

The New Trier News

NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL, 385 WINNETKA AVENUE, WINNETKA, IL 60093

VOL. XCV, No. 8

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

North Shore community mourns loss of four former New Trier students

by NT News Staff

On Sunday, Jan. 3, four former New Trier students drowned in a tragic accident on an icy lake in Wisconsin. The four men, Christopher McQuillen (21), Lanny Patrick Sack (20), Mori Weinstein (21), and Patrick Wetzal (21), will be greatly missed by family and friends.

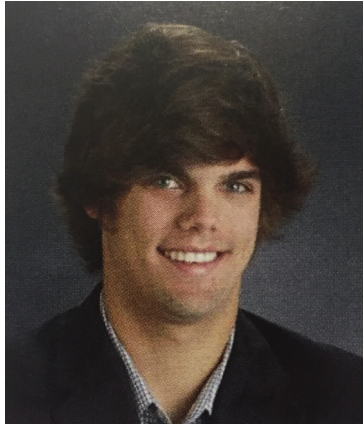
All four attended New Trier during their high school career, though some transferred before graduating.

A group of sixteen were at a friend's lake house in East Troy, Wisconsin, when the four decided to take a canoe out in the night.

The next morning, the boys had not returned and there was an overturned canoe in the lake. A friend notified the authorities, and immediately the search began. All four bodies have since been found and identified.

Lanny Patrick Sack graduated from New Trier in 2013 and attended University of Kansas. Sack played baseball for New Trier and worked at The Strike Zone, a baseball training academy in Glenview. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing, and frequently gave back to the community, whether volunteering at Winnetka Bible Church Vacation School or coaching baseball to 13-16 year olds.

Mori Weinstein graduated from New Trier in 2012 and also attended University of Kansas. According to the Chicago Tribune, his friends remembered him for his "infectious smile, gentle manner and cooking."



Sack and Weinstein's senior portraits, Class of '13, '12 respectively | Trevia

A lover of art, Weinstein returned to New Trier recently to dedicate a piece of his artwork to the art department. "Mori Weinstein was, beyond everything else, loyal to his friends," said his adviser, Robert Berlin. "Whether he was skateboarding after school or creating a work of art, Mori was interested in the people who were sharing the experience with him. He avoided the negativity and tried to find the pleasure in each day."

Glass art teacher Monique Boyd had both Weinstein and Sack in her class, and told the Chicago Tribune, "It's such a tragic loss. It's hard to believe that they won't be around anymore."

Patrick Wetzal moved to Washington D.C. his sophomore year, but remained close with his friends from Winnetka. While at New Trier, he played lacrosse and was remembered for his quick wit. Wetzal had a love for service which was ignited by a trip to Cambodia to

build a school, and later went on two trips to Guatemala with Habitat for Humanity.

He was currently a senior at University of Colorado Boulder, where he enjoyed skiing and hiking in the mountains.

Christopher McQuillen also moved after his sophomore year, and previously attended Northern Illinois University. His advisor, Matt Koulentes, said of McQuillen, "During his sophomore year, he left New Trier to attend school elsewhere. However, Chris was a funny kid who was popular with my advisery." McQuillen volunteered with disabled youths, and was described by his family as a caring and loyal young man.

According to the New Trier website, superintendent Dr. Linda Yonke said, "Each of these young men made his own mark at New Trier, connecting in widely varying ways to friends, to teachers, and to the school community."

16 years of Habitat for Humanity

by Grace Cucco

This year seniors are participating in New Trier's 16th Habitat for Humanity project, raising money to build a house for a deserving family.

Habitat for Humanity is organized by a senior board of representatives and paid for with money raised by the current senior class.

Seniors are broken into a board and six student leaders. The board attends monthly meetings and informs their adviseries on upcoming events. Brendan Loftus, a member of this year's board said, "My job is to get my advisery excited about the project."

The senior leaders work directly with senior adviser chairs and help run the board meetings. There are six student leaders chosen by the senior adviser chairs Chris Pearson and Susan Paunen, who do a variety of tasks.

Student leader Regina Madanguit said, "As a member of the board, I speak to parents and the adviser chairs about fundraising ideas. We have a lot of ideas from the past that we look to improve upon so that we can raise more money and have an even better year than before. I have to sign lots of documents and use my skills in public speaking to inform the board of our plans."

"Habitat for Humanity is a global non-profit focused on providing safe and affordable housing," said Pearson. "The advisery representatives are great; we hear positive things from advisers about our representatives."

The house will be built in Waukegan in North Chicago. Adviseries volunteer to work onsite throughout second semester, which helps students feel connected to the project.

The senior class puts in a lot of work to raise money. "This year we have already done a lot to raise money and we have a lot more planned. We did spirit sales at parent-teacher conferences, hosted the Tom DeLuca show, held Feast Week, and had a Sarki's breakfast sale," said Paunen. "Coming up we have another Sarki's breakfast sale, the April auction, more souvenir sales, and Winter Carnival."

The Tom DeLuca show is popular among seniors and many attend. Seniors have the opportunity to be hypnotized by DeLuca, or simply watch and enjoy the show.

This year's Feast Week restaurants were Noodles and Company, Shake Shack, Bake425, Chipotle, and Potbelly Sandwich Shop.

Winter Carnival is an event hosted by the senior adviseries. Each advisery has a unique booth, anything from selling hot dogs to staging weddings. The carnival features a wide variety of games, inflatables, sports, crafts, and more. Admission is free and the money raised from games or food benefit Habitat.

Pearson said, "Habitat for Humanity is a way that the senior class can connect with a common and significant goal in mind. All the seniors can leave their own legacy as a class and impact the community."

Expensive study abroad programs limit student participation

Trips overseas cost upwards of \$3,500

by Carina Brendl

Now that New Trier's study abroad program registrations have closed, wealthier students who can afford such trips have the opportunity to receive extra course credit over the summer while many lower-income kids are left behind.

One such program is the trip to Oxford, organized by English teacher Brent Strom. On the fairness of the expensive extra credit opportunity, Strom explained that participants receive General Ed credit as opposed to English credit.

"It doesn't fulfill any kind of requirement in the sense that you don't have to go do this program in order to pass high school," he said.

Strom added that the school offers many other, more affordable and more local programs. One of these programs is the far less expensive Shakespeare-centered trip to Stratford, Ontario. Students spend three days watching plays and participating in workshops, but receive no academic credit.

There is another free way to receive credit. According to Strom, a senior Shakespeare course is offered in which students learn exactly what they'd learn at Oxford.

Like the Oxford students, those participating in the school's China trip also receive half a summer school credit. Chinese teacher and organizer of the trip Julia Kessel acknowledged that this isn't fair to those who can't afford to go.

"In this community, there are many opportunities to explore abroad," she said. "Lower-income areas may not have the same options."

However, Kessel did say that every year, the school tries to lower the price to enable more students to come. For example, they try to take trains rather than planes when travelling through China.

Senior Liz Parsons, a participant in last year's China trip, thought that the school could have lowered the price even more. She explained that every one of their hotels was rated four or five stars.

The problem is that scholarships and financial aid are widely unavailable for these trips. This leaves many kids behind and denies them the opportunity to enrich their transcripts through a public school activity.

The Oxford trip, for example, costs around \$4,000. Financial aid and scholarships are unavailable. Strom explained that New Trier has tried to get many different foundations to help out, but that financial aid is reserved for events



The 2015 China trip posing in front of the Great Wall in Beijing | Kessel

which affect hundreds of students. Because the trip's maximum capacity is 24, no foundation has agreed to help. Strom recognized that this high cost might keep some students from participating and that "it's an unfortunate part of the trip."

Junior Beth Wall, who travelled to Oxford last summer, said that the food portions on the trip were large and therefore expensive. Wall thought that if the portions were smaller, it could have decreased the cost considerably. But otherwise, she thought the price was justified considering the rest of the activities.

Students interested in the China trip face a similar expense

of \$3,500, but scholarships were offered last year for the first time. Kessel explained that the minimum requirement of thirteen participants was not met, so she found two half scholarships, each sponsored by the Global Exchange Club. This allowed two more kids to go, filling their quota.

Unfortunately, Kessel said that when enough students sign up, which is usually the case, no scholarships are offered. She added that many students don't even consider the trip because of the high price tag.

Unlike the China and Oxford trips, the music trip to Italy this coming spring break is more

supportive of students' finances. Music department chair Peter Rosheger explained that of the 120 students going, those who are unable to meet the \$3,900 cost requirement receive help from the school and the Fine Arts Association.

On top of that, the music students organized a fundraiser this October, called the Play-A-Thon. 90% of the money raised went to the student's individual tour fund.

This strong financial support exists even though students do not receive any credit for the trip. Therefore, they wouldn't be left out of the opportunity to enrich their transcripts if they couldn't afford it.

But Rosheger explained that the group travelling to Italy requires "integrity of the ensemble," meaning that most, if not all, of the musicians need to be present in order to perform well. Thus, there's a reason the Music Department tries to allow as many students to travel as possible.

To do that, the music department talks individually to those who can't participate or might be embarrassed to ask for support, making sure they know that the school offers help. Regarding kids' reluctance to ask for financial aid, Rosheger said it's usually not a problem.

Rosheger said, "We're usually able to overcome that hurdle."