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Women's day seminars educate and inspire

New Trier hosts seminar day in honor of International Women's Day

by Mia Sherin

On Wednesday Mar. 8, otherwise known as International Women's Day, New Trier hosted a group of influential speakers who gave seminars throughout the day.

The goal of these seminars was to allow students to hear from a variety of inspirational speakers and learn from gender-based work.

Some of these speakers included the superintendent Dr. Linda Yonke, who spoke about working in a predominantly male field, Kim Holstein, who discussed female empowerment through entrepreneurship, Jim Davis, an athletic coach from New Trier, who spoke about gender equality in athletics, and many others.

This day was hosted by several clubs, namely Amnesty International, Fem Club, Girls' Club, Girl Up, SWEETS, and UNICEF Club.

Senior Celia Buckman, co-head of Girl UP and UNICEF Club, was a key player in putting the day together.

On International Women's Day

last year, Buckman had the idea to host these seminars and has been working ever since to make it a reality. "I think it's really important to appreciate, celebrate, and recognize the women that shape our communities and our lives."

The overall mission of this day, according to Buckman, was to showcase the diversity and applicability of gender to a large span of issues.

The day included unique speakers including Kim Holstein, CEO and Chief Chocolate Officer of The Crave Bar and board member of Jewish Women International.

At this seminar, one point that Holstein wanted to get across was the power that entrepreneurship has to transform women's lives, be a vehicle for helping women use their voices, and help women feel empowered while paving the path for their future.

Something that Holstein was excited to incorporate into her seminar was education of global issues.

She elaborated on the purpose of this and said, "I think it's important for students to understand how people in our community might feel, but also look at it from a global level."

Since this was the first year that New Trier brought this vision to life, it is even more impressive that the day received overwhelmingly



Girl Up members with speakers Dr. Linda Yonke and Jim Davis | Girl Up

positive reactions. Most students believed that this day was beneficial for a wide variety of reasons, one being a valuable opportunity to hear a new perspective.

Senior Cormac Simon, who attended Holstein and Yonke's seminars, stated, "I think it can open you up to new perspectives and broaden your mind. Especially as a guy, I think those struggles that the speakers dealt with are not things

I would have guessed or seen for a woman, so I'm glad that people had that forum to share that openly."

Sophomore Christopher Robert Kuhn also felt that he gained a new perspective on issue. He attended the talk by Dilnaz Waraiach, a Muslim woman who overcame barriers by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

"I thought it was interesting as a male to see what females have to go through in regards to diversity.

It's really an incredible story and inspiring to see how she overcame all these difficulties in the 21st century," Kuhn said.

Sophomore Emma Katzman also appreciated the fact that Waraiach added a layer of diversity to the seminars.

"Everyone at New Trier basically fits in with the majority, but she is Muslim and she has a completely different experience than most of what we have," Katzman said.

However, Katzman, along with others, did feel that something the seminars were lacking was more relevance to women's issues.

"I think it was beneficial, but I don't think there was enough emphasis on the fact that women and men aren't equal," Katzman said.

Junior Maya Malecki enjoyed Waraiach's seminar but wasn't sure "how fitting it was for Women's Day."

Despite this, the Scrounge was packed full with students, the day sparked talk throughout the school, and teachers used the seminars as a way to continue the conversation of women's issues.

Junior Kelly Olvany saw this day as a success, and said, "Women should always be celebrated. This day did just that."

TE Brian Kaiser commits to Northwestern Football

Brian Kaiser receives multiple offers from universities for football talent

by Rebecca Lee

Junior Brian Kaiser, a star player on the varsity boys football team, shines both on and off the field.

As a 6-foot 7-inch player, who runs a 4.84-second 40-yard dash, Kaiser immediately stands out.

He also plays on the varsity boys volleyball team, has height, speed, strength, and agility.

From middle school through his second year of high school on the sophomore team, Kaiser played quarterback.

When he made varsity, however, senior Clay Czynski had occupied the position of starting quarterback for two years, so the coaches moved Kaiser to wide receiver.

"Going from quarterback to wide receiver my first year, I was really comfortable because I knew all of the routes since I had to throw them before, but now I just had to catch them," Kaiser explained.

Although this was his first year as a wide receiver, Kaiser immediately excelled due to his height and speed.

"His natural ability, and his desire and willingness to help the team [enabled him] to have a good year playing a new position," Head Coach Brian Doll said.

In the 2016-17 season alone, Kaiser posted 20 receptions for 432



Brian Kaiser, a varsity football player, committed to Northwestern after receiving multiple offers | Varsity Views

yards and scored six touchdowns, and earned all-conference and all-league honors. As a senior, Kaiser played at quarterback, wide receiver, and tight end.

Kaiser explained his success in simple terms. "You have to have the drive. You have to be passionate. If you're passionate about the position you're playing and you're fast, then you're gonna get a lot of completions."

Kaiser works hard to play at such a level. "During the season, including practices, [I spend] seven hours a day training. [We have] practice in the morning, lifting, practice afterwards, and then lifting [again]. Off-season, [I spend] two to four hours a day

training," he said.

Kaiser takes his role as a student equally as seriously. "He's kept all of the doors open for himself. There's not a school right now that has football that he doesn't qualify for," Doll said.

Kaiser has received offers from a variety of schools, including Vanderbilt, Michigan State, Princeton, and Wyoming.

"He is probably the most recruited football player that New Trier has seen in I don't even know how many years. It's been a long time since someone has been recruited this heavily, and has had this many Division I offers," observed Doll.

Kaiser does not take such an

opportunity for granted.

"College football is something I've been working hard for my entire life. I never thought it was going to come, but when the first school called me, my world stopped. Later, when Northwestern offered, my mom started crying. It was the best feeling in the world," he said.

Kaiser has since committed to Northwestern University.

Junior Jacob Levy, a teammate and longtime friend, recounted, "When we were little, we'd play in his backyard, and he'd always say, 'I want to win the Rose Bowl one day at Northwestern.'"

Kaiser has maintained a grateful and humble attitude despite such

accomplishments.

"Some of these major colleges, like Notre Dame and Iowa have come to see him, and he treats them all the same. It can be a small school that he has no interest in, and he still treats them the same way," Doll said.

According to his coaches and teammates, the respect and kindness that Kaiser shows to others makes him a remarkable leader wherever he goes.

The coaches especially value Kaiser, who often leads by example, as a mentor for younger players.

"He's a great role model for our freshmen and sophomores. He's somebody I hope they emulate, and I hope they take some of the lessons he has taught them," said Doll.

Although Kaiser has proved himself to be an extraordinary athlete, he above all values the work and success of his team.

"He is probably the most recruited football player that New Trier has seen"

"[My favorite thing about football is] the brotherhood that is made with other players. This year in particular, we are a family and that makes it so much better. You're not playing for yourself, because you're on a team," Kaiser said.