



# The New Trier News

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## Voting process requires its yearly facelift

### Student Alliance election process creates controversy

by Marie O'Connor

On Thursday, March 17, the final results of the Student Alliance elections for officer positions were announced.

Jacob Shaw was elected president, sitting vice president Annabel Walsh was re-elected, as well as sitting treasurer Erica Diaz. Iliana Nazari was elected secretary.

The results of the 2016-2017 election were announced a few days after the school voting.

Officers must have been a part of Student Alliance for at least one year in order to run, and depending on how many people choose to run, a primary must be held before the general election.

This year, the general election was unique in that there were three candidates running for the position of president.

Sitting vice president Annabel Walsh said, "Originally we voted unjustly for who was going to go to general elections, because we voted



After an initial revote, SA elected its new leadership group, headed by Jacob Shaw and Annabel Walsh | Blickstein using a ranking system."

In the initial election, SA members voted upon two candidates, however it was discovered that the club had "two constitutions," according to Walsh, and that the language in each differed on voting procedure.

Student Alliance had to discuss with teacher sponsors and the board to decide which constitution was to be upheld, and eventually a revote was held.

After the revote, there were three

leading candidates for the general election. One candidate received the majority of the votes and two others tied for second. All three were then admitted to the general election.

The process of electing nominees wasn't the only confusion during this process.

Walsh said about campaigning, "You're allowed to make posters but your budget cannot go over a certain amount, and you can also only have a certain number of posters. And in the past, our rule was that you couldn't

make buttons."

Rules from freshman year were confused with rules at the Winnetka campus, and specific campaigning regulations must have been lost in translation. "I think it was a rule at the freshman campus, but it wasn't a rule this year that you couldn't make buttons," Walsh said. When asked about the miscommunication with the regulations this year, board member Ally Bailey declined to comment.

General board members are elected to Student Alliance by getting

fifty signatures on a petition to run. After their name is on the ballot, they must be voted into position by students at New Trier. Bailey explained, "Sophomores vote for sophomores, juniors vote for juniors, and seniors vote for seniors."

However, there are ways to get around not being voted onto the ballot. "If you don't win the election, there's an opportunity to interview with some of the officers," Bailey said, "It's a really fun, chill meeting. I did it and it was totally fine; I'm on board three years later."

Board members are responsible for helping run Student Alliance and being an agent for change within the school. SA bridges the gap between students and administration. Members are also responsible for electing nominees for the officer positions such as president, vice-president, treasurer, etc.

Despite the miscommunications and competition, Student Alliance members had generally positive experiences with the elections. "It's a stressful time for Student Alliance, but in the end, everything turns out," Ally Bailey said.

## Senior Project begins after months of prep



Last year's Senior Project Exhibition drew a crowd of students due to its wide variety of projects | NT News Archives

### Students explore careers and Senior Project

by Wes Jenkins

After weeks of preparation, those participating in Senior Project have finally reached the day their classroom experience ends and a new one begins.

Senior Project is a program for seniors to gain experience and knowledge beyond their traditional classes.

Whether it's to try something new or gain experiences in a possible career, all participants have their own reason for picking their specific project.

Senior Kelly Maday will work with a doctor at Chicago Chiropractic and Sports Medicine. Because she is an athlete, she wants a better understanding of the common injuries that athletes go through, not only how to heal these injuries but also how to prevent them.

She hopes this project will not only help her, but will also help her teammates and other athletes stay healthy.

"I have seen many injuries in my life, especially in my high school career, and I am very excited to further my knowledge on injury recovery and prevention over the next four weeks," Maday said.

Unlike some students, Maday found the process of choosing her project rather easy. She is going to be studying Kinesiology at the University of Illinois and hopes to turn her knowledge of the world of medicine into a career.

"I think getting a feel for what it is like to be a doctor gives me something to look forward to and is something I can really learn from," Maday said.

Rotolo will also take his high school learning experience off campus as he plans to work on the Bridge Initiative. The Bridge Initiative is a nonprofit startup that helps connect people with disabilities to meaningful and longterm employment.

"For the next month I will be conducting research to better enable us to create the most impactful venture and to establish connections in both New York City and Boston. This is so that my coworker, Russell Reed, and I can launch the Bridge Initiative when we go to college next

year," Rotolo said.

Rotolo will be attending NYU and Reed, a senior from San Diego, will be going to Harvard. Both will work at their respective colleges to create an environment to launch the program.

Because he will be studying Entrepreneurship at NYU, Rotolo will be learning the inner workings of how to create a successful business and how to build a business model.

His work with the Bridge Initiative during his Senior Project will give him real world experience, which could lead him to his first startup venture.

Rotolo is extremely excited about his opportunity with the Bridge Initiative.

"I am incredibly passionate about philanthropy, and the Bridge Initiative is a program that I have been intensely working on and is very meaningful to me," he said.

Ryan Westerberg is also participating in Senior Project. He will be interning at Chicago Toy and Game group (ChiTAG). ChiTAG hosts the Chicago Toy and Game fair every year for Toy inventors and kids.

During his internship, he will  
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## The clash of culture and Code of Conduct

### School trips abroad still subject to school rules

by Emily Abt

On March 18, New Trier's Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Ensemble flew to Italy for their 2016 performance tour.

This eight day tour consisted of three major performances as the group made their way through Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan and Cremona.

The Symphony Orchestra and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble are two of the most prestigious and advanced music programs New Trier offers.

Students in both groups perform at concerts and festivals, and according to the Program of Studies, are also "recorded for broadcast, live or taped, on local television, WNTH radio, and the Internet."

Even with all of the rules and regulations, students had freedom so that they could explore Italy. They had the opportunity to experience being a musician in the real world.

For students who travel abroad on school sponsored trips, exploring cities independently is when ethical dilemmas occur.

Athena Arvanitis is New Trier's Director of Student Life. She coordinates trips abroad and works with the faculty on establishing guidelines.

In order for a student to be eligible to go on an excursion there are varied levels of protocol.

"There are three different types of excursions," Arvanitis said, "One

is your day field trip. You fill out a field trip card, all your teachers sign it and you get excused from the day, your parents sign it to give consent, and then you go on the field trip and miss a day of class."

There are also the over night trips which are within the United States. "With over nights, we have more of a paper process when it comes to parent consent. We also have to identify the liabilities," she said.

Because Italy is an overnight, international excursion, the school is very vigilant about students complying with school policies while away.

There is vigorous preparation that takes place before partaking in an international program. The students are informed about everything before they go.

In an international program, there is a parent evening where sponsors go over the itinerary, inform parents of the school's expectations, and ask if there are any medical needs.

"They will also talk about school rules, and students need to abide by whatever the rules are here at our school [versus where they are] because they are representatives of New Trier, and our primary concern is student safety," Arvanitis explained.

"So when it comes to kids making decisions when they're abroad, we want them to understand that it doesn't matter where you are in the world. When you're on a school sponsored trip, the school rules apply," she said.

This is also stated in the New Trier Guideline Policies: "Because

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