

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS NL'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST

By Gavin Kemery

On the night of January 12, 2016, as a light snow began to dust the streets of Slatington, a very old tradition was taking place inside the auditorium of Northern Lehigh High School.

As parents and spectators filled the auditorium seats, a handful of students were seated center stage under dimmed lights, separated by a table and lectern. Seated on the right were the current members of the National Honor Society, and on the left was the group of new inductees.

To begin the ceremony, everyone recited the pledge, followed by Miss Hock, the National Honor Society adviser, giving a few introductory remarks to welcome all of the event's attendees.

Then, the National Honor Society officers for the 2015-2016 school year were formally installed. Accepting the responsibility of these prestigious positions were Jose Avila (President), Phoebe Thomasco (Vice President), Gavin Kemery (Secretary), Rebecca Blocker (Treasurer), and

Meghan Miller-Brown (Historian).

To begin the induction process, these officers each gave speeches about the guiding principles of the National Honor Society. Jose spoke about the symbolism of the NHS emblem and the purpose of the society,

the inductees and the audience, a candle was lit by one of the officers.

After this portion of the ceremony, the inductees recited the National Honor Society oath in order to pledge themselves to uphold the principles of the organization.



while the other four officers explained the four qualifications required for membership. All current members and those to be inducted must demonstrate scholarship (by maintaining a minimum 3.5 grade point average), service (by volunteering in acts of school and community service), leadership (by taking on roles as a leader), and character (by always acting with integrity) in order to be a part the National Honor Society. After each of these principles was explained to

Each newly-inducted member was then called by name to receive a certificate of acceptance and a card of membership for NHS. Inductees included Wyatt Delans, Sara Hunsicker, Karlyna Kemery, Jennifer Knerr, Shelby Kreglow, Cheyenne Mazzocca, Alexis Merkle, Samantha Olewine, Zachary Rex, Kiera Shellhammer, and Ashley Wilk.

Upon receiving their certificates, the inductees were able to sign the NHS member book of the

Northern Lehigh chapter. This book holds just as much history as this school does itself. Since our school's involvement in the National Honor Society has lasted since the early 1930s, a lot of value and honor is conferred to those who are able to add their names to its pages.

Those who attend this meeting are witnesses to history in the making, as our very own students partake in a tradition older than themselves. At the closing of the ceremony, the students on stage – including last year's members and this year's inductees – were recognized for their involvement in the National Honor Society and their commitment to the school and community.

After the ceremony, as the lights in Northern Lehigh dimmed and the attendees made their way out into the snow, the induction of another generation of Northern Lehigh National Honor Society members came to a conclusion.

Photo Credits: Mrs. Kemery

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Goodbye. 2015!

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF THE LIBRARY

By Erika Algard & Sam Brown

To most, a library is a place of horror. It's a place filled with musty-smelling old books that seem to disintegrate upon being touched, a place where even the slightest whisper sends its very speaker to a horrendous punishment, and a place where they are overseen by a wicked-looking librarian.

However, a group of Northern Lehigh students saw it as a place of relaxation and fun. They realized that they could come chill out on a couch and read or even do their classwork. So, these students decided to break

down the preconceived notions about the library. This group of library-loving students is known as the Library Club. They spend a great deal of time working on getting the word out about the library and making it appeal to a wide array of other students.

The club members, led by President Sam Brown and Vice President Nichole Henritz, would meet every few days to collaborate on possible future events and new, creative ways to raise money. The two more popular events that they

plan are Game Night and, of course, the biannual Book fairs.

Every month, the Library Club holds Game Night. At the event, as the name implies, a multitude of games is brought in and played among the event's participants. The games range from, the classic party games, Operation and Twister, to the more complex Magic and Dungeons and Dragons. To top it off, like any other great social gathering, the event has food!

The club's most effective money raising tech-

nique, Penny Wars, was a great method for the library to earn money.

The game raised \$237.01 for the library, after the Sophomores had their pizza party to celebrate the victory. The rules for the game were as follows: pennies were used to earn your team (meaning grade) positive points. Any other form of currency was viewed as negative points to decrease the other teams' points. As the vicious battle came to an end, the Sophomores took the gold with a total of +227 points. In second place, the Juniors with -1,572

points. Close behind the Juniors were the Freshmen, with a grand total of -1,581. Sadly, the Seniors took fourth place with their score of 2,460. Finally, taking fifth place was the Staff with -2,464 points.

Through the efforts of these passionate students and their awesome advisor, Mrs. Tiedeman, the library is growing into a wonderful place to be. The High School's library will no longer be a place that induces fear among students.

EL CLUB DE ESPAÑOL

By Erika Algard & Meghan Miller-Brown



engaging the entire class with their lessons and made it fun. My students enjoyed learning Spanish from high school students. They really liked singing with the "Feliz Navidad" video!"

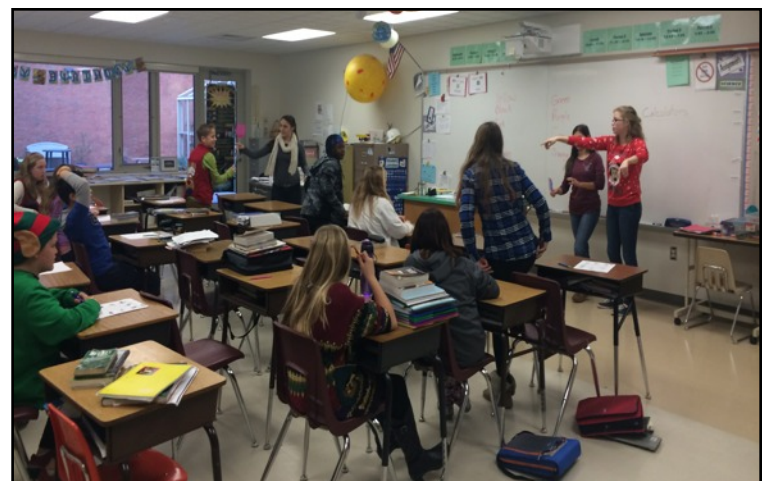
Mrs. Middaugh thanked the Spanish Club students several times for their effort and dedication.

"The kids really enjoyed it. They seemed to pick up and recall all the information very well. It was very impressive! Year after year, I look forward to this. I can't wait to go back in the

spring!" said Senior Meghan Miller-Brown.

The club's president, Senior Erika Algard, also had positive things to say about the experience.

"As President, I must say that this trip was a huge success. Despite the chilly weather we encountered on the way over, many Spanish Club members said that they had an amazing time teaching and interacting with the children. I was quite impressed



On December 18th, the students of Northern Lehigh's Spanish Club got a taste of what it's like to be elementary teachers. Braving the cold, they walked over to Slatington Elementary escorted by their two advisors, Señorita Hill and Señora Eckert, all in an effort to teach grades four through six various Spanish lessons.

Every year, the Spanish Club visits the elementary school to complete this project. Groups consisting of about two to three well-

dressed members create lesson plans, worksheets, and fun activities for a classroom to enjoy. Some of the more popular lessons include colors, numbers, and simple vocabulary.

Club members taught Mrs. Middaugh's fourth grade class all about Christmas vocabulary in Spanish.

"The Spanish Club has been coming to my classroom for the past several years. The students were



with the group of kids Meghan and I instructed, they caught on remarkably fast! I even remember saying to them that they were speaking the language better than both Meghan and I."

Señorita Hill reflects on the journey. "The Spanish Club trip to Slatington Elementary was a huge success. I am very proud of these students for creating their own lessons and executing them so well."

Photo Credits: Señorita Hill

WELCOMING MR. DIETER TO NORTHERN LEHIGH

By Alyssa Hillegas

Even though Mr. Dieter is new to teaching at Northern Lehigh High School, he came here with several years of experience. Prior to joining Northern Lehigh's team of learning support teachers, Mr. Dieter taught at Pocono Mountain School District for six years and at Cen-

ennial School District for two.

When Mr. Dieter was a student at Nazareth High School, he didn't know that he wanted to be a teacher until his history teacher talked him into it. So, Mr. Dieter decided to continue his collegiate education by getting his teaching and

masters degrees from DeSales University and Lehigh University.

He currently teaches English, U.S. History 2 and Social Skills courses. Mr. Dieter is excited to be a new teacher here at Northern Lehigh, especially because "everyone has been nice, welcom-

ing, and helpful," he said.

Whenever he's not at school or doing school work, Mr. Dieter likes to spend time with his children and go to their games and activities.



BIENVENIDA A NUESTRA ESCUELA, SENORITA HILL

By Hannah Kukitz



Señorita Hill is the new Spanish 1, 2, and 3 teacher at Northern Lehigh. Before teaching here, Señorita was a Spanish teacher in the Jim Thorpe School District.

"Growing up, I always wanted to become a teacher, and when I was in

school Spanish was my favorite subject," she said.

Señorita Hill is also the adviser of the Spanish Club because she wanted to be involved in some of the schools extracurricular activities. "So far I love it here at Northern Lehigh. Everyone is very welcoming," she said.

Outside of school, Señorita Hill enjoys traveling and spending time with her English bulldog, Matilda. She has traveled all over Spain enjoying the beautiful sights and perfecting her foreign-language skills so that she is well prepared to teach her stu-

dents. Señorita Hill has also been keeping busy lately with working on planning her upcoming wedding this October.



MRS. VAN NORMAN JOINS THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

By Danielle DeLong

As many students know, switching to a new school can be an overwhelming experience. But have you ever heard about a teacher's experience trying to do that very same thing? I talked to Mrs. Van Norman, who is teaching sophomore, junior, and senior English, about her transition to Northern Lehigh and her past teaching career.

Mrs. Van Norman's first year at Northern Lehigh is actually her twelfth year in the teaching profession. She taught at Owen J. Roberts Middle School for

three years and Lehigh-ton High School for eight years.

But what persuaded Mrs. Van Norman to teach English in the first place?

"I love to read and write," said Mrs. Van Norman. "I always wanted to have great conversations and teach students how to read and write in a way they could understand."

In the beginning of the year, Mrs. Van Norman coached football cheering and has a good personal experience with Northern Lehigh so far,

both in and out of the classroom.

"I love it here, especially, because it's my community. It makes me want to have a more invested effort because my kids go here," she said.

When away from the classroom, Mrs. Van Norman likes running, hanging out with family, and reading whenever she has time.



Photo credits:
Danielle DeLong
Erika Algard
Enchantedlearning.com

ALUMNI DISCUSS LIFE AFTER NLHS

By Meghan Miller-Brown

We all know it is eventually going to happen. After 12 years, we will finally graduate!

But what happens after we do? Where do we go? How do we handle life?

Two former Northern Lehigh students, Samantha Miller-Brown (class of 2014) and Taylor Duplaga (class of 2015), sat down with me to discuss what life is like as Bulldog alumni.

How did you feel immediately following graduation?

“I was sad because a huge chapter in my life had just ended, but I knew a new one was beginning and I was excited.” - Samantha

“I was extremely excited after graduation. Taking college classes my last semester gave me an idea of what college would feel like and I was excited to experience more.” - Taylor

Where are you now, and what is your major?

“I am at Lafayette College, and I am double-majoring in Mathematics and Physics with a concentration in astronomy.” - Samantha

“I am at King’s College studying pre-physician assistant with a minor in neuroscience.” - Taylor

What are some things for which Northern Lehigh really prepared you?

“I was definitely prepared for all the writing that I have to do. AP English (and Honors English in general) was a huge factor in that regard, and I now have a job as a writing tutor. Also, the Dual Enrollment opportunities allowed me to know what was coming my way academically. It also gave me credits coming into Lafayette, and I can now take more classes that interest me.” - Samantha

“Northern Lehigh prepared me to write papers in MLA format because in college, teachers do not have time to teach formatting and expect you to either already know it, or put in extra work by seeing them after class for help.” - Taylor

What are some things that you were definitely not prepared for?

“I was definitely not prepared for the “on your own thing”. I had gotten used to doing things with my family, and when I moved to Lafayette and didn’t have that, I panicked. But luckily, I was able to make that group of friends that you see on TV, kind of like the Golden Girls.” - Samantha

“I was not prepared for the amount of ‘free’ time I actually had. Even though I study most of the time, there are occasions where I truly have nothing to do and feel lost. However, my friends and I try to match our schedules so that we can spend free time together hanging out, which solves the problem most of the time.” - Taylor

Do you miss high school? Why or why not?

“I miss being able to see my high school friends every day. Now that I’m in college, I lost touch with many of them.” - Samantha

“I do not miss high school because my life is far better now than it was before. I am independent and more confident in myself now that I have the freedom to make my own choices. Yes, I do miss my friends from high school, but the ones who are my true friends will never be out of touch.” - Samantha

Do you prefer college or high school? Why?

“Most definitely college. I feel like with college there is more freedom and you get to do more of what you like. I get to choose from a wide variety of classes, making it much easier to take a course I really wanted to take. With high school, there was structure to everything, and while I love structure and organization, it isn’t easy to love something you don’t enjoy. In college, my structure and organization is my own, and it’s much more enjoyable.” - Samantha

I prefer college because I have the freedom to control my life. I get to choose how much work I put into in my classes, what I do after classes, and even little things like where and what I get to eat. While in high school I had to ask or sign out to use the bathroom and occasionally got questioned as to why I was in the hallway. It is nice to now be truly free.” - Taylor



NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO THE RING OF HONOR

By Meghan Miller-Brown

On Friday, January 8th, both present and former bulldogs gathered in the gym for the Ring of Honor ceremony.

We have all seen the banners hanging high around our gym, but do you really know what they are for? Our high school's website says: "The Northern Lehigh Ring of Honor honors individuals and establishes pride and preserves the tradition of the Northern Lehigh athletic program by honoring those who have made a significant contribution to the athletic program. A member of the Athletic Ring of Honor can include an athlete, coach or any other individual who has made a significant contribution to promote Northern Lehigh High School athletics."

Inductees must have graduated or left the athletic program at least ten years prior to the selection in order to be considered.

Each inductee is honored with a ring of honor plaque and a banner that will be displayed on the gym wall.

This year, three different banners were added to the Ring of Honor wall.

Bob Sutjak, NL graduate of 2004, was an essential member to both the football and track and field teams. During his track career here, he set numerous records and

even claimed the Colonial League Title in three different events in 2004.

Robert Kern coached

The 1996 Lady Dawgs Softball Team set the record of 26 wins, with only four losses. They claimed the District XI

AA Championships, PIAA State Championships, and were given the honor of Morning Call Co-Team of the Year.

Mrs. Chruscial was a member of the 1996 softball team, and was inducted into the Ring of Honor along with the rest of her teammates and coaches.

"It was an absolute honor to be inducted into the Ring of Honor for winning the softball

state championship back in 1996. Our team got to that championship by working hard each and every day and by having strong team unity. We loved playing together and had so much fun together. All of that came back to me when we got together that night before the induction. I truly am a Bulldog at heart and am so happy to be here working and giving back to the community," Mrs. Chruscial said.

It was a special night for the inductees, as everyone received the special recognition that their hard work and accomplishments deserve for having contributed to Northern Lehigh athletics.



the bulldog's wrestling team from 1980 to 1995. He led the dawgs into a top-ten spot in the state six times, coached three state-champion wrestlers, had four state runner-ups. In 1986, he was named District XI 2 Coach of the Year.

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STANDARDIZED TESTS OVERWHELM STUDENTS

By Sara Hunsicker

Common Core. Keystone tests. SATs. It seems as if these scores define us as students. After all, standardized testing seems to be controlling our education. But for what purpose? I believe that these tests have negative several negative impacts on the education we receive today.

The truth is, standardized testing is an inappropriate measure of students' performance in school. Instead of focus-

ing on educating their students through individualized curricula, teachers are forced to teach a common curriculum that is often too rigorous for students in that grade level. And it seems no one is happy about it.

Our education is consumed with test preparation and remediation. So why should these tests or standards, if they are inaccurate, determine whether or not a student can graduate? Why should these tests jeopard-

dize a student's future? And why are they taking over our education?

The simple truth is that the standards put in place by the Common Core are based on ideal situations and the educational aspirations of people and districts that have sufficient funding and students already ahead of the learning curve.

The issue of standardized testing extends beyond grade school, however. The SAT test

determines what colleges students can get into and the scholarships for which they can qualify. Coming from a student who has taken the SATs many times, I know that the SAT doesn't test what I know or what I've learned, but that colleges will put a heavy emphasis on my performance anyway. And yet, some studies show that SATs have no impact on students' success in college.

Let's face the facts.

Answering test questions correctly is no substitute for hard work. The Common Core standards don't define us as students, and they don't determine our success in high school, in college, or in life. Because the reality is that kids aren't common. They're diverse and unique. And as Americans, we should be working toward an education system that is individualized and personalized.

DOG DISH BRIGHTENS NL'S MORNINGS

By Andy Snyder & Tyler Roth

Everyone knows that the start of the day would not be complete without watching the *Dog Dish Morning Show*. We recently took a trip to the studio and learned what it takes to put together a show that is both informative and entertaining.

We spoke with some of the students who work on the show as well as Mr. Kern and Mr. Bennett, who have been in charge of the *Dog Dish* since the fall of 2012, making this their fourth year or "Season Four" of the show. Mr. Kern told us that "between the two of us, we make a great team" and that Mr. Bennett "is the technical side of the show and I am the aesthetics/design side of things."

Together, this dynamic duo "makes sure that all of the equipment is hooked up and functioning properly and it's my job to make things look

'cool,'" Mr. Kern explained.

When asked what goes into creating a successful show, Mr. Kern told us that seven students, on-screen and off, need to work together to create a well-run show.

Producing the show becomes difficult when errors are made, and because the show is live the mistakes cannot be fixed. Mr. Kern says that "the live broadcast aspect of the show can make for a very stressful situation, but it can also be very spontaneous and a lot of fun."

He also said that "We may not always love each other at seven in the morning, but I think the fact that we all need to work together creates a special bond among the crew. The *Dog Dish* has been such a fun part of my job and I hope that it provides our crew with educational and enjoyable memories that will

be somehow beneficial in their future pursuits."

The *Dog Dish* is always catching our attention with outstanding special effects and different episode themes like *Back to the Future Day* and the *Star Wars Celebration* with their featured guest: Yoda!

Of course, a student morning show would not be possible without the dedication of the Northern Lehigh students who make a functioning show possible. During our trip to the studio we were given the opportunity to get a student's perspective on what it is like anchoring and making a show suitable to air.

Senior Austin Lancsak said that he believed the most important element that goes into creating a successful show is the goofiness and humor you can add to make the show more unique.

Junior Sara Hunsicker wholeheartedly agreed that each show is unique

because of all the different components that need to work in sync. For example she said that the graphics, sound, prompt, and anchors need to all be able to work together and communicate. Depending on the time of year and the activities happening in and around the school, more segments are added, providing more challenges and opportunities to work on creating a morning show.

One of the main segments is *Sports Bite*, a segment that showcases Northern Lehigh athletics. Other segments such as *Small Talk*, and *Word From the Halls* interview faculty and students about their thoughts and opinions on current events and interesting topics.

Austin and Sara were also kind enough to explain what got them interested in the ever-changing world of

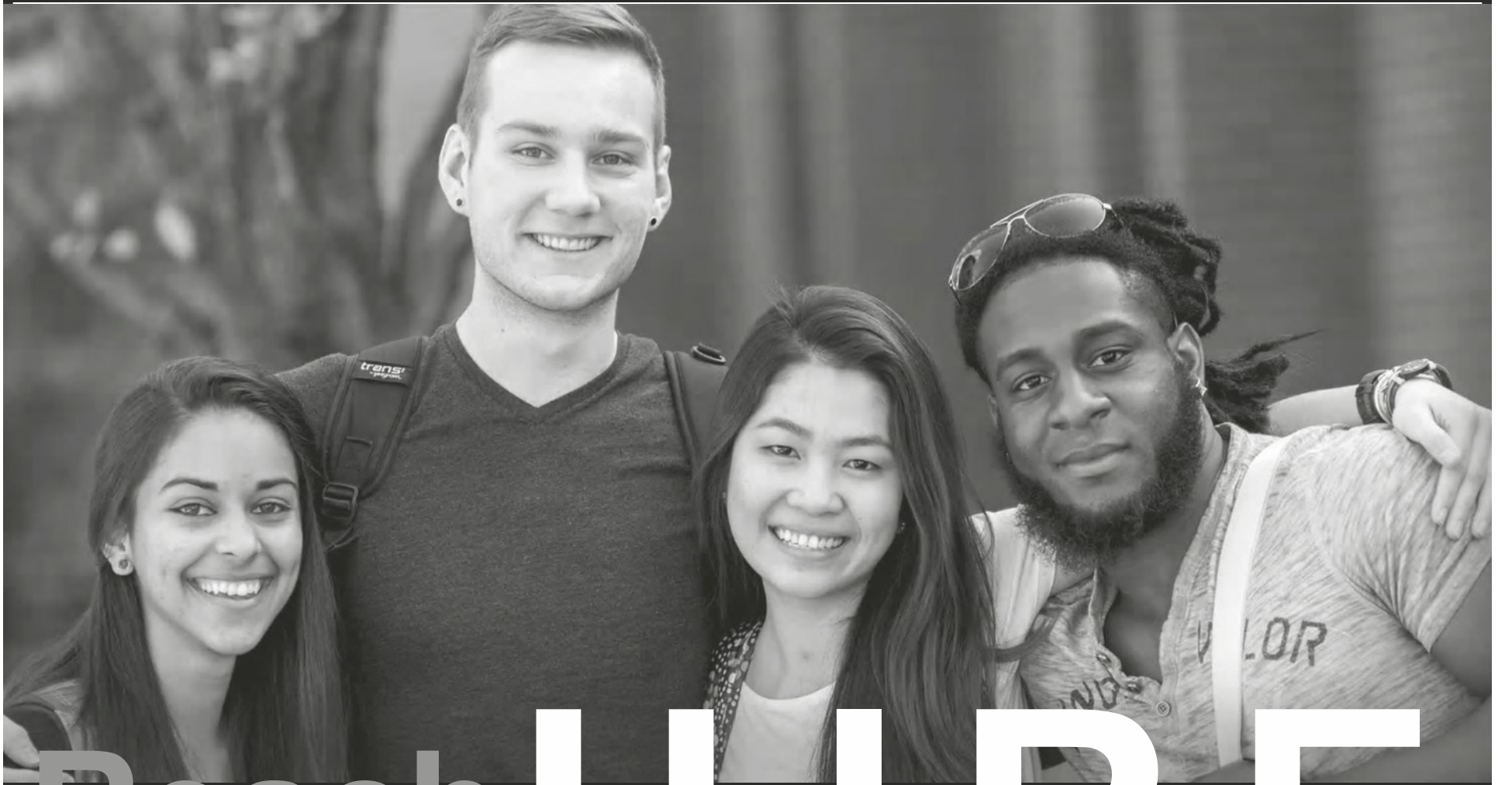
broadcasting. Austin Lancsak became involved because he may possibly want to pursue a job in this field in the future. He was also curious as to the secrets of television and how the job gets done behind the scenes, as we all have wondered at one time or another.

Sara Hunsicker said that her reason for joining was because she wanted to get a behind the scenes look at all of the aspects of producing and putting on the show.

Thanks to these students and teachers who make *Dog Dish Morning Show* possible, everyone's morning is just a little bit brighter.



Photo credits: Mr. Kern



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GOODBYE, 2015!

Compiled by Erika Algard, Noah Freudenberger, and Meghan Miller-Brown



The U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage on June 26th, 2015.

2

The seventh movie in the Star Wars saga was released on December 18th, 2015.



0



Star Trek star Leonard Nimoy dies at age 83 on February 27th, 2015.

1

Taylor Swift rises even further in fame with her 1989 World Tour.



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