicklin feels that Staples has been a great factor in her intellectual development.

"I definitely have developed as a student while at Staples," said Nicklin. "The choice of classes and amazing teachers have really stimulated me intellectually and made me into a really well-rounded student."

Nicklin is currently captain of the girls lacrosse team at Staples, something she said she would have never imagined participating in prior to moving to the United States, and she says she enjoys reading in her free time.

Her friends are very happy for Nicklin's future engagements.

"I'm amazed by her plans. If it isn't spectacular enough that she was one of two international students accepted to Cambridge for medicine, she is also taking time to give back to the community," said Annie Harnick '10. "I think her gap year sounds incredible; she'll get to experience so much culture as well as help those less fortunate."

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Riley Andrews
Muhlenberg College

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Point Park University

David Arango
Norwalk Community College, then New York Institute of Technology

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Connecticut College

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Loyola College in Maryland

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Fordham University

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Peter Crager
Pennsylvania College of Technology

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Central Connecticut State University

Cronin Cullen
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Emily Cumming
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Tyler Debussey
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Suffolk University

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Ryan Fish-Brown
Moving to Alaska with my boy Wilbur

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Villanova University

Robert Goelz
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Susquehanna University

Charles Knofla
Indiana University

Amanda Lacey
Year off /University of Edinburgh

Ariel Laifer
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Elizabeth Leonard
Kenyon College

Ashley Lepre
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the Class of 2009!

Senior Supplement 2009
Inklings / June 19, 2009 / Inklingsnews.com

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Stamford

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Joshua Navarro
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Andrew Nederlof
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University of Cambridge

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About the List

The senior list is voluntary and is compiled solely by the Inklings staff; Staples High School only supplies the names of the graduating seniors. This list is updated as of June 10, 2009.

The paper makes many attempts to contact all the seniors through phone calls, interviews, and emails. Still, some students are difficult to reach.

We apologize if any name is not on the list or if any information is wrong. Please contact Inklings at 341-1994 or inklingsweb@gmail.com to make the appropriate changes to our online list, which can be found at www.inklingsnews.com.

Technology



PHOTO FROM STOCK PHOTO

Gameboy,
Dolly the Sheep

Super Bowl Winners



PHOTO BY EDUARDO A. MOLINA

Dallas Cowboys

Fashion

Patent leather plat-
form boots (À la
Spice Girls)

Plaid, pastel and
babydoll dresses



PHOTO FROM NORTHAMPTON COUNCIL

Fave Star

Tom Cruise

Comebacks

Sex Pistols, DEVO,
and The Monkees

Defining Teen Movie



PHOTO FROM STOCK PHOTO

"Clueless"

Popular Books

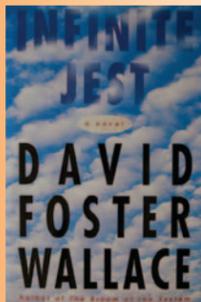


PHOTO FROM STOCK PHOTO

"Fight Club" by
Chuck Palahniuk,
"Infinite Jest" by
David Foster Wallace

RACHEL CHERNOK '10, CAROLINE GOLDSTEIN '10, LUKE HAMMERMAN '10, PETEY MENZ '11, ANNIE NELSON '11

A&E Editor, Staff Writer, A&E Editor, News Editor, Features Editor



SLANGOLOGY IN 1996...

Angsty teens are re-
ferred to as...

Goths



PHOTO FROM STOCK PHOTO

To say "just kidding..."

Psyche!

To say you totally
beat somebody...

**Who's your
daddy?**

To say something's funny,
you say...

Rad!

To express your feel-
ings when seeing an
exceptionally good-
looking individual...

Schwing!

To say hello, you say...

What up, G?

To say something is
good you say...

**Dope, ill, fresh,
"the bomb"**

The coolest social
gathering is called a...

Rave

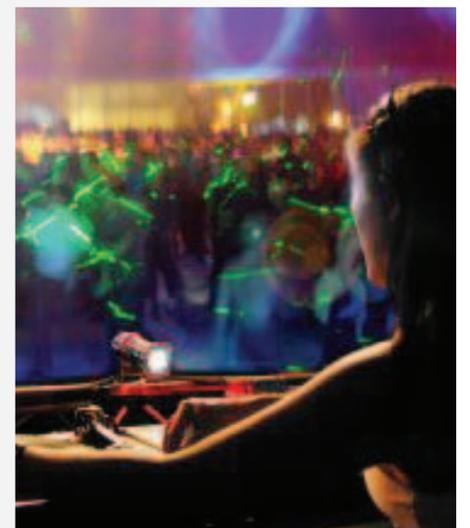


PHOTO FROM STOCK PHOTO

Fave Star



PHOTO FROM WORDPRESS.COM

Robert Pattinson

Popular Books

Twilight Series by Stephenie Meyer,
"My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult

Comebacks

Grateful Dead, Eminem, Britney Spears

Fashion

Scarves, metallic gladiator sandals, Ray-Ban Wayfarers, plaid shirts and skinny jeans (À la Urban Outfitters hipsters)



PHOTOS BY ANNIE NELSON '11



PHOTO BY DANIEL CHISWICK

Back in 1996, when the class of 2009 first entered kindergarten, the world was a very different place. This is our comparison of those two different worlds and how life has changed around our seniors as they have moved up through school.



GRAPHIC BY ANNIE NELSON '11

Super Bowl Winner
Pittsburgh Steelers

Defining Teen Movie
"Superbad"

Cheesiest Dance Song



PHOTO BY STEPHEN CARLILE

"Just Dance" by Lady Gaga

Technology



PHOTO BY ANNIE NELSON '11

iPhone, Blackberry, face transplants

Angsty teens are referred to as...
Emo



PHOTO COURTESY OF SNAKEBITE

To say "just kidding..."
JK!

To say you totally beat somebody...

You have just been pwned.

To say something's funny, you say...

LOLZ, ROFL

...and in 2009

To express your feelings when you see an exceptionally good-looking individual...

I'd tap that!

To say hello you say...

Sup? (head nod)

To say something is good you say...

Legit, sick, baller

The coolest social gathering is called a...
Bro sesh



PHOTO BY DEVIN SKOLNICK '11

Nine Films That Define '09: Our top nine films of the 2008-2009 school year

IAN PHILLIPS '10
A&E Editor

1. **"Slumdog Millionaire"**— This tale of a boy (Ayush Mahesh Khedekar/Dev Patel) from a Mumbai slum is virtually flawless in every way. Even though the audience might know Jamal's fate from the very beginning, "Slumdog Millionaire" proves that a film is more about the journey than it is about the conclusion.



PHOTO BY CELADOR FILMS

2. **"Precious"**— This Sundance entry has already become the "little indie-that could" of 2009, and with good reason. "Precious" takes place in Harlem in the 1980s and follows Precious (Gabby Sidibe), an obese black girl who's recently been expelled from school after getting pregnant with the second child of her father. Don't shy away because of the depressing premise; few films will put you into the depths of the most horrible abuse and tragedy and then shine a tiny glimmer of hope above your head.

3. **"Milk"**— A biopic at its very best, "Milk" portrays the life of Harvey Milk (Sean Penn), the first openly gay politician in America who led the way in the gay rights movement of the 1970s. This world could use more people like Harvey Milk, and "Milk" flawlessly shows us why.

4. **"Up"**— Pixar strikes gold yet again with this story of a lonely old man fulfilling his life-long dream of journeying to South America in honor of his recently deceased wife. How does he do this? By attaching millions of balloons to his house. Stunning visuals, great humor, and an unpredictable story put "Up" in "Toy Story" territory and makes it the first great mainstream movie of 2009.



PHOTO BY PIXAR/ WALT DISNEY PICTURES

5. **"Rachel Getting Married"**— A triumph for director Jonathan Demme ("The Silence of the Lambs"), "Rachel Getting Married" is a small gem that shows how a little character study can go a long way. "Rachel Getting Married" ignores dull melodrama and instead

6. **"Religulous"**— The second movie this decade using guerilla documentary filmmaking (after "Borat") succeeds at it admirably. In a premise that would make provocative comic George Carlin proud, anti-religious comic Bill Maher travels around the world interviewing figures from the world's biggest religions and exposes the lies and corruptions within them. Even if you don't agree with this, "Religulous" will make you laugh harder than most movies this year.



PHOTO BY THOUSAND WORDS

7. **"Dare"**— Another Sundance great, coming to a theater near you soon. "Dare" is the story of three typical high school seniors: the overachiever (Emmy Rossum), the jock (Zach Gilford), and the outsider (Ashley Springer) during their final semester of high school, who find out they are not so different after all. "Dare" is the kind of movie that takes you into the life of someone you never knew before, changes perceptions, and understands teenage angst with frightening precision.

8. **"Role Models"**— Every once in a while, a movie defies my expectations. This year, it was "Role Models." It's a comedy about a man in mid-life crisis (Paul Rudd) and a man-child who doesn't care about anything (Sean William Scott) being forced into a community service program which has them mentoring two very different kids (Christopher Mintz-Plasse and Bobb'e J. Thompson). If you're in the mood to see a debate about Kiss lyrics or a giant, live-action Dungeons & Dragons-like finale, then go see "Role Models" right away.

9. **"Gran Torino"**— Clint Eastwood turned 79 in May. That's old, but he shows no signs of slowing down. In "Gran Torino," Eastwood directs himself as a modern day cowboy stuck in the crumbling, gang-infested neighborhoods of Motown. At the age of 79, the man formerly known as "the man with no name" has made a name for himself as one of the greatest filmmakers Hollywood has ever had.



PHOTO BY WARNER BROTHERS



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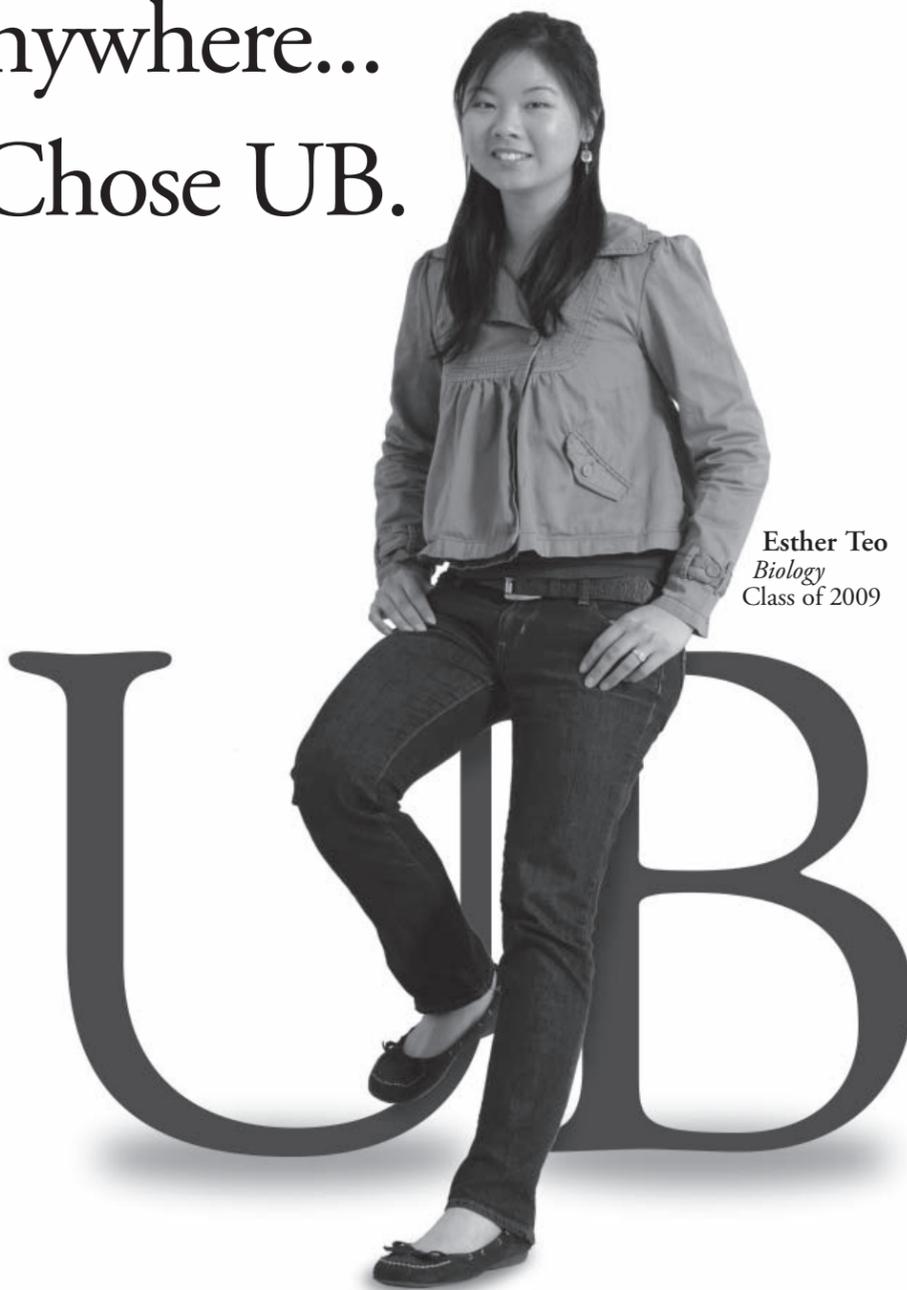
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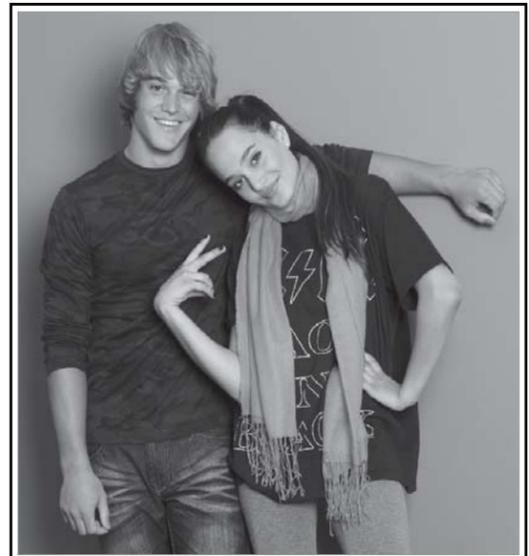


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K Calls It Quits: Gerry Kuroghlian Retires After 42 Years of Teaching

ROSS GORDON '11
News Editor

One of the most loved English teachers at Staples, Gerald Kuroghlian, is set to retire after a 42-year teaching career this June.

Kuroghlian's departure will be a huge loss for the English department.

"We will miss him terribly," said Lisabeth Comm, English department chair. "He is Mr. Staples English department."

A part of the National, Connecticut, and New England Council of Teachers of English, Kuroghlian has greatly contributed to the English department. According to Comm, Kuroghlian brings the English department the latest trends and research in ways to teach the English curriculum.

"Kuroghlian's time at Staples has, in his words, 'sparkled like a gem.'"

Attaining his doctoral degree was an important step in developing his teaching skills as it also allowed for more opportunities for Kuroghlian to help the school. As he said, the doctoral degree showed him how to make relationships between the text and real life. He is stimulating in the classroom, as he makes the English curriculum come alive to generations of students.

"He was so enthusiastic about what he was teaching and was so clearly thrilled to be doing what he does," said Anne Hardy, a student of Kuroghlian's during the 70s.

Also known for connecting with students on a personal level, Kuroghlian is frequently seen at musical concerts, Staples Players productions, sports games, awards ceremonies, and graduation.

"He is involved in so many ways," said school historian and soccer coach Dan Woog. "He is a superb teacher, and

an ardent supporter of everything from the arts to athletics to the most random and obscure club."

Kuroghlian's enjoyment of extracurricular activities is the due to his keen interest in watching students celebrate their successes. He loves seeing students succeed in his "Four A's;" academics, athletics, aesthetics, and activities.

"He cares about student's successes in life and I think that is really wonderful," said Hardy. "That is something that I can say about him 30 years ago and that I can say now."

Kuroghlian also cares for the people around him, both current and former students, the faculty, as well as the Westport community. Kuroghlian has affected those around him by fulfilling the roles of a friend, mentor, or counselor.

"He went to more weddings, confirmations, graduation parties and funerals than anyone I know," said Woog. "That to me shows his impact on thousands of people in millions of ways over 42 years."

Once he is retired, Kuroghlian plans to go on an Odyssey themed trip, where he will follow the path of Odysseus as told in "The Odyssey." Kuroghlian has wanted to go on this trip for his entire life.

"I want to still be young enough to run away from Scylla and Charybdis," said Kuroghlian. "Now is the time to do it before I am too old."

In addition, Kuroghlian plans to work in Bridgeport at the Mercy Learning Center where he will help adults get their high school equivalency diplomas.

Kuroghlian's time at Staples has, in his words, "sparkled like a gem." Many of his colleagues and students agree that he has been a vital aspect of Staples for many years. He will be remembered as a great teacher, one who is helpful to students and faculty in addition to, as Kuroghlian puts it, "making [Staples] one family."

"Everybody loved him," said Hardy. "Every [student] at Staples wanted to have him as a teacher."



PHOTO BY ROSS GORDON '11

AN INCREDIBLE LEGACY: Gerry Kuroghlian has showed English classes the joys of literature for over four decades. Pictured above: Kuroghlian engages his English 2A class in a discussion. Inset: Kuroghlian on a school field trip in 1968.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY GERRY KUROGLIAN

MORE THAN O-K: Kuroghlian, pictured here with state Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg (left) and Westport Superintendent Elliott Landon (right), receives the Westport Teacher of the Year Award in 2005. In addition to this award, Kuroghlian was also a state finalist for Teacher of the Year.

Reflections on Dr. K Then and Now

Then

"He was so enthusiastic about what he was teaching and was so clearly thrilled to be doing what he does."

Anne Hardy '79

Now

"He was one of the best teachers I've had so far at Staples. It's a shame that he's retiring."

Dakota Voliotes '11

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Other Faculty Departing Staples

Marcia Wright

English teacher Marcia Wright, who taught English 1A, English 1B, and English 3 at Staples this year, is retiring after 12 years at Staples. In addition to her years at

the high school she also taught at the elementary schools and middle schools in Westport, having taught students of every grade.

Camili Rando

English department secretary Camili Rando is retiring after 20 years at Staples. She has made no plans post-retirement and plans

to take it "day by day". The position of English department secretary was her only job in the Westport School system.

Both Ms. Wright and Ms. Rando declined to be featured.

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2008-09 YEAR IN REVIEW

BEN KLAFF '10 AND PETEY MENZ '11
News Editors

A HISTORIC VICTORY



PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

NOV 4 Election 2008

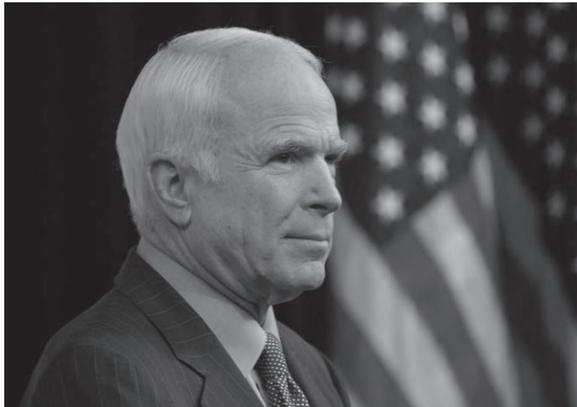


PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After a hard-fought campaign, Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) defeats Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and becomes the president elect. His running mate, Senator Joe Biden (D-DE), becomes vice president elect. Obama receives 365 total electoral votes while McCain receives 173.



PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

JAN 20 Obama's Inauguration



PHOTO BY MADELEINE HARDY '11

Barack Obama becomes the United States' first ever African-American president. The inauguration is attended by over one million people in Washington, DC. Staples stops the school day to watch this historic event.

FINANCIAL CRISIS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWSCOM

SEPT 15-18 Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy, the largest filing of its kind in U.S. history. The same day, Merrill Lynch is sold to Bank of America under distressed circumstances. On Sept. 16, the large insurer American International Group, suffers a liquidity crisis. The Dow Jones Industrial Average loses more than 500 points for only the sixth time in history.

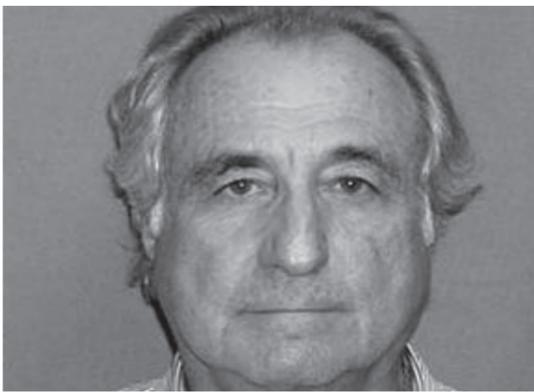


PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

DEC 11 Bernard Madoff, businessman and former non-executive chairman of the NASDAQ stock exchange, is arrested. On March 12, he pleads guilty to operating a Ponzi scheme that has been called the largest investor fraud ever committed by a single person. Federal prosecutors estimate client losses, which included fabricated gains, of almost \$65 billion.



PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FEB 17 The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, an economic stimulus package enacted by the 111th United States Congress is signed into law by President Barack Obama. The stimulus is intended to provide a boost to the U.S. economy in the wake of the economic downturn. The measures included in the act are worth \$787 billion in total.



PHOTO BY ROSS GORDON '11

MAY 4-5 Students organize a rally at Town Hall in order to protest the additional \$1.4 million budget cut to the 2009-2010 budget. The next day at a five hour RTM meeting attended by many teachers, students and parents, the RTM rejects any restoration by a 34-2 vote, but does not cut further.

OTHER MAJOR EVENTS

Loss of a Legend



PHOTO FROM WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

Sept. 26—Paul Newman, Academy Award-winning actor, philanthropist, and long-time Westport resident, dies at the age of 83 of lung cancer. Newman, who starred in films such as "The Color of Money," renovated the Westport Country Playhouse with his wife Joanne Woodward.

Crisis in Gaza



PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Dec. 27—Israel initiates a series of airstrikes followed by an invasion of the Gaza Strip, killing at least 1,300 and wounding over 2,700. Staples students have mixed reactions over whether to support Israel or Palestine.

Miracle on the Hudson



PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Jan. 15—US Airways Flight 1549, en route to Charlotte's Douglas International Airport from New York's LaGuardia Airport, lands in the Hudson River off Manhattan after its engines fail. All 155 passengers and crew are evacuated and survive. The cause of the crash is later determined to be a flock of Canada geese.

Swine Flu Outbreak



PHOTO FROM NEWSCOM

April 24—The World Health Organization issues its first Disease Outbreak Notice confirming the infection of people in Mexico and the United States by "Swine Influenza/H1N1 virus." In the following weeks, Swine Flu continues to spread, infecting people around the world and closing many schools around the United States. On May 24 Westport Schools Superintendent Elliot Landon informs parents that there has been a confirmed case of H1N1 influenza in the school system.

Sports Teams to Remember

BY JACK HENNESSY '10 AND JOY EISENBERG '10
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

Boys' Soccer

The Staples Boys Soccer Team, led by Westport Sportsmen Coach of the Year Dan Woog, captured the Ralph King Cup and FCIAC Tournament crown in a thrilling season that captivated students and faculty alike. Captains Alex Hoberman '09, Adam Liu '09, and Frankie Rende '09 impressed others with their senior leadership which contributed to the team's success.

Staples redeemed its only loss of the regular season with a victory over Norwalk High in the FCIAC semi-finals. After struggling early in the finals, Staples overcame a 0-1 deficit to defeat Greenwich 3-1. This win gave the program its 25th FCIAC title.

The future is certainly bright with the majority of its starting line-up returning next season. However, the road to another FCIAC title will not be easy with the loss of key seniors Liu, Rende, and Hoberman.

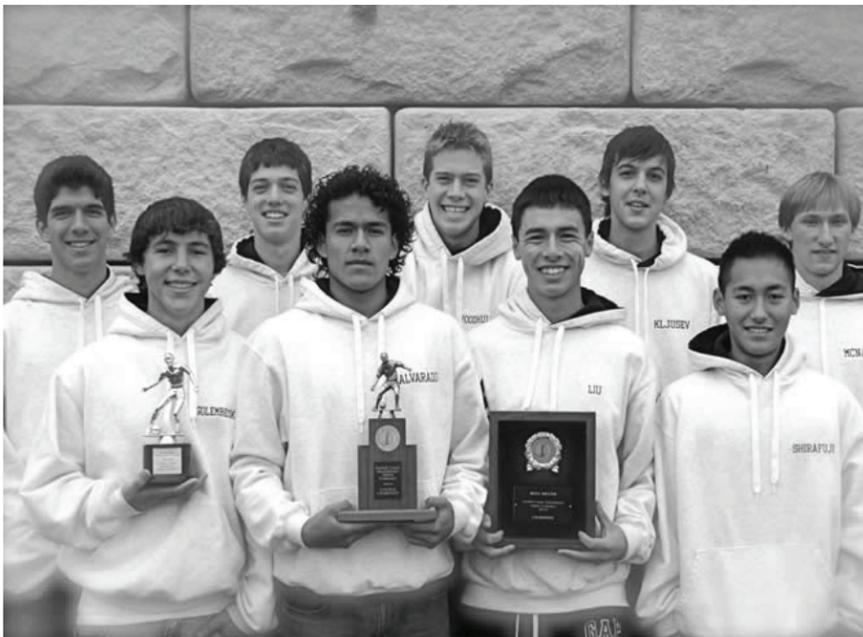


PHOTO BY CARL MCNAIR

SCORE: Seniors (from left) Frankie Rende '09, Jon Golembeski '09, Alex Hoberman '09, Jairo Alvarado '09, Remington Woodhull '09, Adam Liu '09, Nick Kljusev '09, Kenta Shirafuji '09, and Sanders McNair '09 lead the Boys Soccer team to their 25th FCIAC Championship.



PHOTO BY JESSIE BOAS '09

STICK IT: (From left) Ariel Steinglass '09, Jessie Boas '09, Coach Melissa Zigmont, Bizz Wiggin '09, and Rachel Sanfilippo '09 highlighted an experienced Wrecker team that finished first in the FCIAC tournament.

Gymnastics

Staples girls' gymnastics team extended their season all the way to a first place finish in the FCIAC tournament. Sanfilippo was a deciding factor in the Wreckers' title run. The senior captain was stellar, taking first in every event to lead the Wreckers past the competition.

This FCIAC championship was the primary goal for the seniors who had been fundraising since their freshman year in order to host the prestigious event. The girls did not let the effort and funds go to waste as they won on their home turf in front of supportive Staples superfans.

Next year the Lady Wreckers will be just as strong, if not stronger, with a core group of returning members. These girls will help soften the blow of Sanfilippo's departure, and they should aim for nothing less than another FCIAC championship.

JOCK TALK

The Words of an Angry Superfan

GREG KEISER '09 AND JOHN KELLEY '09
Staff Writers

Something has bothered me all year long, but I have not written about it simply because it wasn't relevant enough to make a commotion. However, due to recent events, and the fact that this will be my last column published for this paper, I figured I would let it out. So here it is: a 600-word complaint.

I'll begin by asking a question. Are Superfans out of hand? I would have to say, no, absolutely not. What's out of hand is the administration thinking fans are out of hand. Is it out of hand to cheer for the Wreckers? Is it out of hand to provide a home court advantage?

Well, depending on who you, the reader, are, your response to my questions may differ. As a student, you would most likely say no, fans are well within their rights. As an administrator, you would probably inform me that anything said besides 'let's go Wreckers' in an indoor voice is not allowed.

At a boys' volleyball game against Ridgefield this spring season, about twenty students, about the entire fan section, were thrown out of the match because they were being too loud during the other team's serve. It was the referee that kicked them out of the stands though, so I have nothing negative to say about that. I do, however, have something to say about the administration's actions following the incident.

The school made the decision to suspend over eight students from two or more volleyball games. This included one student being banned from games for life. He didn't come to the game under any influence, he didn't start a fight with the opposing teams' fans, and he wasn't screaming profanity. Nope, he just made too much noise. All he did was support his home team a little too much.

The school did eventually retract the lifelong suspension, and is now allowing the student to return to volleyball games for the postseason FCIAC and State tournaments. I commend the administration for correcting their error. It would have been nice if they had stood behind their students to begin with, but I guess we, as the fans, will have to take what we can get with them.

It goes beyond Superfans though. Administration cannot have people questioning them. I half expect to be suspended from sporting events just for practicing my first amendment right to free speech through this column. But of course, they can't have students compromising their prestige, especially now that they're the number one public school in Connecticut!

So, as a graduating senior, I will just leave you with one word of advice to the current and future Superfans that will be at Staples next year. Continue the tradition of support for our teams that was set this year. Cheer at your own risk though; I don't want to be responsible for anything that gets you in trouble. Do your best to not get thrown out or suspended, although I realize that that's a difficult task with our administration running things. Because, as we all now know, they may say competition isn't over until the fat lady sings, but in our case it's not over until an administrator overreacts.

Boys' Golf



PHOTO BY MICHAEL NUSSBAUM '11

HOLE-IN-ONE: Charlie Knofla '09 lead the Wreckers to 18 straight victories.

Staples boys' golf has evolved into an FCIAC and state powerhouse. Captains Charlie Knofla '09 and Dylan Murray '10 led the team this season, as they went undefeated with a varsity roster of five members. Memorable matches for this team were the ones against Wilton and New Canaan at home, and Greenwich away; each was a victory.

This team knows how to win, and after 18 straight victories, many are betting on them in the post-season.

Four out of five varsity members will return to the team next year, and players Murray and Andrew Gai '11 look to continue or surpass the '09 team's accomplishments.

Boys' Volleyball

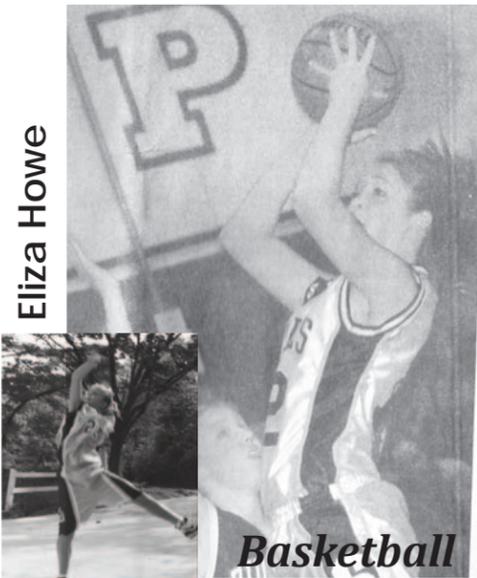


PHOTO BY JUDY HLAWITSCHKA

The Staples volleyball team, one of the most consistent teams at Staples High School, set two school records this year. On April 27, coach Bruce Betts won his 300th straight game. On May 29, the team won their seventh straight FCIAC title, making their total number of FCIAC wins 10., and June 12, won the LL State Championship. The team was led by captains Charles Winslow '09, JJ Goddu '09, and Harry Strobel '09. While important seniors are moving on, there are many juniors and one sophomore, Danny Fishman '11, on the team, meaning next year should be another success.

Atheletes of the Year: *Wreck-ognizing Wreckers*

Eliza Howe



Basketball

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ELIZA HOWE '09

STEVIE KLEIN '12 AND EMILY KOWAL '12
Web Features Editor and Web A&E Editor

After four years of athletics, Eliza Howe '09, has demonstrated how hard work and devotion can result in success.

At the age of seven, Howe moved from England to the U.S. and year later she started playing AAU basketball.

"I never got off the bench and was really bad, but I worked really hard to get better. I think that challenge of starting off as the worst player on the team for basketball is what started my drive to be a better player," said Howe.

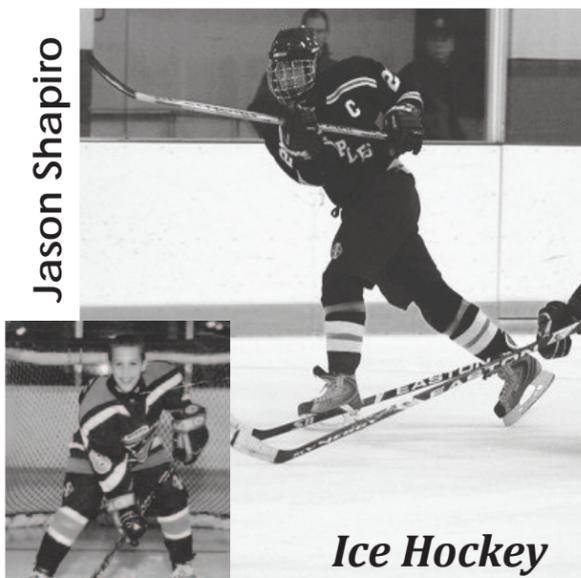
This past year, down by two, Howe was fouled with less than a second left.

She was nervous, but confident that she could send it to overtime, and she did. Howe crowned this as one of her top senior sports moments.

"I'm definitely more confident in my abilities on the court. I'm much more of a leader and I enjoy being the one to be counted on to perform, which I shied away from freshman year," said Howe.

Going on to play basketball at Hamilton College in New York, Howe will miss the coaches, players, teams, and the other team events that she has been a part of the past four years.

Jason Shapiro



Ice Hockey

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY JASON SHAPIRO '09

EMILY GOLDBERG '12
Web Sports Editor

Since he first stepped on the ice at age five, Jason Shapiro '09s hockey career has sky-rocketed. Tri-captain Shapiro played for a variety of teams in the tri-state area growing up, competing in two USA Youth National Championships. Shapiro says his dad was one of his biggest influences as a kid.

"He really pushed me to work because he knew the talent I had," said Shapiro.

In four years of hockey at Staples High School, Shapiro's favorite moments, "had to be either our FCIAC playoff game against Dairen or our games at Yale [for States games]," said Shapiro. During a game at Yale, Shapiro also broke the school's record for number of goals scored.

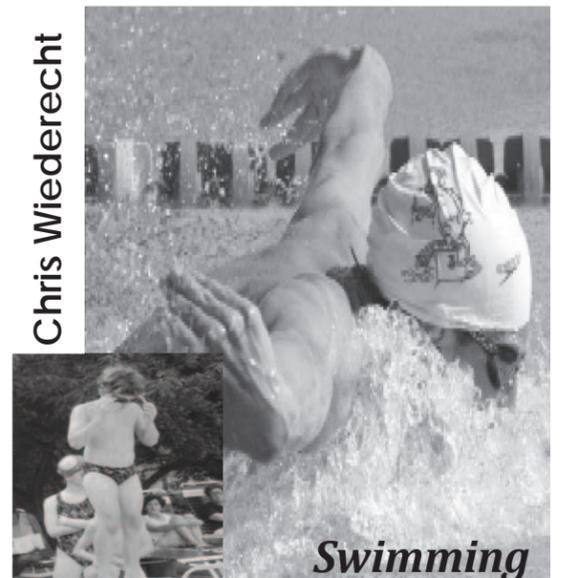
Shapiro's outstanding performances as Team MVP and CT Post All-Star led him to be named to the First Team All FCIAC, First Team All-State.

"Making FCIACs and playing at Yale were two dreams of mine starting my freshman year so that was a highlight," said Shapiro. Along with making FCIACs, the team also advanced to the Championship Round of the State Tournament this year.

Shapiro will be attending UConn next year.

"I will definitely be playing club hockey. It's still undecided as to whether or not I am going to give variety a shot," said Shapiro.

Chris Wiederecht



Swimming

PHOTOS BY BARBARA WIEDERECHT

MADDIE MELNICK '12
Staff Writer

Chris Wiederecht '09 started taking swimming lessons when he was eight years old. From that day on, swimming has been a huge part of Chris's life.

Looking back, Wiederecht realizes the progress he has made as not only an athlete, but also as a person because of swimming.

"I've matured a ton since I was 12 and 13 years old. I have much more confidence in myself now," said Wiederecht. He especially attributes his coach, Ellen Johnston, as an influence on his swimming career.

Wiederecht's accomplishments include placing 30th at Junior National Championships, seventh at the YMCA National Championships and qualifying for the US National Championships.

Through his hard work, Wiederecht has grown to love swimming. "I realized that I truly did love the sport last year at Y-Nationals [when] all my best friends were down there with me," he said.

One of his proudest moments of his senior year was when Staples placed seventh at the State Open.

"Being on that team really made my four years of Staples so much more enjoyable" said Wiederecht.

Next year, Wiederecht will be swimming for the University of Wisconsin.

"I'll miss everything about it next year but my time is up and its time for me to move on." he said.

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'Thank you, Staples Faculty,'

Graduation is appropriately all about the senior class, but any graduation ceremony would be remiss if the event did not include the faculty who taught the students seated on the risers before you, under banners of blue and white. Here are the teachers of the 2008-2009 school year.

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Southern Conn. State Univ., M.S.; C.A.S.

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Be a Stylish Senior With... The Inklings Pirate Hat

PETEY MENZ '11
News Editor

As a perceptive but politically incorrect person once said that hats are for men. However, there is a grain of truth in this statement: hats are primarily for adults. Now that the seniors of 2009 are done

with high school, they all are adults and can enter adulthood in a stylishly journalistic way, with the Inklings Pirate Hat, modeled here by editor emeritus Mike Schneider '09.

STEP 1

Locate a page from an issue of the award-winning Staples High School newspaper, Inklings. Be sure to choose a front page that goes well with your eyes.



STEP 2

Take the top two corners of your Inklings and fold them into the center of the page. While doing this, be sure to observe the quality writing and graphics!



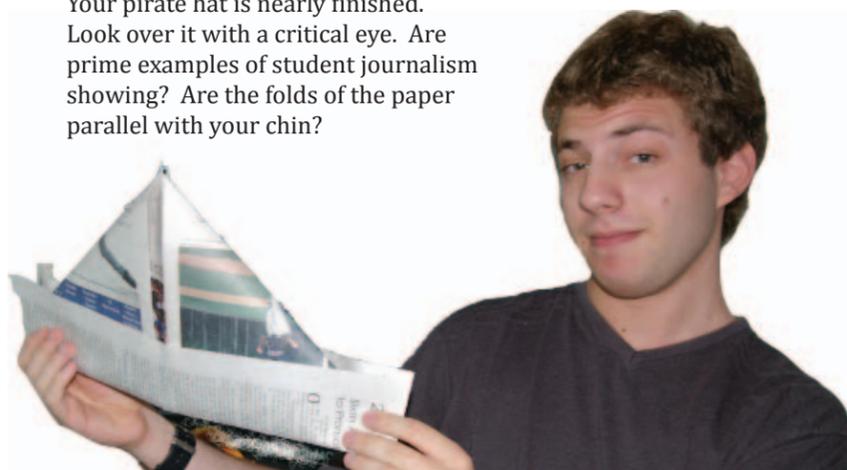
STEP 3

Fold up bottom flap of your paper, but don't smudge your fingers on the newsprint.



STEP 4

Your pirate hat is nearly finished. Look over it with a critical eye. Are prime examples of student journalism showing? Are the folds of the paper parallel with your chin?



STEP 5

Put the hat on and bask in your chicness. The Inklings Pirate Hat is truly a symbol of maturity and adulthood. Argh!

