Students care for the community

Mara Kalinoski

On Wednesday, April 25 SUA students, teachers, faculty, and parents visited sites across Toledo to offer their time and effort through volunteering on Day of Caring.

Some of the volunteer opportunities this year included Anne Grady Services, Wildwood Metropark, Josina Lott, Food For Thought, Sunset House, Toledo GROWs, and Rosary Cathedral school.

Katie Eddingfield, a former St. Ursula student, spoke at the brief assembly before the students departed. Her speech focused on the importance of volunteering and the role that it has played in her life during and after college.

One of the high points of the day is the fact that students from each class have the opportunity to work together and bond in an environment other than the classroom.

“Day of Caring is a chance for students and faculty to work together and help others,” said Mr. Shannon, Campus Ministry director.

“It was really cool to see everyone working together, and to see the upperclassmen hanging out with the underclassmen,” said senior Ally Wilkie, whose ALTA helped work on a garden for Food For Thought.

Marissa Fernandez gardened, weeded, and mulched at the Garden Sanctuary along with her ALTA group. “It was amazing to see how grateful the owner of the garden was that we were there and willing to do whatever possible to decrease the amount of work he would have to do later,” said Fernandez. “I thoroughly enjoyed working with my ALTA and talking and getting to know them on a different level,” she added.

Day of Caring is an event that allows students to help a variety of people in situations that are different from their day to day lives. Every site that was visited benefited in some way, and those who were helped expressed appreciation for the work that the SUA community provided. Freshman Emmy Sehmann said, “At the end of Day of Caring all of the people from Josina Lott wanted hugs from us, and it made me feel like I did something great.”

Experiencing new cultures

Abby Papenfus

St. Ursula students said adios and au revoir to the United States and greeted Spain and France over spring break. Members of the French club and AP Spanish five students experienced the French and Spanish culture first-hand.

Both groups agreed that their trips exceeded any expectations they had. “I had seen pictures of the city before, but nothing compared to the way it looked in person,” junior Beth Ann Less, who went to Spain, said.

Juniors Beth Ann Less, Victoria Sidell, and senior Ana LaValley stayed in Barcelona Spain with the Spanish students who visited their homes and SUA earlier in the year.

Sidell shared that food in Spain is very different from food in the United States. “Spanish food is very fresh and rich while our food is more processed,” Sidell said.

Other distinctions between the US and Spain involve school’s atmospheres. “Their classes started at 8 AM and finished at 2 PM with two short breaks, but we didn’t eat lunch until we got home from school,” Less said.

Students from the French trip noticed differences as well. “Driving is crazier over there... It is basically a free-for-all,” sophomore Hailey Arbaugh said. She also added that, “the people also dress up or look good when they leave the house... They all have on nice clothes and are very stylish.”

“The countryside, in France and mostly in Normandy, is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen,” Arbaugh said.
Faceoff: Obama or Romney?

Miranda Ames

He got Osama and has a cute dog to boot, what isn’t to like about President Obama? But on a more serious note, the election is upon us and the choice is clear: re-elect President Obama in 2012.

As an all-girls college preparatory school, women in the workforce should be at the forefront of all of our minds. “Women are half this country and half of its workforce,” said President Obama in a recent speech. Since President Obama took office, women have gained 1,166,000 private sector jobs and make up more of the workforce now than they did in January 2008, before the financial meltdown.

The president has also supported the economic stability and growth of our city and state. Though criticized by some, the action taken by Obama to save the American auto industry has added some 1,000 jobs to the Toledo Chrysler plant alone and more than 210,000 jobs nationally since 2009. While these, and many other improvements, have been taking place domestically, the president has not ignored the US role as a global force. According to a Pew Research Center study, in most parts of the world “opinion of the United States continues to be more favorable than it was in the Bush years,” this is largely due to President Obama.

This generally favorable impression has led to real change, including the signing of the sTART nuclear arms-reduction treaty with Russia, comprehensive international sanctions against Iran, and eliminating more of al-Qaeda’s senior leadership in the last three years than at any time since September 11, 2001.

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The president’s own words, “If you’re willing to stick with me, and fight with me, and press on with me, I promise you we will remind everybody just why it is that America is still the greatest nation on Earth.”

Madeleine Toerne

After three years of “change,” unemployment rate is still between 8 and 9 percent, nearly 24 million Americans are out of work. Our country is still 15 trillion dollars in debt and the median income in America has dropped 10 percent in the last four years (Bureau Labor Statistics). President Obama’s current motto is that, “it could be worse.”

“How dare he try to threaten and intimidate the Supreme Court, how dare he try to infringe on people’s religious beliefs,” Mrs. Coolidge, former SUA English teacher said.

We clearly cannot trust President Obama’s failed policies and broken promises. We are now relying on Mitt Romney’s plans for us and his experience can give us actual hope for the future.

“Romney said his experience at a private equity firm had taught him to look at the raw facts in approaching his work,” CNN reported.

“He has the type of background where he can go out and talk about how to create jobs, how to turn this economy around, how to give American people exactly what they want,” John Boehner, Speaker of the House, said in an interview.

President Obama cannot girl what we want, as students. The White House said Friday the 20th that President Obama would veto a Republican measure passed by the House to extend lower interest rates on federal student loans.

Matt Rhoades, campaign manager for Romney said in a statement: “The Obama campaign is like on one of those gyrating, intermittent lawn sprinklers, spewing out attacks in seemingly random directions, hoping to get somebody wet somewhere but hoping even more to talk about anything but the unemployment rate, federal debt, gas prices, or rising health insurance premiums,” which are exactly the kind of issues Romney can tackle with his successful business background.

In response to Obama’s comment, “it could be worse,” Romney said in his speech in New Hampshire, “this is not what it means to be an American.”

“What defines us as Americans is our unwavering conviction that we know it must be better and that it will be better. That conviction guides our campaign,” Romney proudly pronounced.

Some say Romney is too old-fashioned for today’s America, but if you are going to argue with our Founding Father’s and our constitution, then you might as well flee the country.

“We want to restore America to the founding principles that made this country great,” Romney said.

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The senior class of 2012 is sliding into graduation, summer, and college. But as we descend, I would like to thank every person who made our experience so wonderful: teachers, parents, administrators, faculty, staff, coaches, and friends. Saint Ursula has become our family and while our grades may slip, our appreciation for all you have done for us never will.

- Editor-in-Chief, Miranda Ames

(Jump on the) Bandwagon Brief

|| Kara Mancinotti

Project Anidaso. “While I breathe, I hope.” You may have seen this name pop up on facebook or mentioned around the school hallways. You might associate it with St. John’s Jesuit or Ehab Nazzal. You are probably thinking to yourself: What is Project Anidaso? Founded by St. John’s senior Ehab Nazzal in 2010 with Executive Officer Ahmed Daboul. Project Anidaso, named from the word for “hope” in Twi-Fante, the principal native language of Ghana, main goal is to “reduce the rate of malaria in Ghana through the strategic distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN’s) to families with young children.” In addition to this, they also include “educational initiatives” to the children of Ghana.

Quick Facts about Malaria: It is the 5th leading cause of death from infectious diseases worldwide. 100,000 children die every year from its complications. Ghana is one of the Sub-Saharan countries that has malaria transmission occurring throughout the country at an exorbitant rate.

To ensure that Project Anidaso works effectively for the families, they take many follow up measures. St. John’s Jesuit was the first to kick-start mission collections through the student body by selling Project Anidaso merchandise. In early 2011, a School Council was formed for Project Anidaso, a few student members from SUA, including myself, Dana Killam, Caitlyn Basinski, Madeleine Torne, Mariana Mendle and Nadia Ayad, as well as students from different states across the nation.

They are even partnered with many organizations and universities, most notably the Afya Foundation and TAME Africa, which are both in New York (see website for full list of partners). Today, over 2,000 people are provided with nets.

Anybody interested in helping Project Anidaso should contact Ehab Nazzal at ehab.nazzal12@sjjtitans.org. Also, visit www.facebook.com/projectanidaso, or http://www.projectanidaso.org, to learn more about malaria, Project Anidaso, and ways to donate through a convenient PayPal and online store. The money will go towards purchasing the nets and updating Project Anidaso.

If you have a bandwagon you’d like to persuade people to jump on, send your article, about 350 words, to The Ursuline staff in Room 119.

FISH out of water

|| Ellyn Loss

After two planes and a twenty-one hour flight I was greeted by the warm Australian sunshine and a slew of happy, stereotypical Aussie accents.

Amazed that I was actually driving through the streets of Sydney, Australia, I soaked up everything in sight. The turquoise waves crashing onto the infamous Bondi Beach, the pristine arches of the Sydney Opera House and breathtaking view of the Harbour Bridge, all things are visible from my family’s house where my friends and I were staying for two weeks.

Since my family lives in Sydney my friends and I had the perfect tour guides, my eighteen year old cousin and all of his friends. Whether they were taking us to Sushi Train, a restaurant on the beach where the sushi comes out on a conveyor belt, or out to Soho for the night to go dancing, we got to experience Sydney first hand.

After comparing American and Australian culture with all of our new Aussie friends they had to get over their initial shock and confusion when we tried to explain to them how at home “grinding” (which they had never even heard of) is considered dancing. Dancing is not the only difference. Sometimes when having a conversation with an Australian I would have to start laughing because of the slang that they use.

Typical words spoken by Australians in a casual conversation include: mate, heaps, keen, reckon, jumper (jacket), ciggy (cigarette), devo (devastated), avro (afternoon), kip (nap), fot (photo), and many more. After experiencing the best two weeks of my life I was completely “devo” to go home. I wanted nothing more than to toss my passport in the Sydney Harbor and attend the University of Sydney in the fall.

Unfortunately, I had to return to reality; However, I now have plans to study abroad for a year at the “Uni” of Sydney in my college career. My trip to Australia was genuinely the best experience of my life.
Distance track runners look strong, Alyeska dominates

Miranda Ames
The SUA track team is “young” and “working hard” senior runner Paige Trojanowski said, “the team is mostly freshman right now.”

While the sprinters “got off to a bit of a rough start,” according to Trojanowski they are “showing a lot of progress,” and the distance team looks strong.

With senior Megan David taking 2nd place in the mile at the Bill Kraus Invitational on April 22 and Danielle Szczesniak taking 3rd place in the 3200 meter the team is performing well.

The distance runners aren’t the only ones working up a sweat, the team’s distance coach Theresa Maria recently completed the Medical Mutual Glass City Marathon, which passed Saint Ursula when it took place on April 22.

Trojanowski ran part of the marathon with her coach. “I had to do my workout for the day anyway and I was going to be at school anyway so I figured I’d jump in and surprise her,” Trojanowski said. At the Erme Relays, which took place on April 27, David took first place in the mile. The team’s distance medley relay, consisting of Trojanowski, David, Szczesniak, and freshman Siena Knab, took second place. Senior Alyeska Sturt also “did really well,” David said. She took home first place overall in shot put with her throw at the meet. “The Erme Relays are my favorite meet because we always go out to Gino’s after and eat about 400 calories worth of cinnamon bread,” David said.

Lacrosse rebuilds their team

Mara Kalinoski
The 16 spots on the varsity lacrosse team left by last year’s seniors have been filled up by a promising array of sophomores, juniors, and freshmen, and the main focus of the season is simple: to rebuild the team.

The varsity team this year is made up mainly of juniors and sophomores, with only two returning seniors. Co-captains Becca Joseph and Gabrielle Gum have been helping develop the team into one which works together flawlessly. “It’s fun playing with a completely different team than last year,” said Joseph. The team played Western Reserve last Saturday and ended up with a 12-6 loss. “It’ll be a challenging season, but we’re improving every game,” added Joseph.

Junior Dana Killam, who is on the varsity team for the first time this year, said “the Columbus and Cleveland teams we’re playing have been playing together since fifth or sixth grade while we’ve only had a couple years together.”

Varsity scored a win against rivals Notre Dame on Wednesday, ending 14-4.

Junior varsity lacrosse has been having a strong season, even though the majority of the team are girls new to the sport. Their record is 11-1, with recent wins against Maumee Valley and Notre Dame.

Sophomore McKenna Laney has been playing lacrosse for two years now, and she is one of a small number of returning players.

Both new and old members of the team have been working hard to learn to play with each other and succeed throughout their season. “A major challenge our team has faced is lots and lots of injuries,” said Laney.

Recently, sophomore varsity member Celina Nowicki was selected to play for the National lacrosse team. Out of 43 hopefuls, she was one of 23 girls from Ohio to make the team.
Crew braves weather at first spring regatta

Mara Kalinoski

In spite of rainy weather and canceled races, the crew’s first scrimmage at Zanesville proved to be a promising start to the season.

The regatta took place at a new venue that is being considered for next year’s Midwest championship. The first varsity/JV eight boat placed first in their heat. Two boats, the second varsity eight and the novice eight, placed third in their respective heats.

“Halfway through most of the races got canceled,” said junior Sofie Vermuellen. “Although the weather was miserable, it was a great start to the season,” she added.

There will be three regular season regattas before SUA competes at the Midwest Championships on May 12 and 13. Their next races will be at the Ann Arbor regatta, which will include the first races for the senior doubles.

“We’ve been working hard and the season started out strong,” said junior Beth Ann Less, who rowed at the Zanesville scrimmage. All the members of the crew are looking forward to an intense season and a shot at Nationals this year.

Pressure increases with age

Abby Papenfus

Pressure to be the best at a sport is intense for high school students. Most students begin their careers by playing multiple sports. As competition increases, the number of sports played dwindle. Teenagers go from playing numerous sports to just one in the effort to master an activity they like the best.

Senior Madison Strall played basketball, volleyball, softball, and did cross country when she was younger. “I had to give up playing softball because with all the volleyball and basketball ... there really wasn’t time to play softball in the spring,” she said.

However Strall enjoyed playing softball and admitted it was weird not playing anymore, but she “liked basketball and volleyball better so [she] kept playing those.”

Juniors Brittany Bedford and Adrienne Garner who both played two sports in grade school do not play any sports now. Garner did crew in previous years of high school. “Crew was hard because it was time consuming; I was always tired. In grade school, sports were easy,” she said.

Similarly, senior Hollis Dana played multiple sports in grade school including field hockey, basketball, softball, and she swam in the summer. She now only does crew. Dana justifies only playing one sport, “because some of them weren’t offered here at St. Ursula. After my first year of rowing I realized how big of a time commitment it was, and I wanted to focus on it and be the best I could.”

Going from four sports to one was a change for Dana. “It was hard to see my other friends playing the sports I spent so much time doing, but then I realized how much I enjoyed rowing, and becoming stronger in that made up for it.”

Hopeful despite losses

Emma Miller

Through wind and rain, SUA softball managed to close the gap on Whitmer in one of their “best games of the season” according to senior Danielle Johnston. “It was some of the worst weather we’ve ever played in,” she added. The Arrows weren’t able to pull off a win but brought home 7 runs in the last inning.

Though they have suffered numerous losses this season, the team continues to stay optimistic. They agree that they are best games were played against Whitmer and Clay and that their “weaknesses bring [them] together and help boost [them] up as a team,” Johnston said.

“The biggest thing that the team needs to work on is their consistency. They have a lot of talent, but they need to work on staying focused and mentally in games for the full 7 innings,” Coach Amy Muszynski said.

The team starts the sectional tournament this weekend and the TRAC tournament will follow soon after. “I would like to see the team upset some of the higher seeded teams. I know they have the ability,” Coach Muszynski concluded.
Cyber-bullying:

Feature

Madeleine Toerne

“Every day when I read tweets, people are bullying each other,” senior Liz Toth remarked, “[Twitter] is girls making fun of other girls.”

Verbal and physical abuse are lasting bullying techniques, but with new advancements in technology, access through the internet and other digital technologies has made bullying easier and more prevalent. According to two Pew Internet Project surveys, “Nearly three quarters, 72 percent, of young adults use social network sites.”

“A couple friends got into a fight and starting posting statuses and posting on the girls’ wall,” Hollis Dana, senior, observed about Facebook attacks. “Everyone can get in on it, and it’s less personal. They just keep going and they go too far.”

“Technology fosters a brand new avenue which allows bullies to torture their victims, anytime night or day and takes away the ‘safe place’ from the victim,” Mrs. Martinez, Theology teacher, said.

Cyberbullying is the use of the internet, mobile phones, or other digital technologies to harm others. The reason why bullies utilize technologies is simple.

“You don’t have to see their face. It’s not talking to a person it’s just typing something. If you really hurt them, you don’t know. They could be crying and you don’t know unless they tell you” Lindsay Carr, senior, remarked about cyberbullying.

Adrienne Garner, junior, labeled the type of disposition kids have online when bullying as “invisible courage.”

“Every little bit is going to help,” -Adrienne Garner

“Young ladies in high school today, sad to say, are well acquainted with bullying in varying forms—from technology to the same old ways that have been around since I was a child,” Mrs. Martinez said.

A 2009 study by the United States Department of Justice and Education, ‘Indicators of School Crime and Safety,’ reported that 32 percent of students aged 12 through 18 were bullied in the previous school year. The study reported that 25 percent of the responding public schools indicated that bullying was a daily or weekly problem.

On a national scale, administrators, parents, teachers, and law-makers are working to combat bullying and put an end to the torture of many children.

“Commercials,” Carr stated, she sees “a lot of commercials nowadays.”

Garner and junior Brittany Bedford agreed on seeing commercials and t-shirts which promote bullying awareness. But what is the use of trying to stop bullying in its tracks, if it’s such a lasting issue?

“In order to provide a safe environment at St. Ursula,” Mrs. Huebner, an administrator at SUA, responded.

“Even if it’s not affecting everybody, if you’re saving at least one kid from being bullied, it’s still something that’s going to help,” senior Dana remarked.

“Every little bit is going to help, if it’s
Communities fight 21st century bullying

something we believe in we still have to keep pushing,” Garner said. “[Awareness] could prevent school shootings. It gives people hope who get bullied,” Carr agreed that it’s important that awareness is spread and that bullying is a continued issue on people’s minds.

This is exactly the kind of hope that the documentary “Bully” is trying restore in bullied kids. On Friday the 20th of April the film came to theaters with the motive of sharing stories of students who have been bullied, and parents who are dealing with the tragic consequences that bullying had on their children. On a Sunday afternoon, only eleven people were in the crowd, and only 3 of them were younger than 20, including myself.

“[‘Bully’] will be something parents make younger kids see. The kids that are involved in bullying already have their licenses and a wider variety of social options. It’s highly unlikely,” Dana said about teenagers going to see the film.

Along with the media, lawmakers are fighting to raise awareness about the issue. On December 29, 2006, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, signed a law “prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying,” and expanding “in-service training in child abuse prevention that school districts and community schools must provide.” Toward the end of January this year, Gov. John Kasich signed into law an anti-bullying bill to extend previous anti-bullying regulations by adding cyberbullying.

On a local level, Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) organization held a Victims’ Rights Survivor Night to educate Toledoans about the resources available to them after being attacked or victimized.

“Stand up, stand out, be brave, and most importantly, be you,” -Ruthanne Johnson

Mrs. Huebner said the key to preventing bullying “is developing positive relationships and awareness of the differences among students so they are more...”
Inaugural year brings challenges, rewards

Abby Papenfus

There is a first time for everything, and the middle school can account for this sentiment first-hand. Their year was full of new experiences. Collectively they shared memorable events such as, “meeting new people,” “the wonderful teachers,” and “bonding day,” which was one of many small retreats.

At bonding day, the girls had a scavenger hunt and played with a giant parachute. They also participated in a “sister circle” where they chatted with high school students.

Going from a co-ed to single sex grade school was inevitably very different. “St. Ursula is smaller and the maturity level is higher,” eighth grader Ashley Glanville said. “I really liked the change because I went from Anthony Wayne, a school where 400 students know of you, to a school where 24 students actually know you,” seventh grader Faith Carroll added.

The eighth grade left for their class trip to Boston on April 29 and were there till April 4. Their itinerary included the Freedom Trail Tour, aquarium, Museum of Science, Duck Boat Tour, a literacy at Boston College, and a visit to a sister Ursuline school.

For the rest of the year, the middle school is on the move. Their classrooms for next year are being built and remodeled. Therefore, they will commute to the high school and use available classrooms.

Some days prove puzzling for the girls due to their lack of a set schedule. Without one, at times they do not know where they are going. But because the construction is unavoidable, this change could be looked at as positive. It is a way to practice switching classes as done in high school.

Although this new change was described as “confusing,” “annoying,” and “a work out,” the middle school overall has had an eventful and successful year.