Chestnut Chips Program Stirs Controversy

MICHAEL BRADLEY ’14 
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an effort to recognize exceptional behavior, work ethic and service on campus, Chestnut Hill College has launched the Chestnut Chips program.

Before the launch of the program at the beginning of the spring semester, several Chips ambassadors were selected around campus by Emily Schademan, director of student activities.

“Any interested faculty and staff member or department is able to participate and give out chips at their own discretion,” Schademan said. “We were very purposeful in keeping the guidelines broad so that faculty and staff can have the freedom to use the chips as they see fit.”

Schademan said that the program was inspired by similar programs at other institutions, such as The Ohio State University and St. Joseph University. “At those institutions, the program primarily took place in residence halls,” Schademan said. “A group of staff members from various departments decided to explore the possibility of bringing it to CHC in a broader format. Thus the Chestnut Chips program was born. The goal is to add a new and creative event that celebrates the positive actions of our students.”

“Chestnut chips are given out to students who go above and beyond, in the eyes of students and staff within the college community, without incentive,” said Chelsey Patten, president of the class of 2014. “There are various individuals and offices who have been designated as representatives for the program who are able to give out chips.”

Chips are already being dispensed on campus for various behaviors. These range from random acts of kindness to hard work in the classroom. There is no set of guidelines, however, and the decision to pass on a chip is ultimately in the hands of the ambassador.

“At the end of a recent club council meeting, each club officer in attendance was given a chip,” Amanda Finlaw ’15, said. “This was really strange because we have to [attend these meetings] in order to not lose part of our budget. I think the money spent on chips and prizes could be better spent on more money toward the club budgets.”

Finlaw does not think the program is necessary.

“Think the idea is juvenile,” she said. “Students should not need to be motivated by what are essentially gold stars or even the fancy prizes that come with them. We pay to go to school so our motivation should come from us as individuals. In one of my classes we had a big discussion about this and most if not all of the students in the class were confused by it.”

Furthermore, students may be upset with the program, the Chips will continue to be dispensed. Once students begin to accumulate Chips, they should be saved for a prize auction at the end of the semester. At the auction, students can bid on prizes ranging from movie tickets to a tablet PC to airline vouchers. Students are only permitted to use Chips earned in the current semester at the auction, and they will not roll over to next following semester.

“The Chestnut Chips auction will be held on Thursday, April 10 in Gruber Theater. Doors will open at 8 p.m. and the auction will begin at 9 p.m.”

STUDY ABROAD EXPANSION

NICOLE CARNEY ’16
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Chesnut Hill College has taken the initiative to increase the opportunities of global education for both students and faculty through the creation of the Global Education Office (GEO), under the direction of Trachanda Brown, MLA.

With a new office comes many new partnerships, as well as as many new services available to those looking to study abroad. Brown, who was former director of international student services at the College, continues to oversee international admissions and is now helping Chestnut Hill students prepare to go abroad and is developing global programs and partnerships with foreign institutions. “I learned [when I started here] that we did not have a formal agreement with the outside sources we offered for study abroad,” Brown said. “And because a lot of our students may have families that never travel abroad, and many work to pay for their college education, the idea was to make a lower cost model to allow our students to study abroad.”

The GEO has already formally signed agreements with eight international institutions that are as follows: Catholic University of Oporto (Portugal), Autònoma del estado de Hidalgo (Mexico), Universidade Católica de la Santísima Concepción (Chile), Groupe Concepción (Chile), Groupe Concepción (Chile), Groupe Concepción (Chile), Groupe Concepción (Chile), Groupe Concepción (Chile), Groupe Concepción (Chile), Groupe Concepción (Chile), and Riogrande (Brazil).

“The GEO is already formally signed with eight international institutions that are as follows: Catholic University of Oporto (Portugal), Autònoma del estado de Hidalgo (Mexico), Universidade Católica de la Santísima Concepción (Chile), Groupe Universidade Católica de la Santísima Concepción (Chile), Groupe Universidade Católica de la Santísima Concepción (Chile), Groupe Universidade Católica de la Santísima Concepción (Chile), Groupe Universidade Católica de la Santísima Concepción (Chile), and University of Concepción (Chile).”

“CHC Study Abroad Expands” Continued on Page 2

Football Coming to CHC?

TAYLOR EBEN ’14
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Chesnut Hill College is currently investigating a number of recruitment strategies to increase enrollment, and one of these strategies is the expansion of the athletics program. There have been rumors floating around about a slew of potential sports that might eventually make it to campus, but there’s one very viable option that has come out on top – sprint football.

By now, many students have heard about the possibility of a sprint football team, but they’re also curious about what makes it different from “regular” football.

According to the Collegiate Sprint Football League (CSFL) Website, “sprint football is a full-contact, intercollegiate, varsity sport and has the same rules as regular college football.” The only difference is that sprint football requires all players to weight 172 pounds or less. Everyone has a rush specialty, and it’s a non-scholarship sport, and has the same rules as regular college football.”

The Chestnut Chips program was inspired by similar programs at other institutions, such as The Ohio State University and St. Joseph University. “At those institutions, the program primarily took place in residence halls,” Schademan said. “A group of staff members from various departments decided to explore the possibility of bringing it to CHC in a broader format. Thus the Chestnut Chips program was born. The goal is to add a new and creative event that celebrates the positive actions of our students.”

CHC Study Abroad Expands

Nicole Carney ’16
Senior Staff Writer

Chesnut Hill College has taken the initiative to increase the opportunities of global education for both students and faculty through the creation of the Global Education Office (GEO), under the direction of Trachanda Brown, MLA.

With a new office comes many new partnerships, as well as as many new services available to those looking to study abroad. Brown, who was former director of international student services at the College, continues to oversee international admissions and is now helping Chestnut Hill students prepare to go abroad and is developing global programs and partnerships with foreign institutions. “I learned [when I started here] that we did not have a formal agreement with the outside sources we offered for study abroad,” Brown said. “And because a lot of our students may have families that never travel abroad, and many work to pay for their college education, the idea was to make a lower cost model to allow our students to study abroad.”

The GEO has already formally signed agreements with eight international institutions that are as follows: Catholic University of Oporto (Portugal), Autònoma del estado de Hidalgo (Mexico), Universidade Católica de la Santísima Concepción (Chile), Groupe

“CHC Study Abroad Expands” Continued on Page 2

NEWS
ARTS & CULTURE
SPORTS
10

Philadelphia, PA
February 2014

Chesnut Hill College recently launched the Chestnut Chips program, which aims to reward students for good behavior on campus. Some students, however, do not think the program is necessary.
Catherine Dempsey '15 Senior Staff Writer

Writing Center Director at Chestnut Hill College, John Ebersole, MFA, was named poetry editor at the Philadelphia Review of Books (PRB), a Philadelphia-based website of book reviews of all kinds, including art, media, science and politics.

Ebersole, who received his Master of Fine Arts from Columbia University and currently lives in Philadelphia, has reviews and work published in Octopus Magazine, Batteersea Review, and Southern Humanities Review, among other outlets. He is also the Host of New Books In Poetry, a podcast about the work of today's most renowned poets.

Ebersole has achieved great things within the last six months, being named director of the Writing Center just last semester. "I had an awakening a little over a year ago and as a result I genuinely surrendered for the first time in my life," he says. "The minute I did that, the narrow road became wide, and quite mysteriously, I flourished."

He looks forward to this new position and says that he wants to support the writers of the Philadelphia Review of Books. "I can do that by caring about their work and talking to them about it," Ebersole says. "All a writer wants is a generous reader. I hope I can be that for those writing." The city of Philadelphia is not a place known for its support of poetry, and this year, Ebersole found that none of the 384 students signed up for poetry classes were held in the African American Studies center, as reported by CNN. A majority of the fake classes were held in the African American Studies Department. According to Fox News the chair of the department was fired this past December for defrauding the university after allegedly getting paid for classes he never taught. It was discovered that 173 of the 384 students signed up for the fake classes were student athletes and of those athletes 109 were men's football and basketball players. The NCAA held an investigation into the scandal but found that none of its rules were broken, since the student-athletes met the GPA requirements set by the league. This scandal is only one of many schools with big athletic programs, such as Stanford and Harvard, who have been caught cheating their students of an education. This only further fuels many people's perception that student athletes are held at a lower academic standard than non-athletic students.

ADLEI GIANGIULIO ’16 News Editor

The University of North Carolina has come under fire yet again because of the University's own academic failure, a concession that was made by Chancellor Carol Folt. According to a CNN investigation a number of UNC's student athletes can only read at an elementary school level. This scandal was exposed two years after the school was caught holding fake classes in which students, mostly athletes, were enrolled. The students either did not attend class or were given a single assignment to complete for the semester, as reported by CNN. A majority of the fake classes were held in the African and African American Studies Department. According to Fox News the chair of the department was fired this past December for defrauding the university after allegedly getting paid for classes he never taught. It was discovered that 173 of the 384 students signed up for the fake classes were student athletes and of those athletes 109 were men's football and basketball players. The NCAA held an investigation into the scandal but found that none of its rules were broken, since the student-athletes met the GPA requirements set by the league. This scandal is only one of many schools with big athletic programs, such as Stanford and Harvard, who have been caught cheating their students of an education. This only further fuels many people's perception that student athletes are held at a lower academic standard than non-athletic students.

Nikki Lockhart, Chestnut Hill College's assistant director of athletics and academic success and community engagement, begs to differ. "I think academic standards are higher for student athletes," Lockhart said. "Our student athletes perform at a higher rate academically than non-student athletes," Lockhart takes pride in the athletic department because they put so much emphasis on academic success. Her position, which came from a grant given to the school from the NCAA, focuses on promoting the academic success of student athletes. CHC is one of the few Division II schools that have such a position. Her position calls for her to check up on athletes individually and teams as a whole to ensure their academic needs and goals are being met. The athletic department even has an ranking system in which the teams compete against each other to reach the highest GPA at the end of the semester. "The perception of student athletes from the outside is that they are looking to get the easy way out, but at CHC, that is not an option," Lockhart said. "You are a student first then an athlete. Athletics is a privilege that must be earned and kept."
**Griffins Abroad**

This semester The Griffin will be sharing the adventures of students studying abroad. Colin Boyle ‘15, a history and secondary education major, is spending the spring semester at Regents University in London.

Q: What made you want to study abroad?
A: I wanted an adventure. I loved the idea of being able to live in a foreign country and experience a different culture. Also, being able to travel on the weekends and breaks to different countries is awesome. I wanted to experience something new and different from what I am used to in America and studying abroad provides me with that opportunity.

Q: How does Regents University compare to CHC?
A: The school is about the same size as CHC. Like CHC, I don’t have to go outside to attend my classes because it is all one building. The area around the school is very nice, much like CHC. The school is located in the middle of a park in London so I am close to nature while being in the city. Unlike CHC though, I am a short walk to the main city and am able to go just about anywhere very easily because of the underground station [subway] located right outside of the park.

Q: What’s the biggest challenge you’ve faced so far?
A: The biggest challenge has been meeting new people. Coming into a new place all by myself certainly was challenging, but it has turned out to be a great learning experience.

Q: What classes are you taking?
A: Intro to cultural anthropology, history of Western art, U.K. politics, world religions and social history of London.

Q: What’s the most important thing you’ve learned while studying abroad thus far?
A: The most important thing I have learned is to go after what you want and to chase your dreams. Don’t let other people dictate what you do or be afraid to do things alone. Don’t let anything get in between your dreams and you doing them.

**BUCKY STAHL ’15 CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

As a student, knowing your class status is a crucial piece of information. For example, where you are permitted to live on campus and whether or not you’re eligible for an internship depends upon your class status, as does credit transfer, financial aid, and whether or not you need to take summer classes.

Knowing your current status will help you figure out when your graduation date is by letting you know how many credits you have already, and how many more you need to get before you can graduate.

However, for some transfer students, obtaining this information and even just understanding how and why the College establishes this information is much more complex than for non-transfer students.

According to Mike Terranova, coordinator of transfer student admissions, colleges such as Montgomery County Community College, Philadelphia Community College and Delaware County Community College have transfer agreements with CHC that allow students to be considered core-to-core students. The core-to-core program was created to encourage students to transfer into CHC from a two-year school with an associate’s degree. This makes for a faster transfer process.

“The student who starts here as a freshman has different requirements than a core-to-core student,” Terranova said.

Once CHC receives the agreement, they will assess the other school’s curriculum. If their curriculum is “similar enough to what a CHC student would have to take... when you transfer to CHC, you’ll be able to essentially focus on your major courses with a few exceptions,” Terranova said.

Core requirements almost never get waived, but there is the possibility of getting a less academically rigorous class, like an art class, waived.

Another way the College has tried to make the transfer process less complicated for incoming students is the recent revision to the core requirements.

According to Marilyn Ryan, SSJ, PhD, acting dean for the school of undergraduate studies, the revision of the College’s curriculum was to benefit all students, not just transfers.

Administration made this revision because many students said the core curriculum was hard to understand and made advising difficult for faculty when helping students pick out courses. For example, instead of requiring two sciences and two histories, the revision requires one science and one history, with the exception of foreign languages, which is now either two courses or one at the intermediate level.

Ryan said the revision made things “more clear and easier when advising and choosing courses and keeping track of things.”

CHC has core-to-core agreements with a number of colleges, and Ryan explains that looking at the possibility of sending our students abroad, but also hosting international students. In an effort to increase international attendance the college has recently partnered with Main Line Chinese Cultural Center and ABD International, a business development consultation service, to help Chinese students smoothly transition into being fellow Griffins. To ensure the international admissions process goes smoothly, the College is in collaboration with Foreign Language Schools International, an English as a Second Language network meant to aid and encourage international students to study in the United States.

Since the study abroad program began at CHC interest reached an all time high. “I cannot keep applications ready, which is great.” Brown said.

“It is also great to allow our student to study abroad across disciplines such as minor in Criminal Studies or International Business. [This allows] our students to not only have the study abroad experience, but something they can add to their resume as well.”

**CHC Study Abroad Expands**

Continued from Page 1

HBS (France), Cesine Business School (Spain), Business Acade-
my Aarhus (Denmark), Pyeong-
taek University (South Korea), and Hower University College
West Flanders (Belgium). Sev-
eral other agreements are in
the works with institutions in Peru
and the United Kingdom.

Three Chestnut Hill stu-
dents have taken advantage of
this new office and instead of
spending this semester in Phila-
delphia, they have taken their
studies overseas. Dave King
’15 is studying in Denmark and
Taylor Bitzer ’15 and Morgan
Maguire ’15 are spending their
spring semester in Belgium.

“I chose Denmark because it seemed cool and I know they spoke English,” King said. “I like it, but it is very different. It takes time getting used to ev-
erything, but the school and the classes are really cool because they are taught differently than they are in the U.S.”

Chesnut Hill is not only
contributed by: Colin Boyle ’15

**A NIGHT AT THE**

**Movies**

Come and See Your Favorite Movies Reanimated

RENT, Mean Girls, Grease, Dodgeball, Titanic, Dirty Dancing, Ferris
Bueller’s Day off, The Hunger Games, Harry Potter, and more

Thursday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m. in Gruber Theatre

**CORE-TO-CORE SIMPLIFIES TRANSFER PROCESS**

Contributing Writer: Colin Boyle '15

The Griffin
Sprint Football

Continued from Page 1

pensive and it’s harder to recruit those student athletes, where there’s only one league in the country of sprint football and the market’s wide open. There are a lot of young men that want to continue their football careers; they just aren’t big enough.”

“Sprint Football is a different culture than college football,” Tubman said. “The participants are from the bottom of the totem pole of college football.”

The two key social institutions—higher learning and correctional facilities—are connected in this program. Students from Chestnut Hill College find ways to make genuine connections with those inside.

“In the fall semester, some Chestnut Hill College’s criminal justice students participated in the department’s recently-re- served Inside-Out course,” Tubman said.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange is a unique experiential education program where students experience the under- standing and experience of the criminal justice system through a real-world partnership between two key social institutions—higher learning and corrections.

According to the National Headquarters of the Inside Out Prison Exchange Program, their mission is to create opportunities for people inside and outside the prison to have meaningful and transformative learning experiences. The participants explore profound social issues together, building a classroom community based in collaborative learning and problem solving.

“Thirteen CHC "outside" students and eight incarcerated "inside" students met once a week at Philadelphia’s Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility (CFCF) for 13-14 weeks throughout the semester. When the class went to CFCE, they stayed for about two to three hours each time. All the "inside" students who went through the course earned legitimate college credits. Each week, the class learned about comparative legal systems.

Many students felt the course was beneficial because they didn’t just learn textbook material; they learned from sharing experiences and stories with real people. "We gave our interpretation of the law as college students and they [the inside students] gave their interpretations from life experiences or beliefs," said Greg Kotchel '14. "It gives you a different perspective of individuals behind bars." Lauren Barrow, Ph.D., assistant professor of criminal justice, led the Inside-Out course, and was very pleased with how the program was implemented. "The goal of the course was to provide a safe learning opportunity within an unsafe environment and to the extent that the students engaged with one another, learned about comparative justice systems, and saw the injustice of labeling," Barrow said. "I believe my achieved outcomes exceeded my expectation. We had much to learn about what life in a institution is like, but overall, we did very well."

"I think it’s a really cool idea. I think it would help enrollment a lot, but then again the whole sprint thing, that it’s not like a real college football league, might be off in a way to some people. I think it’s an awesome idea, but they just need to try it out. It’s a trial and error type of thing."

"It’s pretty cool, but it’s a 172 pound sprint football team, so it’s going to be hard for a lot of people to make weight, especially me if I want to play. It’s good though, because we can get a football team from it. [It might make campus] a more violent culture, but still an athletic culture."

“Students Learn Inside Prison

KARLAANE KLOUDA ’14 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the fall semester, some Chestnut Hill College’s criminal justice students participated in the department’s recently-reserved Inside-Out course. The Inside-Out Prison Exchange is a unique experiential education program where students experience the understanding and experience of the criminal justice system through a real-world partnership between two key social institutions—higher learning and corrections.

According to the National Headquarters of the Inside Out Prison Exchange Program, their mission is to create opportunities for people inside and outside the prison to have transformative learning experiences. The participants explore profound social issues together, building a classroom community based in collaborative learning and problem solving.

“Thirteen CHC “outside” students and eight incarcerated “inside” students met once a week at Philadelphia’s Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility (CFCF) for 13-14 weeks throughout the semester. When the class went to CFCE, they stayed for about two to three hours each time. All the “inside” students who went through the course earned legitimate college credits. Each week, the class learned about comparative legal systems.

Many students felt the course was beneficial because they didn’t just learn textbook material; they learned from sharing experiences and stories with real people. “We gave our interpretation of the law as college students and they [the inside students] gave their interpretations from life experiences or beliefs,” said G Greg Kotche 14. “It gives you a different perspective of individuals behind bars.” Lauren Barrow, Ph.D., assistant professor of criminal justice, led the Inside-Out course, and was very pleased with how the program was implemented. “The goal of the course was to provide a safe learning opportunity within an unsafe environment and to the extent that the students engaged with one another, learned about comparative justice systems, and saw the injustice of labeling,” Barrow said. “I believe my achieved outcomes exceeded my expectation. We had much to learn about what life in an institution is like, but overall, we did very well.”

Catholic Social Thought: Black Theology, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in America

Dr. Lawrence S. Little, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of African American History, Villanova University

Feb 26 at 7:00 p.m.
East Parlor, St. Joseph’s Hall

Sponsored by: the History Program, Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, and the History Club
AMANDA FINLAW ’15 CULTURE EDITOR

Do you celebrate intellectualism and crave knowledge? Did you ever want to learn the basics about a course you have never taken or do not have time to take? Or maybe you just like to watch informative, stimulating, and visually pleasing online videos in your spare time? If so, Crashcourse, an educational YouTube channel spanning several disciplines, is worth checking out.

John and Hank Green have been making YouTube videos since 2007 when they began their first project, Brotherhood 2.0, on the vlogbrothers channel, in which they communicaed with one another only through video blog format. Since then, they have grown a huge online following in the form of a community called Nerdfighters, mostly young people who value intellectualism, fandom, reading, and all things nerdy. They are endlessly dedicated online entrepreneurs and John Green is a New York Times bestselling author. Who better to create a channel of educating online videos than these two brothers?

In the comments section of the Crashcourse video, thoughtful commentary and questions can actually be found, on YouTube (although Google+) is making flowing conversation and debate a bit more difficult as of late…). People become seriously engaged in what John and Hank are putting out onto the internet; some use these videos as study aids for AP exams in high school, some fans are 20-something Nerdfighters who cannot soak up enough knowledge, and some like to refresh their memories of the ghost of education past.

According to Subbable, their website that allows fans of YouTube to contribute money to support their favorite content creators, “in 2011, when YouTube asked the brothers what they’d do with a grant from Google, they decided to go with their strengths and create a series of videos teaching high school and college-level courses for free on YouTube.”

Now that Google’s funding has run out, they support themselves through the generosity of those who crave their engaging educational content. The Green brothers do not want to have to resort to using ads to fund this channel like so many other YouTubers. “Our hope is that there’s another model, and that Crash Course can exist because people want it to,” their Subbable page reads.

While 10 minutes is quite longer than the average YouTube video, the time is worth it because John, Hank, and the rest of the Crashcourse team pack at least an hour’s worth of information into each video along with visual aids and plenty of interesting anecdotes.

The overall structure of the Crashcourse playlists are very concise. Each subject (World History, US History, Ecology, Biology, Chemistry, Literature, and Psychology) is in a playlist of its own and each video covers a specific topic while sometimes relating back to previous videos, just as real life classes do. This class-like structure, along with the hosts who are very comfortable in front of a camera, are what sets Crashcourse apart from the many other wonderful educational channels on YouTube.

The content creators’ intentions are to facilitate a place for significant knowledge and discussion in the online community. They want free education to be widely available to anyone who wishes to learn. If you are a Nerdfighter or anyone who values free, online education, give John and Hank Green a try on Crashcourse. The Psychology segment has just begun, and Literature, in full, will commence soon.

Crashcourse

YouTube’s channel Crashcourse is a free online education source that creates segments on topics such as the Middle Ages, The Periodic Table, Animal Cells, and The Great Gatsby. To view these videos and more visit youtube.com/crashcourse.

Crashcourse

YouTube.com/crashcourse

screen cap: youtube.com/crashcourse

GOING OUT GUIDE:
MARCH 2014

CATHARINE DEMPSKY ’15 SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Steve Call Band & The Twisted Tail: Rock
The Twisted Tail
509 S. 2nd St., Phila., PA
Fees: 28, 8:30 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Price: Free

Father Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries Lecture
Chester Hill College
Sorgenti Arena
Mar. 11, 7 p.m.
Price: Free

Adornment as Art: Create Your Own Jewelry
Free Library of Philadelphia
Parkway Central Library
Mar. 12, 7 p.m.
Price: Free

Film Screening: Saving Private Ryan
Free Library of Philadelphia
Parkway Central Library
Mar. 5, 7 p.m.
Price: Free

The Griffin

KYLE MICK ’15 ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Augustines, formed in Brooklyn, NY, in early 2010, is a relatively new band to enter the music industry. Offering listeners with what they have come to expect from the alternative rock genre, such as pounding drum beats, overdriven vocals, and the occasional power ballad, this three man group seems to be yet another example of a band playing it safe.

Taking absolutely no chances from the creation of their name, which has been used by countless other musical groups, to the creation of their new album titled, “Augustine’s”, this band adds little passion, creative inspiration, and hardly stands out among the sea of countless other alternative rock bands in this monotonous music scene.

The first track of Augustines self-titled album, starts off with an orchestral synth-pop opening, which flows gradually into their hit single, “Cruel City”. This track just does not do it for me. Everything about it feels sterile, predictable, and radio friendly. It does not offer anything new or exciting to listen to, and the guitar licks and drum beats feel like they have been cut and pasted from other successful musical groups and turned into something that just feels boring.

As the song comes to a close, another track called “Nothing To Lose But Your Head”, offers the same repetitive power ballad that sounds roughly the same as their last track, “Cruel City”. Even though many of Augustines songs sound similar, with the same formulaic alt-rock style, one song that may save this album from complete ruin is called, “WalkAbout”.

This beautiful classical melody of violins and somber piano work adds dimension and an unpredictable intensity that feels lacking on this album. Billy McCarthy’s unique voice sounds much more at home in this musical setting, which allows him to add much more emotion than on other tracks where he sounds drowned out among the chaotic electric guitar, drums, and vocal overdubs. Nevertheless, one song cannot make up for an entire album that bleeds conformity and an overwhelming lack of creativity and passion.

Augustines self-titled new album is a catchy well-made record that offers nothing new to the alternative rock music genre or the music industry as whole. If you are looking for a new album that provides good background music and not a whole lot of substance, buy it; if not, I would look somewhere else.

Key Tracks
“Cruel City” • “Nothing To Lose But Your Head” • “WalkAbout”
JULISSA SALCEDO '16 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Who are ‘Whovians’?

For those who may ask, they are the self-labeled fans of the British Broadcasting Channel’s (BBC) popular TV Series, Doctor Who. The show tells the tale of a time-traveling alien who ventures off to distant planets and times, accompanied by many different human companions. Doctor Who has been airing since 1963 and has had about 26 seasons. The series has had 12 actors take the role of the Doctor himself, and each portrays the character differently. “Whovians” like to choose their favorite Doctor and debate with other fans on who is the best version of the character.

In June, the search for the twelfth doctor began and by August the announcement was made to the fans that the new doctor would be Peter Capaldi, causing much excitement. The show’s attention-grabbing approach to time travel, alien life-forms, science fiction and morality has its fans waiting for the next big thing, as well as new fans excited to see all it has to offer. Filming for the next season of Doctor Who began in January 2014—hopes fully, the fandom will not be kept waiting long.

Another impressive fandom that is quickly becoming more popular, is for the TV series Sherlock—an adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes detective stories. These fans go by the name of “Sherlockians.” Sherlock centers on Sherlock Holmes, a detective assisting in solving various crimes in the Metropolitan Police Service, along with the help of his friend, Dr. John Watson. “Sherlockians” seem to be drawn towards actors Benedict Cumberbatch (Sherlock) and Martin Freeman’s (Dr. John Watson) sarcastic and witty banter. The growing love for both actors, along with the intriguing mystery-based plot, seems to attract more and more fans every day. The series has had three long-awaited seasons and a fourth is surely on its way soon. Sherlock is a hit amongst many fans in the U.K., but the fan base does not end there; it continues around the world, making Sherlock one of the biggest fandoms out there.

A fandom that seems to be more well-known in America is the CW TV’s hit show Supernatural. It centers on two brothers as they hunt down ghosts, demons and plenty of other supernatural beings throughout the world. The series has had nine seasons filled with action, intrigue, and a weekly changing storyline that draws in fans, while still giving them some recurring elements in the show. People of the fandom love to discuss potential romantic pairings that are hinted at throughout the series. Executive producers of Supernatural have thought of giving their fans a spin-off series, which will surely excite old fans and attract new ones.

The possibilities for TV show fandoms to grow seems endless, and while they may not all have a particular name, they still have a huge following that allows these shows to continue and grow. Many members of each fandom interact with one another in person at conventions based on the fandom. On social media sites, they create fan art and music, and celebrate the creativity, skill, and dedication that they respect from their favorite shows. Doctor Who, Sherlock, and Supernatural are three of the most popular fandoms—but there are definitely many more that can appease each individual’s personal interest.
A Random Act of Kindness

BRIANA CHARLTON’16 SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Actor Misha Collins is best known for his role as the an-gel Castiel on the CW television show Supernatural; how-ever, what some people may not know is that he is the co-found-er of the non-profit organization Random Acts.

When a Taliban soldier booted the school bus of Malala Yousafzai on Oct. 9, 2012, her life was forever changed. Shots rang with intent to kill and pierced Malala above her left eye. Her friends, were shot (both had minor injuries). Malala faced brain swelling and risked major recuperation. She was without her parents and family for more than ten days, and was enduring fast. Her parents were terrified that their only daughter would not survive and entrusted her care onto God.

"Thanks to the help of the government and caring doctors, Malala was transported to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, England. There she was without her parents and family for more than ten days, alone and trying to face a long recuperation."

The last three chapters include "Three Girls, Three Bulletts," "God, I Entrust You to You," and "A Second Life." It informs readers of Malala’s struggle to both survive and recuperate.

The last five chapters explore how Malala is set against the world one act of kindness at a time. However slowly it may take, this group is dedicated to making a difference by means of various events and activities that encourage people all around the world to be kinder to one another. In an interview with the Huffington Post Collins said, "I actually think that the most efficacious way of making a difference is to lead by example, and doing random acts of kindness is setting a very good example of how to behave in the world."

One event that seeks to spread kindness is the Random Acts Annual Melee of Kindness (AMOK), which will be held on March 1. This is an entire day devoted to kindness, and people are encouraged to spend it striving to make a difference in peoples’ lives by doing good deeds, such as cooking a meal for an elderly neighbor or putting on a puppet show for a local children’s hospital. Any act that demonstrates compassion for another person will work, and it will foster positive change wherever kindness spreads.

Another event sponsored by Random Acts is Eunde-4Kindness (E4K), which is an endurance event encouraging people to engage in any continuous act that they do not normally do for as long as they can, such as running, climbing trees, jumping rope, knitting. Also, for examples, it does not count if you run for three hours one day and four the next—the only act you have to run for five hours one sitting. Once you have chosen your activity, you must get family and friends to pledge money and the more money that is made, the more acts of kindness Random Acts can fund.

Since the non-profit was founded in mid-2010, Random Acts has succeeded in making a difference in the lives of hundreds of people.

"We just got a woman, who was the victim of domestic vio-lence, a new car..." Collins told the Huffington Post. "That was something she really needed for her work and she just needed a leg up. I delivered that car personally with a friend, and it was incredibly gratifying...I think we’re going to be helping to buy a bus for a free school in Nica-ragua as well, so we’re spreading out a bit.”

Random Acts is unique in the fact that is does not seek to create change solely through collecting money for a given cause. Yes, the whole point of a charity is to raise money, but not only does Random Acts succeed in doing that, it has at its heart the idea that change comes not only through money but through kindness.

Someone’s life can indeed be improved by money or by whatever money can buy, however, that life can be completely changed by one simple act of kindness—a smile, a hot meal cooked by a neighbor, or even a car purchased by a ran-dom stranger who only sought to help someone without the means to reach their destination. "Getting people to care is a first step to changing anything," Collins tweeted. Anyone can make a difference in someone’s life and it can all be done one act of random kindness at a time.
ALUMNA PUBLISHES ROMANCE NOVEL

ALEXANDER OMONTY '16
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

For most undergraduate students, the prospect of life after college can be daunting. Applying the skills gained throughout your years at any college can be somewhat difficult to achieve, and allowing your passion to coincide with those skills can be even more of a challenge. However, for Mary Frances Cavallaro, class of 2013 graduate of Chestnut Hill College, the combination of both these qualities became a stepping stone for her career during her undergraduate studies.

Cavallaro started writing her novel More Than Love in Rita Michael Scally’s, SJ, creative writing class during the spring semester of 2012. In its infancy, it began as a short story, but she was compelled to continue writing past the required seven pages. The urge to keep writing lingered all through the spring semester into the summer, and by the time the fall semester of 2012 came around, four chapters of the book were written. She continued with her personal project, and in October 2012, she was offered a contract by Kellan Publishing.

"Even though I knew senior year would be a tough one, considering the course load I had, I was not going to pass up an opportunity like this," Cavallaro said. "Admittedly, when there was the added pressure of writing a novel, while balancing the demands that senior year offered, the fun of writing was nearly lost. However, she did not lose her passion for writing, and with the combination of hard work and dedication, she succeeded in her studies as well as in completing her book. For Cavallaro, finishing the book was not only something to check off her to-do-list, but something that gave her a sense of extreme gratification.

"I worked so hard for so many months and it was easily the longest work I’ve ever written," she said. "It was so rewarding. Writing has always been an escape for me. Aside from dance-ing – another hobby and love of mine – writing is one of my great relievers of stress.”

Now that the book is published in ebook and paperback format, Cavallaro has begun marketing herself, by reaching out to other creative writers to help increase her presence on the internet. She has also reached out to indie bookstores in order to sell her book in brick and mortar establishments.

To learn more about Cavallaro and her book, visit www.marycavaller.com.

The Fault In Our Stars

AMANDA FINLAW '15
CULTURE EDITOR

The Fault in Our Stars is a New York Times Best-Selling novel by John Green, which illustrates a beautiful romance between two teens who meet at a cancer support group, stars the witty Hazel Grace Lancaster, and the handsome and passionate Augustus Waters. The novel will soon become a major motion picture, hitting theaters June 6, 2014.

The trailer was released on Jan. 26, 2014 during the Super Bowl to both tears and squawks of excitement. It depicts a few romantic and heartwarming scenes shared between the couple, as well as fun scenes between Hazel, Augustus, and their friend Issac, another cancer survivor.

Everything looks beautiful and accurate in the book. Also, for anyone who is familiar with the book, the trailer is careful not spoil the very emotional turn and ending of the novel, which will likely turn theater-goers into followers of the movie.

One stand-out line from the trailer, when Augustus ardently declares his love for Hazel, is, "I am in love with you, Hazel Grace. And I know that love is just a shout into the void and that oblivion is inevitable. And I am in love with you." If you are not a fan of romance, The Fault in Our Stars also has clever and thoughtful conversation, as Gus and Hazel are two unconventionally likable lovers.

Something special about this movie is that it is the first to openly depict a female protagonist with a physical sign of illness on its movie poster. Hazel is starting losing at Augustus, her nasal cannula in full view, with a tagline reading, “One sick love story.” While some fans see this as insensitive, it seems to capture the slightly cynical and starkly sense of humor of both Hazel and Augustus.

June is fast approaching, so be prepared with tissue box in hand, to fall in love (slowly, and then all at once).

February - March Concert Corner

ELIZABETH BACHMAYER '16
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Wells Fargo Center:
• Justin Timberlake: Feb. 25, 2014, 8:00 p.m.
• Kings of Leon: Feb. 19, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Theater of Living Arts:
• The Unlikely Candidates: Feb. 20, 2014, 8:00 p.m.
• Savoy – Get Lazer’s Tour: Feb. 22, 2014, 8:30 p.m.
• The Sing Off Live Tour: March 01, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
• Juicy J – The Never Sober Tour: March 13, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

The Electric Factory:
• Flogging Molly: Feb. 24, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
• The American Dream Tour – Bring Me The Horizon: March 3, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
• Ellie Goulding: March 14, 2014, 8:00 PM

Union Transfer:
• RJZD: Feb. 21, 2014, 9:00 p.m.
• Mike Gordon: March 2, 2014, 8:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Church:
• We Are the In Crowd: Feb. 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Advertise With
THE GRIFFIN
For More Information Go to TheCHCGriffin.com
Contact Andrea Wentzell, Business Manager, at WentzellA@chc.edu With Any Questions

Preview: Beck’s Morning Phase

KYLE MICK '15
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

As the early nineties raged on with head-stomping grunge bands, such as Candlebox, Soundgarden and Nirvana, no one could have imagined that a lanky guy from Los Angeles, with his acoustic guitar in tow, would be able to carve out an existence in the music industry and remain relevant amid the electric guitar gods of Kurt Cobain, Steve Henney, and Chris Cornell. I guess no one met Beck.

Coming onto the scene in 1993 with his hit single, “Loser,” a rap infused grunge odyssey with a hint of acoustic blues, was considered to be nothing more than a joke that Beck created in a friend’s basement. Nevertheless, this sardonic satire about Beck’s less than perfect life eventually lit the spark to his enduring twenty year reign within the music industry that continues to this day. While the kings of grunge imploded near the end of the nineties, such as the disintegration of Nirvana with the death of Kurt Cobain, the fall out of members from both Candlebox and Soundgarden, Beck survived and continues to remain relevant with his upcoming album titled, Morning Phase.

The moment you look at the cover of Beck’s new album, a multi-colored self-portrait that is eerily similar to the cover of Jimi Hendrix’s posthumous album titled, Valleys of Neptune, you can assume what musical direction that Beck is going to take. The official preview track that was recently released called “Blue Moon”, is a mesmerizing melodic trip mixed with plenty of background vocal saturation, heart pounding drums, and vamping acoustic rhythms that add plenty of dimension to this impressive psychedelic song.

Bootleg renditions of other songs on Morning Phase that Beck has played live in concert can also be found on YouTube, such as “Don’t Let It Go”, a soft-sounding folk ballad with plenty of jangling guitarlicks that keep you interested; and “Morning”, a refreshingly feel good song that has minimal frills other than Beck’s vocals, acoustic guitar, and a heavenly piano that adds much needed depth and intrigue throughout. While the audio quality of these bootlegged songs are not great, they do offer a insight into what you might expect on Beck’s newest studio album.

If you have been a Beck fan all your life or have never experienced any of his music before, Morning Phase is a great place to start. Definitely check out Beck’s newest studio album when it hits iTunes and record stores on Feb. 25, or pre-order now on his official website to get early ticket access to on-coming Beck concerts around your area.

Key Tracks
• “BLUE MOON” • “DON’T LET IT GO” • “MORNNG”
CHC STUDENTS TAKE ON POP CULTURE

INTRO.
MEGAN WELCH ’16 FEATURES EDITOR

We have all seen it before. The reality TV star we keep up with long after the season is over. The small-town Internet sensation thrust into stardom. The rogue celebrity trying to break from their wholesome image.

Though these celebrities’ antics are often controversial, we still celebrate them. But when is crossing the line, well, crossing the line? And as consumers of pop culture who cannot get enough of the ridiculous, should we even be allowed to make that call?

Take, for example, Robin Thicke and Miley Cyrus’ hit “Blurred Lines.” Though some were outraged by the song’s sexual themes that included some not-so-subtle hints at rape, it became a Billboard hit almost instantly, and held the number one spot for 12 weeks—the record for 2013.

Or look at Duck Dynasty’s Phil Robertson. After making a slew of anti-gay and racist comments in an interview with GQ, A&E suspended him, only to change their mind nine days later after receiving backlash from the Robertson family and fans. And as a main fixture of a show following a family who has harbored everything from 9/11 to women’s rights, are the LGBTI community and black communities really such a stretch? Or have we as a culture come to idolize reality TV stars so much that the example Robertson sets is truly harmful?

And then there is Justin Bieber. The pop sensation has a legion of young female followers, some of whom have defended his drunk driving, staged attacks on critics via social media and even self-injured in the name of the star. But nobody seems very concerned, or even surprised, by this. Why is that?

Below and on page 10, four students offer some answers.

RAPE CULTURE ENTERTAINMENT?

CHRISTEN DIXON ’17 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rape culture is defined as the concept of normalizing, excusing, and tolerating rape and sexual violence within a society. When victims are blamed for the heinous acts done to them, when they are told that they were asking for it by dressing provocatively, and when rapists get more sympathy and understanding from others than their victims, that’s rape culture rearing its ugly head.

This backwards way of thinking is only perpetuated by pop culture icons who often skyrocket to fame because of their degrading and offensive lyrics. One recent song is particularly celebratory of rape culture: Robin Thicke’s hit “Blurred Lines.” The video features scantily clad women, or completely nude in the uncensored version, being ogled or completely nude in the uncensored version, being ogled and objectified by Thicke, Pharrell, and T.I. while they repeatedly say “I know you want it” and offer references to them wanting to “give” the women sex. The entire premise of the song is that two potential sex partners are inequitable and the male can’t tell if the female actually wants to have sex, nor can be properly judge whether or not she’s sober enough for sex, hence the “blurred lines” he so detests. It is essentially a predatory song telling listeners that the object of their desires needs it. “Baby it’s in your nature/ Just let me liberate you.”

The prevalence of this conciliatory attitude towards rape in pop culture is something that has a direct impact on the way sex, rape, and sexual violence are perceived as a whole. If we don’t want to promote rape culture, we need to stop promoting songs that condone it.

Blurred Lines isn’t just a song. It’s a statement.

ALLEN OFFENDS BLACK WOMEN

KAILA KANE ’16 STAFF WRITER

British pop singer Lily Allen’s new single “Hard Out Here” was meant to critique the portrayal of women in pop culture today. While the song and music video that accompanied it were supposed to point fingers at other artists in the music industry, Robin Thicke and Miley Cyrus specifically, the video fell flat in making a statement any different from the ones it was meant to suppos.

The “Hard Out Here” music video does nothing but shame and objectify the body of the black woman while Lily Allen remains painfully empowered. In the video, Allen is featured fully clothed and surrounded by six backup dancers, four of whom are black and are wearing the least amount of clothing. Allen’s video highlights white superiority by having a white dancer stick money down a black dancer’s shirt and by showing herself laughing and smacking a black dancer’s behind in encouragement.

Allen sings the lyrics “Don’t need to shake my ass for you cuz I’ve got a brain,” yet has no problem allowing her black dancers to be captured in the most obscene shots that feature them twerking and touching themselves.

The message that I received watching this as a young black woman was, “White women don’t have to twerk because they are intelligent but black women can go ahead and twerk because they are clearly stupid.” The differences between Lily Allen’s video and Miley Cyrus’s “We Can’t Stop” video are hard to notice. How can Allen try to criticize Cyrus for using black women as props when she does the same thing? If Cyrus’ video was meant to critique the portrayal of black women, and for that she can join the same cultural appropriation club that Cyrus is in.

SEE TAKING ON POP CULTURE ON PAGE 10 FOR ANOTHER TAKE

BLURRED LINES STIRS FALSE CONTROVERSY

FRANCES ELLISON ’14 STAFF WRITER

Pop culture is always good for made-up controversy, and Robin Thicke’s single “Blurred Lines” is a perfect example. Thicke has become a social justice dartboard, hated for everything from copyright infringement to misogyny. People are so angry at this song that it’s even been banned from 21 college campuses, but I happen to find the song incredibly catchy. So naturally, I was shocked when the Internet exploded over the song and it’s accompanying unrated music video. So I tried to figure out once and for all how a seemingly harmless summer jam became one of the most misinterpreted songs of the year.

One of the biggest criticisms of the song was its misogynistic lyrics that seem to promote and almost celebrate rape culture, some people going as far as to call it the “date rape anthem.” After listening to the song again, I still have no clue how anyone could have come to this conclusion. Many claim that the song’s constant insistence that the girl “knows she wants it” is clear proof that consent is not an issue with the gentleman in this story. I challenge those who hold that opinion to take a critical look. During the song, Thicke exclaims “I feel so lucky/You wanna hug me,” and “The way you grab me...” implying that the female in question is more than a willing participant.

Thicke makes many other references like this through-out the song. The consent of the female couldn’t possibly be more clear if they had added a third verse with a female singer agreeing that she does in fact want this particular encounter. At no point during the song does the romantic encounter between Thicke and his female counterpart feel forced or unwanted. And as far as the date rape claim, I’m still baffled as to how that even came about, because at no point in the song is alcohol or it’s consumption even mentioned.

Are they lyrics of “Blurred Lines” explicit? Yes, definitely. But does the song promote rape? No, not in the slightest.
This Star Won’t Go Out

ANDREA WENTZELL ’15
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In 2010, Esther “Star” Grace Earl, passed away from thyroid cancer – she was 16.

Esther’s story is one of compassion and her fight to keep living. She never stopped shining and lived a life full of adventure; she loved to take photos, design web pages, and laugh. Esther was also a passionate Harry Potter fan and a Nerdfighter.

On Jan. 28, 2014, her family and friends, in memory of their star, released This Star Won’t Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl. This book is filled with never-before-seen journal entries, fiction, letters, photos, essays, and sketches all by Esther keeping the memory of the spunky, creative, energetic young woman in the thoughts of millions.

Esther touched the lives of many, including bestselling novelist John Green, who wrote the Introduction to This Star Won’t Go Out. His book The Fault in Our Stars is dedicated to Esther. She was a major influence in his life and many believe she was the inspiration for the main character Hazel Grace Lancaster. This Star Won’t Go Out debuted at the number seven spot on The New York Times Bestseller List on Feb. 16.

In addition, Esther’s memory is further honored through the work of the charity This Star Won’t Go Out (tswgo.org). The organization, also created by her family and friends, is making a difference in providing help to families that have children living with cancer.

This Star Won’t Go Out

LIZ YOHANNES ’16
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In Cote d’Ivoire, there is a dance called “Mapouka” that focuses mainly on the rotation of the hips and butt that goes amazingly with Kwassa Kwassa music. There was a similar dance craze in Jamaica known as the “Dutty Wine.” And it made its way to New Orleans in the ’90s with the “Bounce Music” scene.

Recently, this dance has manifested itself again under the name “twerk,” and has had a mixed welcome by our generation. But everyone seems to agree with the Urban Dictionary definition: “The rhythmic gyrating of the lower fleshy extremities in a lascivious manner…to elicit sexual arousal or laughter…”

Miley Cyrus’ infamous performance at the VMAs has done nothing to help this assumption, and in fact, has only been used to perpetuate the dance as vulgar. But that is hardly my issue with Cyrus. If I were known around the globe as “Hannah Montana” in my twenties, I’d be looking for a way to look cool, too. Yet while she does this deep-rooted dance to boost her image, there is no evidence to show that she realizes the depth of the tradition that she is participating in. If she did, I doubt she would continue on her “urban” journey to unearth her true self.

While this dance has been around for longer than most of us have been alive, Miley is credited with the conception of the widespread trend – and she’s giving it a bad name.

But the point is that twerking, if taken within a cultural context, is not the abomination it is portrayed to be. And that is the problem – it isn’t being taken within a cultural context, because no one is giving it the platform to be taken seriously. Granted, it is a very sexual dance, but so was the Tango, the Charleston, and even at one point in time, the Waltz, all dances we now see as “tame.”

As for Miley, I don’t care that she wants to twerk, but I hope that she sees history of this dance, and how she and her fabled rump are effecting it. Perhaps she would change her execution, but then again, twerking is only a trend for now. Miley may have found a new boundary-pushing platform to show she’s a big girl by that time.

March is
RESTAURANT MONTH IN
CHESTNUT HILL

THE GRiffin

CHESTNUT HILL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
8426 Germantown Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-247-6695 • chestnuthillpa.com

RESTAURANTS INCLUDE:

Chestnut Grill & Sidewalk Café
Cosimo’s Pizza Café
Fiesta Pizza
McNally’s Tavern
Tavern on the Hill
Thai Kuu
And More

TAKING ON POP CULTURE (CONTINUED):
THE NEW FACE OF TWERK?

MARCH 2 - 31
(Sundays through Thursdays)

$15 LUNCH AND
$25 DINNER SPECIALS

Visit chestnuthillpa.com for more information.
THE OUTDOOR OBSESSION

ADELE GIANGIULIO ’16 NEWS EDITOR

In 2008 the NHL brought ice hockey back to its roots and played its first game outside of U.S. soil. The Buffalo Sabres faced off against the Pittsburgh Penguins on New Year’s Day in the NHL’s inaugural Winter Classic game and brought in what was then the highest game attendance at 71,217, according to Yahoo Sports. In following years the numbers have only gone up. What was once a rejected idea became one of the biggest sporting events in the US, generating millions of dollars in revenue for the NHL. A reason why the NHL has been holding its outdoor games, this year broke records and marked the start of a new NHL tradition. The 2014 Winter Classic, in which the Detroit Red Wings faced the Toronto Maple Leafs, was held at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Mich. and smashed attendance records with more than 105,000 fans present. According to Sports Business Daily it generated $30 million in revenue and also marked the first year of the NHL Stadium Series. The Stadium Series included five outdoor games in major stadiums around the US. In the first year of the NHL Stadium Series, the NHl also wanted to benefit from the Super Bowl being held in the New York area by holding two games in Yankee Stadium right before the game. The outdoor games were also scheduled strategically around the Sochi Olympics. No other league has put to regular the season on hold for an Olympic break, throwing every team’s momentum off. The Chicago Blackhawks will face off against the Pittsburgh Penguins on March 1, and the Vancouver Canucks will host the Ottawa Senators on March 2. This gives NBC and ESPN something extra to promote during the games.

However popular the series proves to be, the NHL does not plan to host six outdoor games next year, as John Collins, the NHL’s chief operation officer, told Yahoo Sports. However, the NHL has sold more tickets for the games than they would have had these been regular season games. Additionally, due to the engineering success of maintaining NHL quality ice in a 65-degree temperature at Dodger Stadium, the league can look at expanding the outdoor spectacle to the West Coast. The sky is the limit for the league.

“If there's anything to prove, it's to prove that hockey can be a lot bigger,” Collins told Yahoo Sports. “The business of hockey and the brand of hockey can be a lot bigger.”

SPORTS

Olympics Debuts New Sports

TIFFANY URENA ’16 SPORTS EDITOR

Remembered for events that occurred in the past but now a prominent area of the world, Sochi, Russia, welcomed the best athletes for around the 2014 Winter Olympics. Not only were these games plagued by political controversy, but it was the first time the world would see new sports added to the list of competitions at the Winter Olympics. For poster making the games “cooler,” the International Olympic Committee (IOC) added 12 new games including eight that are commonly seen during the X Games.

The new events include men’s and women’s ski halfpipe, men’s and women’s ski slopestyle, men’s and women’s snowboard cross, and men’s and women’s snowboard parallel slalom. women’s ski jumping, a biathlon mixed relay, a luge team relay, and a figure skating team event. With the addition of the new events, the games will feature a total of 15 sports and 98 medal events. The games will also run a day longer than previ- ous competitions.

Although the Winter Olympics are debating many new sports, the United States did not fare too well in their early com- petitions. In the first two weeks of action, America won a total of 12 medals, four of which were gold.

The games started on the strength of the figure skating competitors. Germany, Russia and the United States were pegged as favorites and that is what they turned out to be. Russia took both the men and women’s team gold medals in this category, while America and Germany only won two.

As for the sports that mirror those in the X Games, one American received all the attention. Shaun White was making headlines even before heading to Sochi. The media said that he was not liked by any other American snowboarders. His “peo- ple” shut down halfpipes at ski resorts so that he could practice, and his success on the snow was making him a diva. Fast forward to day five of the Olympics and all eyes were on the Flying To- mato, as he is commonly known. In the qualifying round for the men’s halfpipe, White scored 95.75, putting him at the lead and making everyone believe he would win his third gold medal in a row. However, when it was time for him to ride the pipe for glory, he failed to impress the judges and couldn’t complete his run. He ended his Sochi Olymp- ics run in fourth place and the American-Russian bower, Jonas Podladtchikov, took home the gold.

The Olympics have a way of bringing spectators together to enjoy athletic competition, and regardless of what is going on in the world politically. For a few weeks, the world comes together just to have fun.

New MLB Concussion Caps

TAYLOR STEIN ’15 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Issues concerning concus- sions have been gaining a lot of attention in all professional sports. There is nothing leagues want to do more than protect their players, so in turn, rules have been put into effect that have attempted to put profes- sional sports on the safe track. For the MLB, pitcher safety is increasingly becoming a more significant issue, in which case, they can potentially make important changes as early as this year’s spring training. Major league pitchers will have the opportunity to gearhead this season, but even those who have been the victims of frightening line drives to the head will have to be won over in the delicate balance between safety and comfort.

There are many different companies competing to have their version of protective head- gear worn during the 2014 MLB season. These same companies tried without success to make a product that would be approved. While isoBLOX was the first to get clearance, other firms still have the chance to submit pro- posals. These new caps have energy-diffusing plates are sup- posed to absorb the blow and spread it out as much as possible upon impact, thus decreas- ing pressure to one spot on the head. The prototype helmet, which can be individually fitted, cre- ates a “crumple zone” for the impact. The MLB required the caps to handle at least 83 mph impact, which is the average speed of balls hit past major league pitchers without incur- ring traumatic brain injury. The hats are about one inch wider than regular ones, but they’re about seven ounces heavier than the normal three to four ounce cap. This new hitch is the reason why pitchers such as Arizona Diamondback Brandon McCarthy refuse to give them a try. McCarthy was struck by a line drive in the head in 2012 and had to receive emergency brain surgery. He took to social media to tweet, “the caps are headed in the right direction, but are not yet game ready.”

For now, it’s a matter of whether pitchers can get com- fortable with a different feel on their heads. Even isoBLOX of- ficials admitted the growth of pitchers’ headgear will be evolu- tionary from the youth leagues upward, but a sudden change at the professional level.

“It will look different until it doesn’t look different anymore,” said Bruce Foster, CEO of isoBLOX, the parent company of isoBLOX, in an interview with MLB.com. “Nobody wanted helmets in hockey. Nobody wanted face masks in football.”

If hitters are protected, then there is no reason why pitchers shouldn’t be as well. Perhaps this is the first step in ensuring that that is the case. If there is a logical, operative way to pro- tect players, then Major League Baseball has to take every step necessary to do so.

The new headgear is available for testing this Spring Training.

The Griffin 11
Dennis Nominated for Award

TIFFANY UREÑA ‘16
SPORTS EDITOR

A Dean’s list student, community service activist, and record-setting athlete, women’s tennis senior captain Kelly Dennis personifies what it means to be an NCAA Division II athlete.

Dennis is one of five collegiate athletes nominated for the 10th Annual Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup Award, named in honor of John Wooden, former basketball coach at the University of California, Los Angeles, who embodied the characteristics of an excellent athlete. According to the Athletes for a Better World Website, this “award is given for the most outstanding role model among athletes.”

“When I think and read about the legacy of John Wooden and not only his success, but his commitment to building a program that was honored to be a finalist for an award with his name on it,” Dennis said.

Not only is Dennis one of the five finalists, she is also the only non-Division I, non-Ivy League athlete in the list of nominees.

“I am proud to represent our college as the only DI student-athlete and I am excited to be able to share my experience as an athlete compared to student-athletes at a higher level,” Dennis added.

The legacy of Coach Wooden is not the only factor that makes this award prestigious; the professional recipient of the award is one to talk about as well. This year, NFL quarterback Drew Brees will be receiving the award. Dennis has nothing but admiration for Brees.

“It feels unbelievable. Drew Brees is not only an incredible athlete on the field, but more importantly he is an incredible role model,” Dennis said. “This is how every professional athlete should conduct themselves, creating positive role models for student athletes.”

Dennis’ success regarding her community service and athleticism will prove to any non-believers that she is more than qualified to win this award.

She is Chestnut Hill College’s all-time leader in wins and is responsible for 58 overall singles victories. She was also the third Griffin to reach the 1,000 career win mark during the 2012-2013 season. This made her rank as high as number 13 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Individual Regional Rankings.

Dennis is also the founder and president of GHC’s Unified for Uganda, a service club that brings aid and awareness to victims of Joseph Kony’s political mayhem and the Lord’s Resistance Army in Northern Uganda. Dennis is also a member of Chestnut Hill College’s Student Athletic Advisory Committee, the Serving and Learning Together program, the College’s Campus Ministry program, and has participated in countless retreats and service opportunities with the Shriners, the Chestnut Hill College Empathy Bowl Dinner and TOMS “One Day without Shoes”.

Although this is Dennis’ last year at CHC, she does not plan to stop her charitable work after college. “After graduation I’m excited to be more involved with the board of directors for U4U as well as being a chaperone on the yearly trip to Uganda when my schedule will allow it,” she said.

She will also be working with an auditing firm for non-profit organizations, mentoring a girl scout troop in Philadelphia, and volunteering with Sister Jean Faustman at a shelter for women who have been rescued from slave and sex trades.

The 10th Annual Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup award recipient will be announced on April 22 during a ceremony held at the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta.

Dennis is one of five collegiate athletes nominated for the 10th Annual Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup Award, named in honor of John Wooden, former basketball coach at the University of California, Los Angeles, who embodied the characteristics of an excellent athlete. According to the Athletes for a Better World Website, this “award is given for the most outstanding role model among athletes.”

“When I think and read about the legacy of John Wooden and not only his success, but his commitment to building a program that was honored to be a finalist for an award with his name on it,” Dennis said.

Not only is Dennis one of the five finalists, she is also the only non-Division I, non-Ivy League athlete in the list of nominees.

“I am proud to represent our college as the only DI student-athlete and I am excited to be able to share my experience as an athlete compared to student-athletes at a higher level,” Dennis added.

The legacy of Coach Wooden is not the only factor that makes this award prestigious; the professional recipient of the award is one to talk about as well. This year, NFL quarterback Drew Brees will be receiving the award. Dennis has nothing but admiration for Brees.

“It feels unbelievable. Drew Brees is not only an incredible athlete on the field, but more importantly he is an incredible role model,” Dennis said. “This is how every professional athlete should conduct themselves, creating positive role models for student athletes.”

Dennis’ success regarding her community service and athleticism will prove to any non-believers that she is more than qualified to win this award.

She is Chestnut Hill College’s all-time leader in wins and is responsible for 58 overall singles victories. She was also the third Griffin to reach the 1,000 career win mark during the 2012-2013 season. This made her rank as high as number 13 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Individual Regional Rankings.

Dennis is also the founder and president of GHC’s Unified for Uganda, a service club that brings aid and awareness to victims of Joseph Kony’s political mayhem and the Lord’s Resistance Army in Northern Uganda. Dennis is also a member of Chestnut Hill College’s Student Athletic Advisory Committee, the Serving and Learning Together program, the College’s Campus Ministry program, and has participated in countless retreats and service opportunities with the Shriners, the Chestnut Hill College Empathy Bowl Dinner and TOMS “One Day without Shoes”.

Although this is Dennis’ last year at CHC, she does not plan to stop her charitable work after college. “After graduation I’m excited to be more involved with the board of directors for U4U as well as being a chaperone on the yearly trip to Uganda when my schedule will allow it,” she said.

She will also be working with an auditing firm for non-profit organizations, mentoring a girl scout troop in Philadelphia, and volunteering with Sister Jean Faustman at a shelter for women who have been rescued from slave and sex trades.

The 10th Annual Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup award recipient will be announced on April 22 during a ceremony held at the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta.