

## Exchange students return to home countries to finish high school

After a year (or more) in the US, students reflect on experience at NT

by Layla Saqibuddin

As most seniors head off to college, this fall, many of the exchange students are heading back to their home countries to finish up their high school degrees.

Despite the additional year of schooling necessary when going to the United States for a year of high school, many of the students commented that although the experience was at first difficult, the rewards made the experience worthwhile.

Senior exchange student Isla Savola from Helsinki, Finland, has two more years of high school to finish when she returns.

"I really did win the jackpot by attending NT. I've always wanted to live in the U.S. for a year. While it's sad to leave my friends, I'm excited to see my family and friends," she said.

Although moving here was difficult at first, Savola believes



Senior Max Ronan from Australia

that she has grown from the experience.

"I had to work outside my comfort zone. At first it was forceful, yet once again, these are the years where my development into adulthood are at the highest rate, so I think that it was very beneficial for me coming here," said Savola.

Often in an exchange program, credits earned while in the other country will not transfer to the student's home country's high schools, according to the website of the exchange student program, AFS

Intercultural. This caveat, however, does not deter most students.

Senior Pierre Rurak-Humblot from France said that regardless of the fact that he has to do another year of high school in France, he wouldn't have changed this experience in any way.

"This experience was definitely worth it even if I need to do a French senior year. I have made friends in another country and I also had the opportunity to learn English. When I go back home, I will study [for] one year and apply to an American and French school. I hope to study international relationships."

For senior Valentin Goetze from Berlin, Germany, spending a year in the US was just not enough.

After a year of high school here, he, "decided to stay another year because it was hard for me to imagine going back. I felt so attached and happy to live here. This experience was definitely worth it. I was able to study new subjects and explore my interests, which helped me get an idea of my plans after high school."

Goetze expressed that the transition from Germany to Illinois immediately made him feel at home.

"I loved my new neighborhood. It was and is still so peaceful. It's a complete privilege. The school and

especially the atmosphere was very accepting. Even though, NT is huge, it was very easy for me to find friends and transition from Germany to the U.S."

When Goetze returns home,



Pierre Rurak-Humblot from France

he plans to attend university in his hometown of Berlin.

"When I go back home, I wish to find a university in Berlin because I love the city and then I'd be able to stay at my old home for a few more

years, which hopefully means I can see some friends," said Goetze.

Many of the students emphasized that the best part of spending a year in the U.S. was the close friendships they developed.

Senior Max Ronan from Australia said, "I have formed some of the best friendships during my time here, and I think in part that's because the last years of high school are definitely some of the most prime and socially active stages of life."

"I would like to specifically thank my English teacher of both years, Mr. Wukas, and my Outdoor Education teacher Leif Gamrath. School cannot possibly teach you how to think on your own and how to be fully independent, yet both of my teachers did a good job at getting as close as they could. I thank them for teaching me about the world. I feel I would be much more hopeless without it," continued Ronan.

In her parting words for other exchange students, Savola said, "For international students, it's not as scary as you might have initially thought. I encourage all students to take full advantage of what NT offers. This school has some fabulous facilities and all are yours to use."

## The future destinations and aspirations of 2019 faculty retirees

by Cleo Pool and Eva Roytburg

**John H. Cadwell**  
English Department Chair



**Melanie Calhoun**  
New Trier Extension



Melanie Calhoun has been working at New Trier for 17 years as the office supervisor for New Trier Extension. As she is preparing to leave, she says she will miss the sense of community the most. She plans on moving closer to her grandkids and is looking forward to enjoying life volunteering, creating family memories, and learning how to play golf.

**George Sanders**  
Human Resources



**Michael Cliff**  
Applied Arts



Michael Cliff has been working at New Trier in applied arts for the past 13 years. His favorite memory was when the girls basketball team donated towards his nephew who was in need of cancer treatment. He plans to move to Florida in the end of June and is looking forward to his well deserved time to himself.

**Jim Conroy**  
Post-High School Counseling



Jim Conroy has been working at New Trier for 33 years and he has always worked in post high school counseling. As for his favorite memory: "I have a note here that I just got from a student who thanked me for what I did I think these are the nicest things" Said Conroy. During retirement, he plans to travel, clean out his basement, and walk.

**Dr. Bruce Credo**  
Science Teacher



Dr. Bruce Credo has been at New Trier for 12 years. It's safe to say he loved his time at NT: "I love what I do. This is the best gig ever," said Credo. He really sees this school as a great place in which everyone contributes to its greatness. His son just moved to Copenhagen, so he plans on visiting him more often now that he will be retired. He also enjoys biking: "My goal is to bike as many miles as there are in the distance around the equator," said Credo

**Smita Shah**  
Business Services



**Thomas Zobus**  
Plant Operations



**George James Chiropolos**  
Kinetic Wellness



George Chiropolos started working here back in 2007 as the boys KW locker room attendant and equipment manager. His favorite memory from New Trier is: "Charlie Tilson, presently a member of the Chicago White Sox and former Trevian, asked me to wear his away football jersey for teacher appreciation night at the Stadium for a New Trier home football game," said Chiropolos. He says he plans to workout and fix up his condominium but he is most looking forward to a new chapter in his life.

**Denise Diclemanti**  
Math Department Assistant



Denise Diclemanti is an assistant to the Math and Science department and has been working at New Trier for 18 years. For her, every time she laughed with a coworker was her best memory at New Trier. She is excited to spend more time visiting friends, reading, and traveling. She is most looking forward to being able to sleep in the mornings.

**Lorri Starck-King**  
MCL department chair



Lorri Starck-King started at New Trier in 1985. In her time here, she was a French teacher, advisor, MCL coordinator, and MCL Department Chair. Some of her favorite memories at New Trier have been going to various places with her students (France, Quebec, the Art Institute), being an advisor, and collaborating with her colleagues to create lessons. Her plan in retirement is to say YES to new opportunities, and once she gets bored with that, she'll make tangible plans. She is most looking forward to the extra free time she will have in retirement.

**Molly Ottolini**  
Principal's Office

