

Girls Club hosts centennial celebration for alumnae

Oldest club at New Trier hits 100 year anniversary

by Amelia Jacobson

New Trier Girls Club is celebrating 100 years of service to the school and the community. The club is one of New Trier's oldest and largest clubs, with 44 members at the Winnetka campus and 66 members at the Northfield campus.

The club members, led by senior Alice Beberdick, along with Head Sponsor and Special Education Teacher Melissa Gonzales, have been working to commemorate this milestone.

Gonzales has been a sponsor for Girls Club the last 16 years.

The club is celebrating its centennial by hosting an open house on Apr. 14 and all Girls Club alumnae are invited to the Winnetka campus.

"Our students are extremely excited to meet Girls Club alumnae from the past 100 years and are looking forward to sharing what their experience in the club is like today," said Gonzales in an email addressed to staff.

At the open house, guests can view Memorabilia from the past century, watch a slideshow of Girls Club pictures ranging back to the 1920s, and current members will also



Girls Club members meet 9th period to raise money for New Trier scholarships for girls in financial need | Pak

give tours of the school.

"Every current member of Girls Club will have matching shirts so we can be identified by everyone who attends the event. I'm looking forward to meeting all the different generations of Girls Club alumni and celebrating the great accomplishment of being the oldest club at New Trier," said Beberdick.

Beberdick along with her fellow officers, seniors Lily Nicolaides, Julia Goldish, and Halle Nelson are looking forward to welcoming past members and showcasing the fruits

of their hard work.

"I hope that they are impressed with the work we have done and who we are. I hope they are satisfied and feel as if we have carried on a wonderful legacy they left," said Goldish.

The Girls Club was formed in 1919 as a leadership organization with a goal to engage girls in fundraising for the New Trier Scholarship Fund.

"Our goal is to fundraise for New Trier scholarships for senior girls in financial need. The focus has always been scholarships," said

Gonzales.

Girls Club holds small fundraising events throughout the year to raise money to replenish the scholarship fund. One of the bigger fundraisers is selling concessions at all home football and soccer games during the year.

The fundraising success of the club will be one of the showcases of the Open House.

"We hope that they come back, reconnect with old friends, and still see the value in raising money for girls scholarships. We also hope

they will be excited to help current students," said Nicolaides.

In addition to raising money for the scholarships, the club has completed service projects for various organizations in the community.

Along with Tri-Ship, a boys counterpart to the club, they organize an annual canned food drive for the Chicago Food Depository. According to Girls Club, New Trier is one of the top contributors to the depository every year.

This year's food drive, held last November, collected over 20,000 pounds of food.

The collections provided over 50,000 meals during the holidays for those in need around the Chicagoland area.

During its 100 years, Girls Club has also raised money to benefit the school. In 2016, Girls Club, along with Tri-Ship, donated \$100,000 to build a rooftop garden on the new building at the Winnetka campus.

Despite any changes to the club over the last 100 years, the scholarship mission has not wavered.

"Besides building a community, we hope they're proud of the mission [of Girls' Club], and [gain] a better sense of serving the greater community," Gonzales said.

Facebook connects incoming freshmen



Colorado College Class of 2023 >

Closed group · 139 Members



Seniors use Facebook to introduce students to future classmates | Wallach

College social media groups used to find potential roommates and friends

by Grant Feldman

Facebook groups are a popular way for high school seniors to connect with their future college classmates online. Incoming freshmen at a particular college join these groups to share information, hobbies, or to get to know each other in advance.

These groups often serve as a way to relieve the stress of making friends at a new school. Many high school seniors worry about finding college friends, with 65% of students in a survey by The Medium saying they feared being alone in college.

"I always think it's better to meet in person, but I think there is a certain comfort level [in meeting friends online]," said Post High School Counseling adviser Robert Zigmund. "You could potentially meet roommates and [Facebook groups] facilitate the process."

More than in the past, college freshmen have a say in who they share a dorm room with. According to Rolling Stone, 70% of colleges now let freshmen choose their roommates, and the process can be much easier when students are in the same Facebook group.

"I definitely plan to join [a Facebook group] when I get to college," said senior Jack Massey. "I'll probably use it to find a roommate."

Senior Jake Becker added, "I think [college Facebook groups] are a good way to meet new people. I would consider joining one for sure."

However, a study by the University of Missouri showed heavy Facebook usage can lead to symptoms of envy, anxiety and depression, all of which high school students face at one time or another. Turning to college Facebook groups as a primary way to meet people could possibly amplify these emotions.

Some solutions to the worries that incoming freshmen face are the options colleges provide to accustom new students to their school, according to Zigmund. "I think the things that have greater

potential for reducing anxiety are the things that college campuses do, such as summer orientation or special days for students [to meet peers and professors]."

High school seniors using college Facebook groups often try to find a social niche or fraternity, but the main purpose is to get a feel for the college environment.

A Purdue study from 2007 said college students would prefer to make one lifelong friend in college rather than have a group of friends that aren't as close, and it is less likely to find a close friend online than in person.

Students are prioritizing schoolwork over socializing, which is part of the reason college students are spending less time with friends per week. Finding friends or extracurricular groups on Facebook is also more time-efficient than meeting in person.

"I have had a pretty good experience with Facebook groups," said college freshman Olivia Rogers, a New Trier alum. "I decided to join one because that seemed like the 'normal' thing to do. I think they can be a good way [to connect with future classmates], but a lot of the time people act a certain way because they think that's what other people would want in a roommate. It can be deceiving."

Instagram has also begun incorporating college-gear features into its app. Users can join their college community to "connect with other students," and are added into a list with their classmates. While this feature is still in the early stages of development, it is another option for a younger crowd who prefers Instagram to Facebook.

"I found my roommate on Instagram, but a lot of schools use Facebook [to find roommates]," said Rogers. "I have met some amazing people that I know I will be friends with for a long, long time."

Debate triumphs at state

Seniors lead team to qualify for NDCA Championship

by Lily Vance

New Trier's competitive debate team succeeded in the Illinois High School Association Varsity State Championship. The New Trier Debate Team travelled to Normal, Illinois from Mar. 14 to Mar. 16 to compete at Illinois State University for the weekend.

The competition included four different types of debate including Policy, Congress, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate, with each earning separate titles.

The competition began strong for New Trier as the two Policy Debate teams made the Sweet 16, with one team making it into the semifinals. On the Lincoln Douglas team, 3 out of 4 of our debaters made it to the sweet 16.

Senior Will Thornton, the captain of the Lincoln Douglas Debate Team and the head of the high school debate club, took third place in the preliminary rounds and made it into the All-State Debate Team for Lincoln Douglas.

Thornton led the team with a 9-1 win-loss record in his preliminary debates. New Trier had more teams in the elimination rounds than any other school in the Lincoln Douglas division.

He also took home the 10th Best Speaker Overall Award, allowing him to qualify for the elimination rounds in the Lincoln Douglas division at IHSA alongside two fellow club members senior Patrick Tolan and junior Emma Mansour.

Although Thornton was successful, he said that for the future, "I wish there was more on my part to do more prep, work more with individuals, and more collaboration

with coaches."

The Lincoln Douglas team was guided not only by Thornton, but also by Tommy Serrino, Patrick Tolan and Emma Mansour.

Tolan mentioned that Thornton had a genuine chance of winning the top title at the IHSA tournament.

"Will has been an outstanding person to work with. He put a substantial amount of time into trying to win and entirely stepped up his game for the big tournament," said Tolan.

Tolan often takes on the bulk of research and preparation for the tournaments while serving as a leader for his team. The team did not pass through the sweet 16 round, but still accepted their titles, leading them to the NDCA Championships in mid-April.

"We all wanted to win and it was somewhat disappointing for all of us to lose that debate in the Sweet 16, especially considering some of us really did think we were able to win the tournament," said Tolan.

Because of the team's overall success, Thornton is pleased with the performance of his teammates and friends.

"Everyone did their best and I'm super proud of my team and thankful for my excellent coaches," said Thornton.

The next competition for the team will be the National Debate Coaches Association Championship from Apr. 13 - Apr. 15. It will be held at Glenbrook South High School and at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel.

Thornton hopes to return home with more trophies for the school to display.

"My goal is to hopefully collect some more metal for the trophy case and watch me and my fellow debaters kill the game," said Thornton.