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Student Alliance takes on new leadership

New president, senior Faith Dearborn, takes over with removal of Andrew Scarafile

by Liz Byrne

Senior Faith Dearborn has taken over as Student Alliance President following the removal of previous President Andrew Scarafile from office.

Dearborn was elected Vice President in Spring 2015 and was a member of Student Alliance her sophomore year. As part of Student Alliance procedure, she accepted the position of President following Scarafile's removal.

The administration is not able to comment on the removal of Scarafile from his position on Student Alliance. According to Dearborn, if she had not accepted the position, then elections for President would have been held within the current Student Alliance board.

"I think it was necessary for me to take over considering the fact that there were only two other seniors besides me on the board," Dearborn said. "So if I hadn't taken it, then it most likely would've been a junior."

In the past, the President of Student Alliance has traditionally been a senior that has served multiple years on the board, though Dearborn has only served one year on the board, and is now President. She said



SA President Faith Dearborn plans initiatives as her term begins | Byrne

while she is happy to have the job, it's different for her because of her not being on board her junior year.

"I know it's weird for some on the board for someone to be in charge who wasn't on the board last year, so if I mess up at all, they always correct me," Dearborn said.

The transition from Vice President to President was challenging for both herself and the board.

"During the time when I was transitioning from Vice President to President, it was difficult for the board because they were unsure of who to follow," Dearborn said. "I would sometimes be the only officer in the room and they wouldn't listen to me."

Billy Palivos, senior and Treasurer of Student Alliance agreed with Dearborn. As part of the board, he often found situations in the

Student Alliance room awkward because nobody was addressing the fact that Scarafile had been removed.

'Getting back to the student body is our biggest goal this year'

"There was an elephant in the room because we all noticed that Andrew was not showing up," Palivos said. "Our sponsors didn't say anything either, and no one told us when or if he was going to return."

This all changed when Dearborn was officially named President. Her focus changed from specified duties of Vice President, such as running committee meetings and organizing constituencies, to listening to students and creating new projects for Student Alliance.

"As President, it's super easy for me to ask people what they want to be changed and I can actually start the project and delegate it," Dearborn said.

Shortly after Dearborn became President, elections for Vice President began and junior Erica Diaz was elected the new Vice President of Student Alliance. In the time it took to run elections and select a new Vice President, as well as transition Dearborn into the role of President, much of the time for work was lost.

"It was hard for the Vice President because she had to

start right away with no formal introduction and we were already behind," Dearborn said. "The timing could not have been worse."

Dearborn also said her and Diaz are working hard to establish a better constituency program with advisories.

Constituencies are when Student Alliance representatives visit advisories to give them an update on Student Alliance activities, as well as ask if anything needs to change in the school.

Some of the new projects Student Alliance is working on includes a top-secret Public Service Announcement (PSA) for the student body and a club database to catalogue all clubs that exist at New Trier.

"The club database is really cool because you can go online and fill out information based on what you're interested in and it will tell you what clubs might interest you and what days they meet," Dearborn said.

According to Dearborn, the main goal of Student Alliance this year is increasing public relations within the student body.

This initiative includes Student Alliance advisory forums which have been reduced from once a month to once a quarter in an effort to have a bigger turnout.

"Getting back to the student body is our biggest goal this year and through our amazing board I think we can do that," Dearborn said.

Electrical failure causes evacuation at east campus

East campus evacuates for the second time this year after electrical line shorts

by Anna Ferguson

On Oct. 19, New Trier's east campus was evacuated just after two PM after an electrical line in the basement shorted, causing smoke and a power outage.

Physical Plant Services (PPS) Facilities Manager, Steve Linke described the accident that caused the evacuation. "An electrical line coming into the basement shorted, this caused the area to fill with enough smoke that it was impossible to immediately figure out where the problem originated," Linke said.

"It turned out to be a faulty electrical box in the basement," Winnetka Fire Chief Alan Berkowsky said in an interview with the Winnetka-Glencoe Patch. "We isolated the problem, cleared the smoke and there is no other hazard in the building."

Assistant Principal Gerry Munley explained how the situation was handled by both the fire department and the Village of Winnetka, "The fire department came and they assessed what was going on. We also had the Village [of Winnetka] come because it involved the village electric. That's when they



The Winnetka Fire Department responds to the electrical short at New Trier's East Campus on Oct. 19 | NT News

cut the power."

Linke elaborated on the technicalities of how exactly PPS and the Village dealt with the accident. Fans were set up to clear the smoke, and then PPS worked with the Village of Winnetka Electric department. As soon as the Village turned off the power outside the school, PPS then opened the equipment in the basement and determined the problem.

In an email to parents following the incident, Superintendent Linda Yonke affirmed that the accident was

not related to the current construction project.

However, according to Munley, the amount of time it took to evacuate the school was greatly affected by the construction. "Because we lost the stairwell [in the back of the school] due to construction, and because most classrooms are in the back, that's something we've been working on with getting people out as quickly as possible."

This evacuation was the second of this school year, not including the scheduled fire drill on Sept. 15, the

next day the fire alarm was set off by dust in the basement of the gym area, according to Munley

"The first [evacuation] took us more than five minutes to get everyone out of the building," said Munley, "We were out in under five minutes the next day, with the second evacuation."

The evacuation on Monday was notable due to how long it lasted. "I think this might be the longest evacuation that I remember, and this is my 30th year," Munley said.

This sentiment was echoed

by Linke, "It would have been nice to bring people back into the school sooner, but when safety is in question, we always err on the side of caution."

Because of the nature of the accident, not everyone in the school was forced to evacuate. "There are some students and staff who are non-ambulatory," said Munley. "Because it wasn't necessarily an immediate emergency, they just sat there and I think their hearing starting to hurt. In retrospect, it might have been better to evacuate them as well."

Math teacher Bradley Kuklis explained how he felt about the incident interrupting his class and how he feels teachers should respond to such interruptions.

"Things like that happen, so I'm not mad or annoyed. It's part of a teacher's responsibility to be resilient in those situations," Kuklis said.

Student reaction to the evacuation was much more simple. "I was really happy about the evacuation, it got me out of a physics quiz," senior Brendan Loftus said.

The consensus of faculty and staff seems to be that, although unfortunate, the evacuation went as well as possible under the circumstances. "I think staff and students were great, they took care of themselves," Munley said.