

New Trier alumni carry on the Trevian legacy

New class of alumni recognized in the Trevian Hall of Honor

by Michelle Yurovsky

It's has been said that all things in existence are only six degrees of separation from each other.

For Rainn Wilson, Christie Heffner, Donald Rumsfeld, and Rahm Emmanuel there seems to be no connection at all.

After all, how does Wilson, an Emmy award winning actor best known for his role as Dwight Schrute on the popular TV show "The Office" have any connection to a former White House Chief of Staff and current mayor of Chicago Emmanuel?

How does CEO to the "Playboy" empire and business woman Heffner connect to former Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld?

The answer is simple: all these accomplished names graduated the same high school: New Trier.

It seems unthinkable that a high school could boast such a wide range of distinguished alumni.

Despite disparate backgrounds, New Trier continues to inspire young thinkers and artists to follow their dreams.

Some distinguished Trevian alumni include current CEO of Boeing James McNerney (class of 1967), dean of Harvard Law School Martha Minow (class of 1972), three time Pulitzer prize winner Archibald McLeish (attended), and Fallout Boy front man Pete Wentz (attended).

Within the past few years alone, New Trier has sent off musicians, actors, athletes and activists who are already making a name for themselves in the world.

All these household names that grew up in the district help give current Trevians a sense of identity and pride beyond these walls.

Alumni have become an inspiration for young aspiring students, offering guidance and a perspective on life similar to their own.

Senior Jack Klein said "it would be great to hear from Bruce Matthews [NFL Hall of Fame Class of 2007, attended New Trier]. Being a Hall of Fame offensive lineman, I feel like he would have great advice for up-and-coming college football players such as myself."

New Trier's alumni network has helped shape the image of New Trier.

"I think it's cool to know that even though New Trier gets some criticism, this school has a consistent track record of preparing students for the real world," said junior Meg Riordan.



2017 Trevian alumni Hall of Honor inductees (Not pictured: Matthew Polenzani, Cliff Sloan) | newtrierfoundation.org

Today, the alumni network is stronger than ever before. Communication is maintained through the alumni community website. There is also a connection between the school and its alumni through school events, donations, and a directory.

One way that alumni are giving back to the school directly is by visiting the school to speak to students about their experiences, in order to give students a look at life after high school. Last month, two days were

dedicated to accomplished alumni presentations in which speakers came to talk and offer advice to the students sitting in the seats they once did.

A less direct way alumni give back is by providing a network of people throughout the world that covers nearly every job field or profession.

Alumni from New Trier encounter success in the real world, but for those who go above and beyond, the alumni association has come up with a way to honor them through the Alumni Hall of Honor.

Those included in the 2017 Hall of Honor are: Hall "Cap" Adams, Jr. '50, Bill Hohengarten '78, Ann Compton '65, Liz Phair '85, Chris Cox '00, Mark Olsky '62, Shawn Robinson '96, Peter McNitt '72, Walter McDougall '64, Matthew Polenzani '86, Cliff Sloan '75

Though not every New Trier graduate enters this Hall of Honor or become household names, these selected individuals help create a community in which every Trevian can feel a sense of honor and accomplishment.

IGSS faces changes next year

Due to decreasing enrollment, junior and senior IGSS will be combined

by Jessa Snower

Next year, IGSS is changing the structure of their program to fit the smaller enrollment size.

The changes include combining juniors and seniors and there will be no more science included. There will also be three less teachers in the program.

Current IGSS students are excited to have juniors and seniors combined. They have done this multiple times this year and each time they feel it's been a huge success.

Junior Julia Birdsell believes that having juniors and seniors together will be good for the program.

"I think having the juniors and seniors combined next year will really create an intimate atmosphere and I'm excited to get to know the incoming juniors and create relationships with them personally."

IGSS coordinator and English teacher Jeffrey Markham agreed. "IGSS is special because kids who are different ages and who take classes at different levels are in class together all the time."

To IGSS, this change will not be that large or different. The bigger difference will be the size of the program.

The enrollment this year was smaller than last, and the future of the program's curriculum is uncertain. With less people, the program already had to cut the science classes.

Though this will be a big change to the program, there is excitement for what is to come.

Junior Lolly Vassilian says, "While this is a huge change I'm very excited to see what this new and improved IGSS has to offer."

There are currently 78 kids in junior and senior IGSS this year and



IGSS teacher Jeffrey Markham conversing with students in class | NT News

there will be 42 students next year.

Since the program's creation in 2009, there have been fluctuations in class sizes. However, this year is significantly smaller than last.

Although there is some excitement for what is to come for the future of IGSS, some members are upset that there are less people willing to join the program.

"It's sad that not as many people will be able to experience the program. It is an amazing program so it's really sad for me to see it get smaller," Junior Mae Garland said.

Also, without science there will be one less period that the students spend together.

Vassilian went on to say that "the extra period together really helped us all get to know each other and get into the groove of IGSS."

IGSS alum Maddie Murray (16) now attends McGill University, and she believes the reason she got into such a high achieving school was because of IGSS.

She wishes more people would join the program so they, too, could see the benefits of IGSS, both in and outside the classroom. "I feel like if more people understood the value it gives both your transcript and your life in general they'd apply."

IGSS currently meets 6th through 9th period everyday. Within the program this year, juniors take English, social studies and science

and seniors take English, social studies and art.

Next year, the juniors will no longer get credit for science within IGSS.

IGSS stands for Integrated Global Studies School. This mini school within New Trier gives students a small school feel.

Students in IGSS are able to direct their own learning in class, giving them an opportunity to experience a different type of learning.

The program encourages an integrated curriculum that focuses on inquiry-based learning, and students have the option to opt out of letter grades, and receive narratives instead.

"The learning environment allows for the students to focus on what they are interested in, which makes school 10 times better," said Garland.

The program started in the 2009-2010 school year and has evolved over the years, but with the change next year it will be similar to that first school year.

Markham is excited for what is to come, "you can expect some big changes with IGSS over the next few years. We're thinking outside the box in terms of enrollment and subjects—there may even be a name change to signal our new identity."

Bills will determine what's done with SAT scores

This year's SAT will most likely not be influenced by potential Illinois bill

by Claudia Levens

Multiple bills are currently circulating Illinois' congress to decide what to do with the free state administered SAT scores.

In the old Prairie State ACT system, the scores that students received from the state-sponsored test didn't mean anything and though the scores were required to go onto their transcripts there was no indication of when it had to be, so it could be included on the transcript after a student had already been accepted into college.

Now that Illinois has changed to the SAT, the fate of the test scores- including those from Apr. 5- is in contention. The transcript requirement to provided an incentive to take the test seriously and help districts ensure they met their 95% federal testing threshold.

James P. Conroy, Post-High School Counseling department chair, suspects that processing the bills will take a long time and won't effect this year's scores.

One bill sponsored by Sen. Julie Morrison would allow parents the choice to remove the test score from their child's transcript so that students who take the test again on their own can send newer, improved scores to the college of their choice.

State Rep. Scott Drury proposed another bill that removes the transcript requirement while leaving it on the permanent record, which colleges do not see. The bill, proposed on Feb 3, unanimously passed the Illinois House of Representatives March 29 and arrived in the State Senate April 4 for consideration.

In the event that the law does not change and the status quo remains, New Trier will put the score on the transcript after graduation.

"Most students will already know which college they are attending by this time, so the score won't really matter so much," said Kailey Dreyfus an academic and test prep tutor in Highland Park. "However," noted Dreyfus, "if you get deferred, waitlisted, or end up transferring schools, the score may be important."

And despite this, there's no escaping the paranoia of organized suburban parents when it comes to their children's chances of getting into college. A lot of the support for these bills comes from these parents who believe that the status quo prohibits students from having the opportunity to show themselves in the best light by only sending in their best scores.

Seniors Sophie Way and Liz Wei said that students should be able to choose what scores colleges see on transcripts.

Jennifer Wallace, an independent college coach and counselor in Evanston, contends the current transcript requirement doesn't really hurt students applying for college and that the topic is merely a lightning rod for parents' anxiety rather than it's own issue.

The Illinois State Board of Education has not taken a formal stance on any of the bills, but said keeping the state score on transcripts could benefit students who can't afford to retake the test multiple times outside of school.

Conroy noted that SAT waivers are available to students for whom this might be the case, but according to the SAT website, this waiver only covers two tests per person and includes multiple restrictions.