Shining Through the Night

Huntington’s Relay for Life is an Unbreakable Tradition

By Charles Beers

It is impossible to deny that Huntington High School is one of the most charitable schools on Long Island, if not New York State as a whole. It seems that every week the Blue Devils are coming up with new ways to give back to their community. We have Stuff the Bus, a fundraiser which piles boxes upon boxes of food and supplies into food pantries, putting smiles on the faces of countless hungry families. We have the Blood Drive, where students selflessly donate 200 pints of blood to the Long Island Blood Services. But perhaps the greatest example of Huntington charity, the Blue Devil staple for the last three years, is Relay for Life.

For one explosive night, students of all ages come together to celebrate the struggles of cancer survivors, remember the loved ones we have lost, and continually fight back through donations to the American Cancer Society. It is a simple idea. Students gather beneath their tents with their friends and walk the track throughout the night, as well as participate in memorable Zumba dances and hula hoop laps. It is an amazing night not only for the fun times we share, but also for the emotionally heartfelt stories that come to light as the sun goes down.

For many, Relay for Life is a chance to let all the pain out. Cancer survivors constantly take the stage at our events, sharing their inspiring stories that they may not have been comfortable sharing before. Hector Alvarado, for instance, gave a particularly moving reflection on his battle with cancer which drew massive applause from the hundreds in attendance. He, along with the countless other survivors who donned the signature purple shirts, released purple and white balloons, each signifying a person who had defeated the threat of cancer. Seeing the crowd of balloons disappear into the sunset was extremely uplifting, serving as a vital reminder of the strength of our community.

Not all of the stories had such a happy resolution. Some speakers, such as 10th grader Samantha Conte who spoke about her dad, tearfully remembered how their loved ones lost their battles.

See "Relay" on page 3

Mr. Gilbert: Years of Dedication and Memories

The Blue Devils Say Good-Bye to an Artist, Rock Star, and Friend

By Brian McConnell

After 31 years, Mr. Ken Gilbert has become a familiar face to Huntington High School’s students, alumni, and even parents. However, few know that beyond the calm, casual substitute and stage magistrate there lies a rock star, artist, and overall very interesting man who started working full-time at HHS in 1984 and has remained humorous and present throughout all that Huntington has brought him.

Coming from a small town upstate named Danville, Mr. Gilbert first got involved in music as a 10th grader. A top a flattened truck in the parking lot of the Danville IGA, young Ken and a few friends performed what would be known as the first of “a lot of bands“ Mr. Gilbert has played in so far. However, upon graduation, Mr. Gilbert entered SUNY Brockport to become a Physical Education teacher. After three weeks, he “could not stand the locker room smell;“ and switched his major to become an Earth Science teacher instead.

When a fundraiser was held for a professor who had been in a bad car accident, Mr. Gilbert decided to show his support by performing a song with his voice and his guitar. Following his evidently excellent performance, a professor approached Mr. Gilbert and inquired as to his major. Mr. Gilbert said, “I’m going to teach Earth Science,“ and the professor responded with, “Not anymore. Switching to a Music Education major. Mr. Gilbert graduated from Brockport and continued on to grad school at SUNY Geneseo, finishing off his education to teach music to students from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Here began Mr. Gilbert’s decorated career as a teacher and musician. Singing and teaching in both the city and on the island, Mr. Gilbert performed “only tasteful pop rock“ and taught “whatever they asked me to do.“ In the ’80s, Mr. Gilbert came very close to signing a record deal in California, but everything “went to heck“ when lawyers got involved. Meanwhile, he was teaching ESL and Earth Science, substituting, and even served as the school librarian for six months.

Mr. Gilbert, Huntington High School’s go-to guy for all these years, has made it plenty clear that he does believe “it is good to try new things.”

Given that he is such a talented musician, it seems fitting to know that he has been a professional musician for 36 years, and he continues to perform today.

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Ms. Leonardi’s Shining Opus

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Mr. Ironman Says Goodbye
Our Inspirational Nurse Looks to the Future

By Lani Buzz

After an incredible 31-year run helping students in the school district, longstanding Huntington employee Martha Ironman, our well-loved school nurse, will be retiring at the end of this school year. After moving here with Woodmill Intermediate School, Mrs. Ironman has become an irreplaceable part of Huntington High School, lending a hand in all of activities. Mrs. Ironman is very well known for helping out the Huntington High School community, on which she has earned through many years of dedication. In her own words, making these tragic stories even more poignant. Huntington’s tragedy, is: things eventually get better after her loss, which is an ongoing battle. Her story demonstrates how much the Blue Devil community is there for each other during the tough times and loss, proving that Relay for Life is most meaningful. Rather, it is a state of mind. We all possess the ability to help those dealing with loss and grief, whether it is due to cancer or other struggles. Relay for Life is the opportunity for the high school to prove how much we care for those affected by the tragic illness and an effort to grow from these losses.

The results for the past year, in vision and mood, were bright, and for many students, the small success was an overwhelming total of $5,995. In Huntington, the at-home and virtual teams were also enthusiastic and worked collectively to achieve the impressive $100,000 mark.

Nearly everyone in attendance had been affected by breast cancer in some way, making these tragic stories even more poignant. Huntington’s tragedy, is: things eventually get better after her loss, which is an ongoing battle. Her story demonstrates how much the Blue Devil community is there for each other during the tough times and loss, proving that Relay for Life is most meaningful. Rather, it is a state of mind. We all possess the ability to help those dealing with loss and grief, whether it is due to cancer or other struggles. Relay for Life is the opportunity for the high school to prove how much we care for those affected by the tragic illness and an effort to grow from these losses. The results for the past year, in vision and mood, were bright, and for many students, the small success was an overwhelming total of $5,995. In Huntington, the at-home and virtual teams were also enthusiastic and worked collectively to achieve the impressive $100,000 mark.

Many individuals rose to the occasion this year, including staff members from Sydney Johnson, and Jac- lyn Schultz, who raised over $1,000. In addition, teams stood out among the 86 groups that participated. The Blue Devil Killers By Night, Nick Vickers and the Pirates of the CUREBBN raised incredible funds and topped the $3,195, $4,350, and $6,783. Overall, the school had another outstanding year in terms of donations, which the American Cancer Society will use to search over their quest to find a cure.

In addition to the night a success in terms of fundraising, but it was also a showcase of Huntington talent. You could hear the high school choir, parts of the orchestra, as well as the chamber choir. The par- ticipants were active from the first day until dawn. Huntington is such a place, and Huntington school, made up of students and faculty members, took the stage with pride and played their

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Snow Day was the highlight of the year. This year, the students of Huntington High School are seeing a Snow Day vote for the upcoming 2014 season.

By Charles Beers

There is an old saying that it takes a village to raise a child, and the students of Huntington High School are fortunate to have the entire Blue Devil community around to encourage people who touch their lives every single day. These men and women have made a huge part of the building, and oftentimes we fail to recognize the impact they have until they have made the decision to take their own path away from us and move forward with their own lives. These “unsung her- rees” in our building have decided to move on and we must take a moment to recognize and thank them for all that they have done for us and our school community. Each in his own way has had an impact on the lives of the students at Huntington High School and they will be missed.

Ms. Joan Campbell

Anthony, through-out the years of his tenure at Huntington High School, he has been a war and smile and happy attitude every day.

Two Valuable Devils Take Their Leave

By Charles Beers

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Ms. Joan Camp-

ARRAPUZO has been keeping the students of Huntington High School safe for the past twelve years, working as our infallible secu-

rity guard. Ms. Amy Smith, a most valuable and trusted member of the physical education and athletic office, has worked as a secretary for the past nineteen years keeping athletes, coaches, and parents informed of all pertinent events and information.

Most notably, Ms. Smith was appointed as the district’s liaison to MSGVary, making certain that our Blue Devil athletics, clubs, and academ- ics are acknowledged for their impressive performances on the television network.

Congratulations on your retirement! You will be sorely missed!

Mr. Gilbert’s favorite music, movies, and artists: After much deliberation, he decided that his favorite music, movies, and artists would be Bob Dylan and The Band which he has earned through many years of dedication. In his own words, making these tragic stories even more poignant. Huntington’s tragedy, is: things eventually get better after her loss, which is an ongoing battle. Her story demonstrates how much the Blue Devil community is there for each other during the tough times and loss, proving that Relay for Life is most meaningful. Rather, it is a state of mind. We all possess the ability to help those dealing with loss and grief, whether it is due to cancer or other struggles. Relay for Life is the opportunity for the high school to prove how much we care for those affected by the tragic illness and an effort to grow from these losses. The results for the past year, in vision and mood, were bright, and for many students, the small success was an overwhelming total of $5,995. In Huntington, the at-home and virtual teams were also enthusiastic and worked collectively to achieve the impressive $100,000 mark.

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Three Valuable Devils Take Their Leave

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By Donna Richardson

The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1200 students attending HHS, The Dispatch is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school four times a week. It is published by student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content.Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and let it all out. Congratulations everyone. We’ve earned it.

Opinions on letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

The Dispatch's goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, The Dispatch will provide editorialized opinions on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

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The Dispatch is published with the support of The Dispatch's editors if you wish to place an ad in the paper.

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7 Tips for a Spectacular Summer

By Donna Richardson

Finally, after a perpetually white winter and a long-awaited spring, summer is here! Although no list can possibly include all the things you can do in the summer, here is a countdown of what we believe to be the best.

1. GET A JOB. As many teens realize, there are countless opportunities to earn money while school is out. Saving up money for college is a common motivation for students to start working over the summer, when school is not a scheduling issue. Earning money is, for many people, the most profitable way to stay productive over the summer. In addition to adding to your bank account, you can make new friends, at your new profession and keep active when you run out of things to do.

2. TAKE A VACATION. One of the most popular and ubiquitous summer activities is going on vacation. Since much of the northern hemisphere is at its warmest, and the southern hemisphere is not too cool either, anywhere as close as West Neck Beach or as far as Fiji can be a great spot to enjoy the summer. Whether they are cross country road trips or weekends near the water, vacations are always an enjoyable part of the summer.

3. LISTEN TO MUSIC. A festive summer night experiences. This summer, the trips that they offer include exploring the Mediterranean, France, and Italy. In the end, no matter what choices you make over the summer, it is important to relax. After months of hard work, difficult exams, and the stresses of planning the future, it is time to unwind and let it all out. Congratulations everyone. We’ve earned it.

4. FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS. Fourth of July barbecues are an indispensable part of summer. Although all the ribs, wings, and burgers are eaten too excessively and probably are too fatty, barbecues often mean meal munchers want anyone would become a vegetarian. These barbecues are often combined with a showing of fireworks to make a picturesque summer night. Even though it is just a day, the memories of Fourth of July fireworks can last an entire summer!

5. GET READY FOR COLLEGE. Many graduating seniors will get the opportunity to educate themselves about their new college lives. With orientations already starting, the transformation from senior to freshman will be occurring for high schools all around the nation. With only months until classes begin again, bags will need to be packed and farewells said to prepare our seniors for their next chapter in life.

6. ENJOY THE OUTDOORS. Leaving home isn’t always necessary to enjoy the summer. Enjoying the warm weather by playing sports, soaking up the sun, and socializing outside is much easier in the summer than in the winter months. All of this you can do with your friends at home, or on outings during the longer days of the year. Although it never seems long enough, two months out of school gives plenty of free time to enjoy life outdoors.

“Ms. Montefusco is a teacher who always goes extra mile to ensure that students are learning what they need to and understanding the material while still managing to have some fun doing it.”

Ms. Montefusco’s Amazing Journey

Huntington’s Respected Science Teacher Looks Back on Her Career

By Carole Boudreau

As the 2013-2014 school year draws to a close, we should all reflect on the amazing experiences we’ve had these past months. Without a doubt, the past year has been filled with joy, new experiences, and challenges. We’ve had the last day of school memories that will last a lifetime.

Ms. Montefusco has been the science teacher at Huntington High School for over 25 years. She has taught Biology at Huntington, but she also has been a positive influence in many students’ most memorable scientific memories. Even several years after certain students have left Ms. Montefusco enriched their school experience, she is the one who watches over them and makes sure they are still on the right path.

Ms. Montefusco started at Huntington High School with several heating, cooling, and other types of science classes. She has taught Honors Chemistry, and was the first to teach Biology at Huntington as well. Ms. Montefusco also started Science Research and Forensics programs. Not only has Ms. Montefusco

The Dispatch

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WRITE!

TAKING PICTURES!}

Thank you for all your hard work, Ms. Montefusco!
Congratulations Class of 2014!
The Dispatch wishes all of the graduating seniors good luck in their future endeavors!

Please be aware that not every senior’s college choice is listed. Only those students who have granted permission to have their plans published have their colleges included.
Ms. Mellon Reminisces

No More DBQs For Our Beloved Social Studies Teacher

By Michelle D'Alessandro

Ms. Cotler is Ready to Relax

Retiring Science Inclusion Teacher Prepares to Travel

By Veronica Tonnissen

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Retiring Science Inclusion Teacher Prepares to Travel

By Veronica Tonnissen

Among our seem-
ingly endless list of retir-
ees, Kim Cotler joins the ranks. Many students and teachers are delighted to see the prized science inclusion teacher retire. She began her career in 1984, in New York City, before moving to Huntington High School in 1996. "Ms. Cotler is a wonderful inclusion teacher, among the best in her field, I’d say," boasted Mrs. Thompson from the computer room. "Working mostly behind the scenes through the school, Ms. Cotler is said to reach out to students she works with and talk to them about different facets of their lives, academically, emotionally, whatever," says Mrs. Elda, a coworker for many years. "She’s like a sister to me," Mrs. Cotler has said. She could get her hands on. Then, she would forge a lesson plan and start her day. She loves her AP classes, teaches mainly 10th and 12th grade and is a complete "political animal and Supreme Court junkie." Brought up in a home of educators, the last thing she was expected to become was a teacher. But as one of her professors once said, "She is political and to be political is to be Irish." And she’s Irish through and through. "I’ve been a very political home," she commented on her services to social studies, "It was always a part of my life." Having this long-standing ground in politics when she decided to go for the teaching career, it was clear that politics and government would become a significant part of her career. She wanted to show her students how to learn from the past and to make the world better, as well as understand that there are still things to fix, such as the cruelty and inequity that remain in the world. She thinks that one of the biggest things she’s going to miss is the friendliness of the colleagues she has in Huntington. "I’ve never worked with a better staff," she reminisced about her exceptional coworkers in the ceremony being held in honor of her and the other retirees of the school, Ms. Teichler and Mr. Bruckbauer will speak for her. She fondly remembers mentoring them when they first came to the school and will miss them both deeply. "She had many last memories here in Huntington, such as handing the yearbook dedicated to her in 2012, in which she was "absolutely thrilled." On the other hand, the devastation of 9/11 was a low point because the event clouded the entire year. Despite all of the things she will miss from Huntington, Ms. Mellon is also looking forward to the freedom that retirement presents. She plans to wake up in the morning whenever she wants, a big change after all 22 years of teaching. She can’t wait for ballet, tennis and tap lessons and going to the apartment she rented out in Paris over the holidays. "Maybe I’ll throw in some knitting," she added. And most of all, she can’t wait until she doesn’t have to grade any more DBQs. Overall, Ms. Mellon has made a lasting impact on the community of Blue Devils similar to the way we have impacted her. For 22 years, she’s been a bright star in the Social Studies department, with her energy and exciting stories in the classroom. One of the most important things she’s learned here is “To stay young and open all the time.” When asked about her choice to come and teach, she commented, “I was looking for more stability in my life, and I will never regret the decision I made to teach. It was the most wonderful.” A true Blue Devil at heart, Ms. Mellon’s parting words are "It's my honor and a privilege to be part of the Huntington family... but I hope I don't knock anyone over on the way out." What Other Critics Are Saying

"This is still Spider-Man's personal turmoil, crises of romance and loyalty, that Webb occasionally holds a few beats too long. The ending was vague and unsatisfying. Peter is experiencing the terrible repercussions of his actions, which was shown in a mere three minutes. Peter’s pain and loss needed to be explored more instead of rushing through it. Also, the death of an important character needed more clarification, since many audience members were unclear of the true cause of the shocking murder. Other than the minor imperfections mentioned above, the Amazing Spider-Man 2 was an absolute delight and definitely worth watching. The movie not only tacks action, but also analyzes human interactions, and this is the inevitable letdown."

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By Michelle D'Alessandro

The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Peter Parker is Pushed to His Limits in This Stellar Teacher

By Ken Tackett

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 is more like an old Xerox copy: Greasy, paper-thin, slightly faded, and probably made unnecessarily, but in any case destined to get lost in a pile of things exactly like it." -Kyle Smith, New York Post
Huntington Music Teacher Has Unforgettable Memories

By Donovan Richardson

For many years, Lisa Leonardi has been the reason why her students at Huntington High School still keep their interest in music after graduating. All of her students are going to miss the bright smile that Ms. Leonardi brought to class every day.

Ms. Leonardi has teaching strings for 34 years and is also the concert master of the Northport Symphony. In addition, she has held offices in local and state music education organizations over the years. She helped co-organize Huntington Idol ever since it began a few years ago. Her departure from Huntington High School is going to make her miss everything, including her students whom she loves as if they were her own children.

“I'm going to miss the high level of intensity that my students bring on concert nights the most. To see how maturely and beautifully my students play each day makes me feel so happy.”

Ms Leonardi is still able to look back on many laughable times. “The funnest moment I had as an orchestra teacher was when one of my students was Secretary for Tri-M and I asked her to take the minutes of the meetings. When she turned in the paper, it read, '2:30-3:10.' I looked at it and asked, 'What is this?' She replied, 'That's the minutes of the meeting.' I told her that Secretaries had to record what was being discussed during the meeting, not what time it started and ended! I laminated it and had it hanging up on my wall for many years. It was hysterical!”

The journey that Ms. Leonardi went through during her years of teaching not only created memories with her students, but also with teachers. “What I thought was really fun was when Mr. Schwendemann and I were voted 'Most Eccentric' and we were put in the Dispatch. I think that was one of my shining moments as an orchestra teacher.”

The liveliness that Ms. Leonardi brings everyday is going to be hard to replace. However, Ms. Leonardi seems as if that the department has chosen the best fit for replacement. She stated, “The new orchestra teacher is very energetic, but she is more up on some of the alternative strings. I'm hoping she starts a fiddle club and does innovative things."

Looking Back on How Mrs. Hallett Made a Difference

By Asar Nadi

Among those of the high school community who are retiring this year is Mrs. Hallett, one of our guidance counselors. Having worked in the building for twenty-nine years, she's been at Huntington High School longer than anyone else except Mr. Gilbert, who also retires this year. As a guidance counselor, she doesn’t see us on a daily basis in the same way that our teachers do, but this certainly does not make her less important to the school community.

Mrs. Hallett attributes her natural ability to make people feel comfortable in conversation to her choice to become a guidance counselor in 1985, after being a career counselor at Hofstra University for four years. Like many other young educators, she was often closer in age to the students than to their parents, and admits that at first it was “overwhelming to talk about issues families deal with” before she had a family of her own. Nevertheless, she describes her first year as an “exciting new chapter” in her life. Throughout her career, Mrs. Hallett has dedicated herself to making a positive impact by allowing her students to realize that they have the power to achieve their goals.

"Throughout her career, Mrs. Hallett has dedicated herself to making a positive impact by allowing her students to realize that they have the power to achieve their goals."