

Graduation celebrates seniors

As the senior class of 2011 leaves Appleton North to pursue different paths, four years of learning, friendships, and memories are sure to never be forgotten. Throughout the years these now graduating students have made their marks on North history.

Along with seniors, a handful of educators will take their leave after many years of inspiring students.

With the end of another school year both seniors and retiring teachers will begin on a new path in life that will hopefully lead to countless successes after their time at North has ended.



Photo by Empire Photography

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Chief's story just begun *News editor says her final farewell*



Photo by Becca Li

By Siri Pairin

The headline would read something like this: "Editor-in-chief's last story." But I don't really look at it that way.

Over the past four years, I've written articles, edited pieces, and constructed pages. I've ambushed interviewees, and raced against the clock. But perhaps most importantly, I've become part of something greater than breaking news and printed word—the friendship between editors.

It is quite difficult to spend ten plus hours a week in one small publications lab without getting extremely close to those around you. We've made it through quite a lot, really.

We have had to reconstruct entire sections in order to add in a breaking news story. We have had to deal with

technological malfunctions and a J drive that is very selective in terms of who gets to save their work.

But with Shaniqua the cheetah-print-mascot providing undying comfort, a "teching mix" cd with a song for every mood, and the support of each other, we have managed to make it through ten solid issues with great success.

This success, however, is greatly due to the seven extremely wonderful editors and two lovely advisors I've had the pleasure of growing closer to and working with this year. With Mrs. Bruce's experience and delicious soup, Mr. Ramponi's knowledge and insight, Megan's subtle appearance on every front page, Laurel's superior fashion sense, Paige's cried river, Brooke's enviable graphic skillz, Alex's role as the-only-person-on-the-staff-

to-actually-know-anything-about-sports, Abbey's chipper enthusiasm, and Jensen's incredible ability to put up with it all, the times have never been boring, and the *Noctiluca* has never been more fun.

But our success is also because of the consistency and dedication of our writers and contributors. Their contributions each month and the passion they show for journalism are truly what make up the paper. With a new editorial staff in training, and many promising writers poised and ready to take on a new *Noctiluca* year, I am confident that the *Noctiluca* will continue this successful streak.

I think it safe to say that everyone involved in this newspaper has taken away useful skills, forever improving talent, and valuable experiences.

What I have learned and experienced on this paper has motivated me to pursue writing, journalism and communication in college and beyond. Because of my time on this newspaper, I know what I love to do.

Although my time with the *Noctiluca* is up, I don't really think that my "story" has ended. In fact, I think the headline would be something more along the lines of, "Editor-in-chief's story just begun."

By Megan Van Boxel

There is nothing more exciting than finishing up my senior year in high school knowing that I've made memories here at Appleton North that will stay with me forever.

Of these memories, my favorites will always be my times spent as a member of Mr. Wolfman's symphonic orchestra, the brilliance of certain homemade AP US History videos, and the amazing friends I've made as I've journeyed through four years of high school.

Although those all rank as highly memorable in their own respect, my times spent as both a writer and editor for the *Noctiluca* truly takes the gold for my most unforgettable high school experience.

I consider myself most fortunate to have been able to be a part of a team that I believe has played a part into shaping who I am today. I've spent the past four years on the *Noctiluca* staff not only learning about journalism as the Culture, News, and Copy editor, but also learning about what it takes to be a team member. Many of my closest friends are writers and editors for the newspaper and I'm so pleased to be moving on to UW Madi-

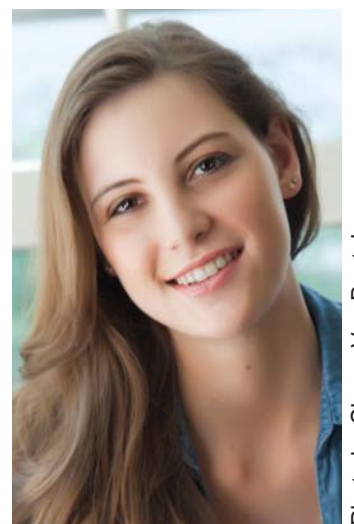


Photo by Shane Van Boxel

son with three in particular I am lucky to have worked with, but am even more lucky to be able to call them all my friends.

In addition, I feel compelled to extend the largest of the thanks to both Mr. Ramponi and Mrs. Bruce for serving as the best advisors anyone could ask for as we editors attempted to put a newspaper together each and every month. It is with their help and support that we were able to achieve all that we did.

Although parting with the *Noctiluca* will be sad, I have high hopes for the future and am excited to be moving forward with my life. I am sure the paper will continue to be successful as the baton is passed to the many new faces to carry on the *Noctiluca* legacy.

SENIOR FAREWELLS

Appleton, Wisconsin

April 2011

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Page 2

Here comes goodbye *Features farewell*

By Brooke Resch

Here comes goodbye, *Noctiluca* readers.

Ever since Freshman year when I walked timidly into my first high school class—Spanish with Señor Ford—the time has flown by. While many of my friends feel that graduation has arrived slowly, to me, it sped up faster than a deadline.

I am the type of person who can't believe that she is already typing her farewell article for the *Noctiluca*. In fact, if it were journalistically appropriate to insert a sad emotion into an article, this one would be lousy with them.

While my emotions about graduation and having to leave the *Noctiluca* are sad and nostalgic, my memories of high school and working on the newspaper staff are nothing but positive. It has been a great four years.

As I reflect, I can recall scads of young writers who were eager to write for me, talented editors who were willing

to teach me, and passionate advisors who were capable of mentoring me—not to mention, feeding me!

Upon further reflection, I notice that as I grew as a journalist and editor, I also felt marked improvement in my self-confidence and quality of character; I don't think that this is a coincidence.

Working on a high school newspaper provides students the opportunity to learn about punctuality, accuracy, ethics, and teamwork. Hopefully, after four years on the *Noctiluca* staff, I can say that some of that stuck to me.

It would be such a shame if I said that I got to work with people as brilliant as Siri, as creative as Jensen, as dedicated as Alex, as classy as Megan, and as beautiful (inside and out) as Paige, and not learned anything from them.

Fortunately, I am walking away from the *Noctiluca* with a few good lessons about journalism and character.

Thanks so much to all

of the students and staff who have made the *Noctiluca* such a great experience to have been a part of and good luck to next year's contributors and editors!



Photo by Tracy Monte

Resch twins leave the Appleton North paper together (Brooke left, Paige right).

“Working on a high school newspaper provides students the opportunity to learn about punctuality, accuracy, ethics, and teamwork.”

By Paige Resch

This is it, my last contribution to the *Noctiluca*. Thanks to all of the wonderful contributors, the Features section has usually included some

tips for spirit days, celebrations, healthy lifestyles, and travel. After four years of attending this school and helping with this paper however, I find it only fitting to include a few of my own tips in my last article.

To all freshman reading this: congratulations. High school will only get less scary from here on out. Be prepared to spend less time finding your way around school and more time developing a niche to call your own.

I cannot thank past editors and friends like Gina and Becca enough for pushing me to be more involved in the newspaper and forensics my sophomore year. And I can not thank the forensics team enough for giving me new things to write about whenever I suffered writer's block.

To every sophomore who happens across this page: brace yourselves. Junior year

is intense. Be ready to handle a lot more work (not just homework) and supporting your friends during their stress.

Don't get me wrong, junior year will have its good times. It was when I began working as an editor on the *Noctiluca*, and I never had so much fun as when we argued over content. Actually, the goofiest time of the year was making the April edition and publishing embarrassing photos of Kal. Bottom line, be prepared for more intense stresses, friendships, and humor.

Now the juniors. You will have a lot of big decisions next year. Where to go to college? What to do with your senior-spore time? How to vote? My only advice is to not take my advice. Take it from your friends and family. Share your plans and ideas and see what your friends have to say about it.

Hopefully you will be lucky and have some things in common with your friends. I am so excited to be going to college with some of my fellow editors Megan, Siri, and my favorite editor and twin Brooke Resch.

Thanks to all of you for reading, and thank you to everyone on the *Noctiluca* staff, especially Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Ramponi, for making these past years with the paper so special.

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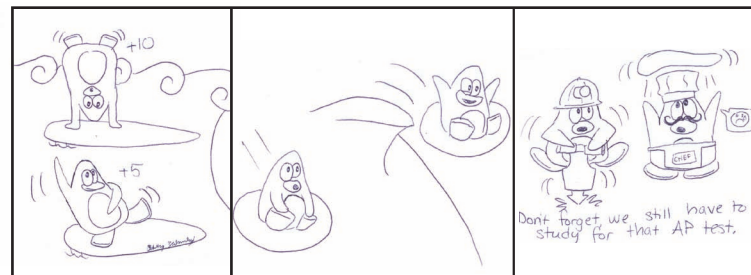
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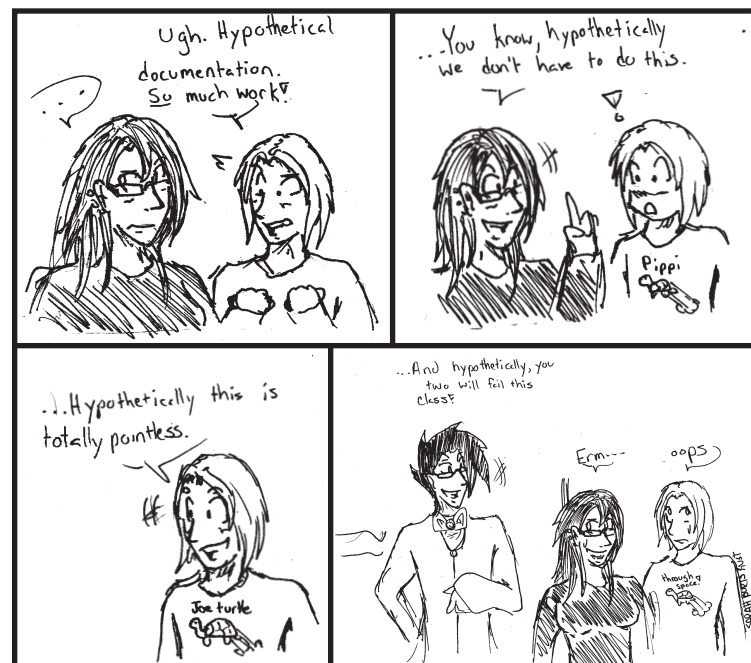
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SENIOR FAREWELLS

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Forever Lightning, future Tommy



Photo by Debbie Dannon

Senior Alex smiles the summer before embarking on his last year.

By Alex Vanden Boogaard

As my final hour-glass of high school winds down at Appleton North, I will never regret the decision I made as a sophomore to join the *Noctiluca*. As a kid, watching “Pardon the Interruption” or “Sportscenter” on ESPN I developed a genuine love for sports journalism. I often dreamed of being the next Michael Wilbon or the next Scott Van Pelt and although the industry is slowly declining, there is always room for promising newcomers who have new and innovative ideas to improve the journalism world. I am greatly excited to explore and pursue my passions at the University of St. Thomas.

“But the memories I’ve made will be what I take with me to my future endeavors.”

While leaving the sports editor position brings change, I feel very confident with the person who is stepping in to take my job at the *Noctiluca*, my right hand man and brother, Andrew Vanden Boogaard. Being one year apart, I will truly miss this hardworking, diligent and kind young man. I really don’t know where I would be without this guy. Having done all the dirty work, developing stories and contributing countless hours to the job, the *Noctiluca* won’t miss a beat with him stepping in.

I feel confident Andrew will have a great support-

ing cast around him. Trent Tetzlaff, who stepped in this year to contribute greatly, will play a great role of becoming Andrew’s right hand man for next year.

I’d also like to thank Tim Westmark and Rachael Weber for their efforts of contributing to the newspaper. Without them, arguably one of the best articles of the year for the sports section wouldn’t have been written.

Lastly, many thanks go out to Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Ramponi. Without them I wouldn’t have been given this great opportunity. Mrs. Bruce deserves all the credit in the world for building this paper into what it is today and passing the torch to Mr. Ramponi. Mr. Ramponi has brought so much to the table this year. His wide range of knowledge from past experiences working with the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* has really helped me turn into the journalist I have become and he has been nothing short of being a great mentor. Without these two individuals here, the *Noctiluca* would not be what it is and wouldn’t be state acclaimed.

It is true that all good things must come to an end. At the *Noctiluca*, the articles I once wrote might be forgotten, but the memories I’ve made will be what I take with me to my future endeavors.



Photo by Jensen Enz

Despite having taken senior pictures for others, Enz never did get her own.

A photographer’s farewell

By Jensen Enz

Life catches you sometimes, like a breath in the lungs or a moment of clarity, and the time spent working on the *Noctiluca* was one of such catches. The time I’ve spent here has been so very invaluable and the people I’ve met have become dear to me in a way that I had never expected.

Having never really spent much time on the *Noctiluca* before this year I was tentative in taking the role of Photography and Graphics Editor. Much to my surprise, though, I was welcomed with open arms. The

rest of the staff, all *Noctiluca* veterans, didn’t mind my repetitive, and most likely stupid, questions nor did they seem to mind running through the same tutorials over and over again – and for that I am so terribly thankful.

Despite stressful deadlines (ones I didn’t always meet), missing teachers and students on the days I meant to take pictures of them, and uncooperative computers, working on the *Noctiluca* this year has been an amazing experience nonetheless. The people I’ve gotten to know, whether it be in passing

or in great depth, are among the loveliest I’ve had the pleasure to meet.

I can only wish the other editors, whether they be headed to college or gearing up for another year at North, the best of luck in their future endeavors. I would love to thank the advisors who have worked so hard with the paper and its staff this year, Mr. Ramponi and Mrs. Bruce, for their generous sharing of both time and experience.

And seeing as I can’t write conclusions, this, I guess, is farewell.

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Aberrant retirement rates reflect uncertain future

By Catie Edmondson

This year, students in the Appleton Area School District will not only say farewell to the graduating class of 2011, but to ninety-one retiring teachers. Thirteen of these ninety-one educators will be leaving North and will be dearly missed.

Answering the questions ignited by the aberrant retirement numbers, Chief Financial Officer Don Hietpas of the AASD explained that there are "several reasons" behind the massive retirement

figures.

The AASD has experienced "lower than normal numbers of retirements in the past years," Hietpas reports. According to the Chief Financial Officer, a "backlog of retirement" was created due to economic uncertainty, which Hietpas states is contributing to the massive retirement numbers.

However, Hietpas also addressed the current political climate as a factor of the slew of retirements. "There is uncertainty going on with the budget impact. Teachers

are uncertain what's going on with their benefits. There's uncertainty about public opinion about public employees. They're taking a fair amount of abuse from some sections of people. It's very disconcerting."

Hietpas remains optimistic about the future of the quality of education the AASD provides. "There are many good new teachers; the educational product in Appleton will continue to be very good. We'll carry on."

North social studies teacher Chad Endres blames

the political turmoil in Madison surrounding the budget bill and public sector employees for the large amounts of retirement. "There are huge amounts of retirements because of fear of the future of education in the next few years," Endres said. "As far as the budget, [Governor Walker] is cutting \$847 million from education. This is really frustrating for teachers." Endres added that there are "some teachers retiring this year that wouldn't have" had the future of their bargaining rights not been so uncertain.

In contrast to Hietpas, Endres predicts the future of education in the AASD will experience some bumps in the road. As younger teachers attempt to fill the shoes of retired veteran teachers, Endres said, "a lot of younger teachers are still learning to teach; they're going to struggle. Give them enough time and they're going to be just fine. But they will struggle."

According to Endres, "both state and local governments are seeing huge numbers of retirements right now. Everybody's trying to get out."

Retiring staff share memories, plans

Mrs. Tellock



Photo by Jensen Enz

By Caroline Duncombe

What is your most memorable moment from teaching? Watching the technology grow and watching the kids use the technology for research.

What do you feel is your legacy? The shelves are now full of books; when I first arrived they were only half full.

What are you planning to do in retirement? Work more with the autistic community and read lots of books!

Do you have any parting advice for North's students? Be a life long learner and read lots of books!

Anything else you'd like to share about your experience at North? I remember the year the seniors let crickets loose. They tried eating the carpets, so there was a lot of stomping that year.

Frau Pfefferle



Photo by Jensen Enz

By Nate Correia

What is your most memorable moment from teaching? Being a recipient of The 2001 Teacher Recognition award, an award given to teachers of a select few of America's best students.

What do you feel is your legacy? I feel that my legacy is the German traditions that I have passed to students and bringing German outside of the classroom.

What are you planning to do in retirement? Find another opportunity to work, volunteer or just stay active.

Do you have any parting advice for North's student? Don't over-plan your future. You don't know what changes the future holds, so take some time to travel, see new things and decide where you fit in.

Anything else you'd like to share about your experiences at North? It has been an honor to work with a fabulous staff and ambitious students since North opened.

Mrs. Lawrence

By Catie Edmondson

What do you feel is your legacy? I think about trying to inspire some aspect of the arts or social consciousness.

What is your most memorable moment from teaching? There are many memorable moments. My favorites are when students have "a-ha! moments"- when they learn something different, or think about something they wouldn't have thought about before.

What are you planning to do in retirement? I plan to teach in South Korea. I'd love to teach art history there.

Do you have any parting advice for North's students?



Photo by Jensen Enz

Keep an open mind, and accept diversity. It's important to find different ways of looking at the world, and to make up your own mind about the world.

Anything else you'd like to share about your experience at North? I love North, I really do. I think the staff itself, we really strive to work individually with students, which is so vital.

Mrs. Brock

By Arpita Wahal

As a self-proclaimed "Pool Nazi," Mrs. Brock has kept the swimming pools of Appleton North in working order for 11 years. Her legacy is keeping students working hard and turning them into excellent swimmers. She first taught at Kimberly High School for thirteen years. Thirteen years were also spent at Houdini Elementary.

Of the numerous units she has taught, she particularly enjoyed teaching swimming, dancing, lifeguarding and water safety, and adventure education. All of her students can agree they have had a blast engaging in these various activities. As she leaves Appleton North, she reminds students, "Look on the bright side. Laugh and enjoy each day. Keep moving!"

Mrs. Brock has a great deal planned for her retirement. After she leaves Appleton North, she plans to spend time up at her cabin hiking. "I plan to babysit my granddaughters and volun-



Photo from Appleton North Yearbook

teer at my local hospital," she adds.

Mrs. Brock reflects back on her experience at Appleton North in a highly positive manner. "I really love the people here," she says. "This has been some of the most fun I've had." The fervor Mrs. Brock has for the curriculum is highly evident. "I love that I was able to teach the activities I am passionate about."

Mrs. Brock will be remembered by the Phy. Ed. Department for the great enthusiasm she brought to activities like swimming and rock climbing. North will truly miss her passion to teach students the activities she loves.

**Retirees continued
on Page 7**

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SPOTLIGHT: RETIRING TEACHERS

Appleton, Wisconsin

June 2011

Volume XVI

Issue X

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Teacher Retirees, continued from page one

Mr. Schoenbohm



Photo by Appleton North Yearbook

By Sean Lyons

How long have you been teaching? Too long ...Thirty-four years. I started in 1977 after graduating from Lawrence University.

Have you always wanted to teach for a profession? What did you major in in college? I had an interest in teaching early on and I'm glad I acted on it; I've enjoyed my teaching profession. I majored in Economics and Education. (Grades 1-12) I began teaching in the Appleton Area Schools in the elementary grades (3- 6). Later I taught in the middle school and for the last sixteen years I have been teaching at North High.

Do you offer any advice to the outgoing Senior class? What about the Juniors this year? What do you think would be wise for the Juniors of this year to do in regards to their futures? To the senior class I'd say thanks for your leadership this year, you are a wonderful group. Secondly, I'd say make the most of your post high school years, whether you begin your working career, or continue on for more education, always work up to your ability, never sell yourself short, set your goals high and enjoy your life. You have a lot to contribute and we are counting on all of you as our future.

To the Juniors, make your senior year memorable. It is a great moment in your life and it will pass quickly. Take advantage of all that is offered to you. Give as much as you take, and good things will happen.

How has this year been memorable for you? This year has been tumultuous, the political and economic climate have definitely made this an interesting time in my life.

Have there been years in your teaching career that have been more memorable? There have been other years where the political climate, economics and world events have made

this job more challenging than expected, but 2010-2011 ranks as one of the more memorable years. Staying above the fray, focusing on the students, and remaining positive and professional during these politically charged months has been very challenging.

What are your plans after retirement? I haven't finalized any plans as of yet. I think I will just catch my breath, survey my options, and go from there.

Has this decision to retire been made in response to Walker's proposed bill? Most definitely. I had hoped to teach for a few more years, but given the recent events it is unfortunately not in my best interest to remain teaching in Appleton any longer.

Any parting words about life in general? Let me say that teaching in Appleton for thirty-four years has been wonderful. I have been very fortunate to be a member of the Appleton Areas School District. This is something I will always be proud of. Best wishes to all my colleagues and the students here at Appleton North. I'll see you on the other side.

Mrs. Schoenbohm



Photo by Appleton North Yearbook

By Caroline Duncombe

What is your most memorable moment of your teaching career? The year North opened, because it brought together teachers, students and community member who have never been brought together before. And together we created something new.

What do you feel is your legacy? I would hope that my students can write more clearly and read more deeply.

What are you planning to do in retirement? Take a year to figure out what to do! When school starts in September, I'll be in Alaska to look for humpback whales. I'd also like to teach abroad and read every book on my lifetime book list.

Do you have any parting advice for North students? To quote Polonius, "This above all, to thine own self be true."

Anything else you'd like to

share about your experience at North? My job has never been boring, because just when I thought I've seen and heard it all, someone does something that surprises me!

Ms. Wenzel



Photo by Appleton North Yearbook

By Siri Pairin

What do you feel is your legacy? Working with special needs students.

What are you planning to do in retirement? Find another job.

Do you have any parting advice for North's students? Enjoy high school—it goes by quickly!

What will you remember most about your time here? The kindness and generosity of North's great staff during a difficult time in my family's life.

Ms. Seidl



Photo by Appleton North Yearbook

By Siri Pairin

What is your most memorable moment from teaching? The friendships made over the years.

What do you feel is your legacy? That I made a difference in someone's life.

What are you planning for retirement? Travel, volunteer, substitute teach, and spend time with my granddaughter.

Ms. Earl



Photo by Jensen Enz

By Isabella Lucas

What is your most memorable moment from teaching? I've taught in Appleton 33.5 years and in Wisconsin 38 years. I've taught kindergar-

ten, 2nd and 5th grade. I've been a media specialist at all K12 levels. How could I pick a memorable moment? There's so many!

The close knit relationships with students and knowing I have positively impacted their lives.

What are you planning to do in retirement? Everyone has these grand ideas of what they're going to do.

I have an open mind and as opportunity presents itself I'll take on life as it comes.

I'll be teaching summer schools for the first three weeks at East High School in the LMC.

Traveling to Florida, Georgia, Iowa and Connecticut to visit family. Possibly cooking, knitting or German classes at The Tech. Would love to downhill ski the Northeastern states.

Do you have any parting advice for North's students? If you meet a man without a smile, give him yours.

There's a big wide world out there with many opportunities, recognize them and make the most of them. Take on those challenges with gusto.

Anything else you'd like to share about your experience at North? My most rewarding and self-fulfilling experience has been at high schools. It's

an amazing feeling of accomplishment to work with students for four years and to see their maturity as young adults.

Mrs. Urban



Photo by Appleton North Yearbook

By Arpita Wahal

What do you feel is your legacy? You know my sayings and teachings; 'Waste not, want not', 'How I wish I had a crumb I had once thrown away', and more that I tell you guys.

What are you planning to do in retirement? I want to downsize to another condo farther north in Door County, overlooking the bay...My daughter had her second child on Monday (5/16), so we are going to keep in touch with the grandkids.

Any parting advice for students? There is more to education than school. Over your lives, there are going to be so many things to do, problems, etc., and the way to solve them is not only an education, but to be creative.

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Noctiluca Mission Statement

To publish news, information, entertainment and opinion articles for and about student, faculty and administration activities, interests and policies. Our goal is to maintain high ethical standards and provide a forum for free and responsible expression of student views. The newspaper strives for a high level of competency and welcomes diversity of scope, depth and breadth of coverage in order to heighten mutual understanding and awareness through our entire school community.

The *Noctiluca* is also available in an online format.

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Ms. Voight

By Catie Edmondson

What is your most memorable moment from teaching?

I've taught for 39 years so there are many, but the most memorable are the bonds that are formed with students --when they let you know you've helped them in some way, it's really invigorating. I've kept every note or card I've received from my students. Also, early in my career, I was doing a demo on how to mix plaster. The principal came to observe me, and I mixed the plaster too long, and it got too hard. My hand got stuck in the bucket of plaster! I asked a student to chisel my hand out without the principal noticing, but eventually the principal had to chisel me out.

What do you feel is your legacy? I hope I've inspired a tradition of producing creative and well executed artwork at North.

What are you planning to do in retirement? I'm planning on being a guest artist



Photo from Appleton North Yearbook

at Renaissance; I helped to found it.

Do you have any parting advice for North students? Be accepting of those who are different from you. Take advantage of what North has to offer -- we have lots of talented teachers who are here solely to help you.

Anything else you'd like to share about your experience at North? I've enjoyed it immensely -- I can't imagine having any other job. I wish I had enough energy to go for 39 more years. I really want to thank my two art classes I have here. They're outstanding artists but also very nice people.

Mr. Wolfman

By Arpita Wahal

"The only limitation my students have is me." As Director of Orchestras at Appleton North, Mr. Wolfman keeps his students highly motivated, teaching them to strive for excellence not only in the Orchestra Room, but as they chase their own dreams.

Mr. Wolfman graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a Bachelor's of Music Education. He also attended UW-Madison and received a Masters of Music, Orchestral Conducting. Mr. Wolfman has been involved with the Orchestras at Appleton North, East, and West high schools.

These include the North Symphonic Orchestra, North Freshman Symphony Orchestra, and Youth Symphony Orchestra. For 37 years he has helped musicians grow, increasing their ability to produce quality music.

"I love all the students," states Mr. Wolfman.

"Their energy, passion, and dedication to excellence is amazing."

It's no lie that his passion for working with students and incredible teaching technique has brought him great success. He is widely recognized through his many achievements.

In 2004, he was honored



Photo by from Appleton North Yearbook

as "High School Educator of the Year." Mr. Wolfman has also served as past President in the National Association for Music Education. He has also contributed to the book, "Shaping Sound Musicians." These are a few of his many accomplishments. Mr. Wolfman will be missed for his incredible dedication to the Appleton North Orchestras.

What made you choose a career as an Orchestra director? My passion for music and the excitement music brings to students.

When you conduct an Orchestra for the very first time, what is it you are trying to accomplish? I want them to learn how to listen across the Orchestra and to develop love for the music we're working on.

What would you suggest for someone who wants to become a better musician? Listen to lots of different kinds of music and practice, practice, practice.

If you could be something other than a conductor, what would you choose to be and why? I would be a religious leader. I already do that in my spare time: I have been leading at B'orai Israel Congregational Church for 26 years.

"I love all the students. Their energy, passion, and dedication to excellence is amazing."

- Mr. Wolfman

What is your most memorable moment from teaching? The amazing feeling that occurs in an orchestra when the ensemble has just finished an amazing performance before the applause has started. That moment of silence is filled with all the souls of the musicians.

What do you feel is your legacy? Helping students set high expectations for themselves and the people around them.

What are you planning to do in retirement? Play with my grandchildren, travel, golf, and continue making music.

Do you have any parting advice for North's students? Strive for excellence, not perfection.

Apple Corps Robotics more than just robots

By Johanna Wang

The teams line up on the field. Visitors from around the world clamor for a better view. Backstage, the Black Eyed Peas begin their warm ups.

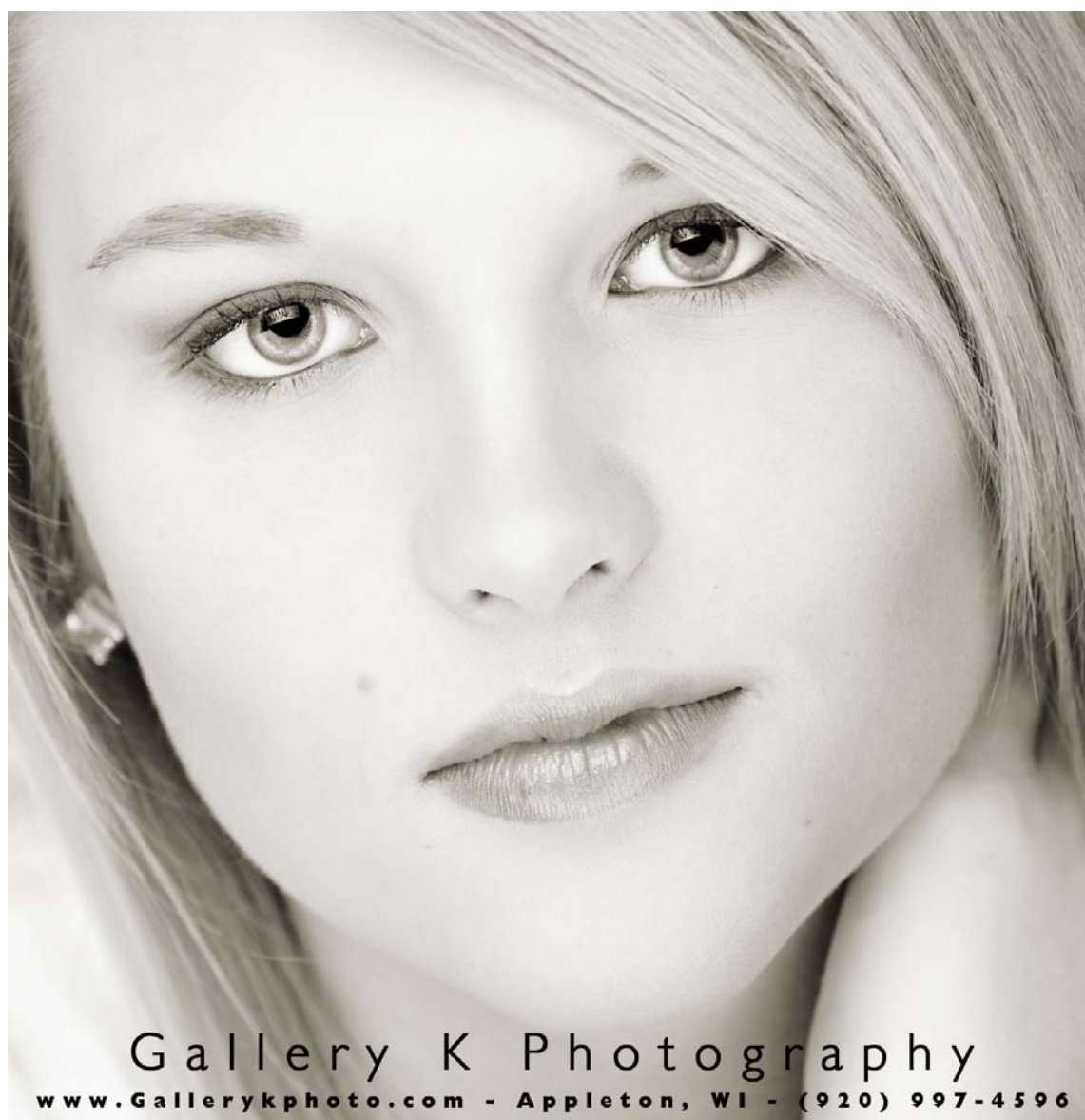
This isn't the Superbowl that everyone has come to see. No, it's not the World Cup, and it definitely isn't the 2012 Summer Olympics. This is the FIRST Robotics World Championship.

The N.E.W. Apple Corps Robotics Team, which draws its members from Appleton North, East, and West High Schools, recently attended the World Competition in St. Louis, performing very well in its various matches. Among the challenges that their robot, Tobor XIV, accomplished each match was scoring inflatable circular, triangle, and square-shaped inner tubes on ten foot pegs, utilizing a 15 second autonomous program, and launching a "minibot" up a ten foot pole in less than two seconds.

But Team 93 isn't just about the robot. Granted, there are a lot of opportunities to work with electronics and software systems as well as mechanical

design and fabrication; however, what many don't know is that it has an award-winning business subgroup that works with budgeting, marketing, planning and implementing fundraisers, and writing business plans. In addition, there is a media subgroup, dedicated to documenting each year through photography, video, and other media. There is certainly room for those who are interested in designing apparel, speaking in public, participating in community service projects, working with grade school and middle school kids, and traveling to world class robotics competitions as well, not to mention those interested in getting involved in a program that people such as Jack Black, Snoop Dog, Miranda Cosgrove, and God (Morgan Freeman) can't stop talking about. And the best part: no prior technical knowledge is necessary!

So if you are interested in any of the aforementioned areas, or perhaps being eligible for the over \$14 million worth of scholarships available for active FIRST robotics team members, contact nacteam93.business@gmail.com.



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