

the slate



CHARLOTTE'S WEB WOWS AUDIENCES

By Andrea Snyder

Charlotte's Web was the most recent play added to the repertory of the Northern Lehigh Little Theater. Everyone who was involved dedicated much time and effort to create what became – for both them and the audience—a much-loved production of the well-known story from E.B. White.

Prior to opening night, the cast and crew put in long hours to ensure that every aspect of the play – from the acting to the props and scenery – was at its best. It took months to create the perfect setting and build a tremendous barn that actually opened like a storybook to reveal the action taking place on the Zuckerman farm.

The play stayed true to the storyline of E.B. White's wildly popular 1952 novel of the same name, following the tale of a little pig named Wilbur as he grows up and learns how to deal with everyday struggles through the help of his animal friends. Charlotte, a spider who befriends Wilbur, turns out to be the one who impacts his life in the most significant way.

At the beginning of the play, Wilbur is faced with the threat of being turned into bacon or ham, so Charlotte devises a plan to save him by writing words

in her web that cause people to take an interest in him. Spectators begin to fall in love with the "terrific," "radiant," and "humble" pig (as Charlotte describes him in her webs) and his life becomes secure when he wins a medal at the county



fair. Thanks to Charlotte's work, everyone is sure that Wilbur is much more than just "some pig."

By this time, however, Charlotte grows weak and cannot return to the barn with Wilbur. Though he could not save her, with the help of Templeton, a lively and vivacious rat, Wilbur takes her children back home where they can grow up safely on the Zuckerman farm.

To bring this story to life, Northern Lehigh's Little Theater called upon its talented cast and crew members. Jenna Zarkoski, Andrea Snyder, and James Yoder played Wilbur, Charlotte, and Templeton, respectively, and were supported by a large cast of other students in the roles of

various farm animals, crowd folk, and narrators.

Cassie Zaleski, a senior who portrayed the Gander, explained that having such a large group of actors in this wide variety of roles made being in *Charlotte's Web* a unique experience. "It was such a great show to be a part of because of how big the cast was. Every single one of us had a part that really contributed to the show even if it was one or two lines, or rearranging the set on stage," Zaleski said.

Of the hard work leading up to the production, leading lady Jenna Zarkoski, said that "the hours and hours put in make it all worth it" and that she hopes to see more people get involved in the fun for next year's presentation.

Zaleski also spoke positively of the Northern Lehigh theater experience as a whole. "You'll meet and work with people you've never spoken to before, and then there's just a magical theatre friendship that will always be there. I would suggest joining theatre to anyone because it's truly one of the greatest kinds of family you could have in high school, and through my years of being a part of the pit and cast, I've come to realize that that family will always be there, and that's a really nice thing to have."

The enthusiasm of the cast and crew carried over into the audience's reception of the play, as most everyone left the theater happy to have seen such a spectacular rendition of one of their favorite childhood stories brought to life. Everyone's enjoyment of the play was evident, as the cast spent a long time after the curtain signing autographs and taking pictures.

Mr. Shuey, the play's director, has been at the helm of the Northern Lehigh Theater for the past eight years, with *Charlotte's Web* being his 15th show. Without his guidance – and without the teamwork of the cast, stage crew, art crew, and technical crew, this year's successful production would not have been possible. The theater hopes to be able to replicate this success in the spring. This year's musical will be *Legally Blonde*, which is based on the hit movie about a college-bound, love-struck woman who strives for her ex-boyfriend's approval but realizes there are more important things in life.



What's Inside?

Science Club

Scholastic Scrimmage

Cross Country

Biggs & Littles

Stamps for Soldiers

Debate Team

Wrestling

Community College Debates

Welcome, Mrs. Meyers

LCTI

Powder Puff

CLEANING UP SLATINGTON'S NATURE

By Sara Hunsicker

The Science Club makes great use of its time during Bulldog Block by focusing on bettering the environment and encouraging students to love science. Its members have truly stepped up and made a difference in our local community.

Every day 6, a large group of students goes outside to fix up the nature trail or work in the garden. Science Club president Maddie

Ligenza says she's thrilled to see how many students are enthusiastic about taking care of the environment. "At the beginning of the year, we had overgrowth on the nature trail, but now, thanks to the hard work of the Science Club, the trail is ready to serve as a helpful tool for science classes at Northern Lehigh," she stated. "We're making a difference and we're having fun."

What makes the club great is the support that the students get from the science department. "Mrs. Cinicola, Mrs. Everett, and Mrs. Leslie give us creative ideas about how we can help out the environment and encourage students to take action. We're not sitting around during Bulldog Block. We're outside fixing the garden," Science Club member Wyatt Delans said.

This unique Bulldog Block has about 50 members, and it hopes to continue growing. "We have an Instagram account so even if you aren't in the club you can see what we're doing," Maddie Ligenza said. In the future, the club hopes to increase its number and continue to focus on encouraging students to enjoy the outdoors while helping to preserve it.



Photo Credits:
Science Club
Instagram

NORTHERN LEHIGH DISPLAYS RAPID RECALL SKILLS

By Meghan Miller-Brown

"What famous genetic scientist did experiments on pea plants?" "What is the only fish that has the ability to grab objects with its tail?"

Rapid recall of questions such as these are what Northern Lehigh's Scholastic Scrimmage team is all about. Consisting of four members, this group of elite students travel to the PBS Station in Bethlehem to compete against nearby high schools in the Scholastic Scrimmage Competition.

This year, four seniors represented Northern Lehigh. Led by adviser Mr.

Lehtonen, Captain Noah Freudenberger, Zach Rex, Meghan Miller-Brown, and

Erika Algard traveled to the T.V. studio on October 29th



to compete against Devon Prep High School

The competition was fierce. The bulldogs started strong, pulling ahead by over 20 points. Although the dawgs never gave up, they were eventually conquered by their opponents.

Captain Noah Freudenberger reflected on his time with the team. "I really enjoyed my time with the Scholastic Scrimmage team, and I am sad that we couldn't prevail. For next year, my advice for the team is to practice as much as you can. Personally, I feel like we

might have been able to pull through with a win if we had more preparation. Overall, though, it was definitely a great experience."

Although the bulldogs did not bring home a victory this time, they still defended the pride and diligence that define the students of Northern Lehigh High School, and look forward to competing successfully in the future.

Photo Credits:
Mr. Lehtonen

THE BULLDOGS RUN TOWARDS VICTORY

By Gavin Kemery

The Bulldogs cross country team did not run this year – from anyone, that is. Northern Lehigh, although lacking a bit in numbers, was sure to show up to every meet with an enthusiastic mindset that set the team apart from its competitors.

"Teams come into meets expecting a fight from us. We don't make wins easy for teams to get," said Gavin Kemery, a senior runner.

The boys held true to this statement, taking on the strong Palmerton and Northwestern teams this year and emerging as the victor. "It feels great to beat

teams like this because we know that they want to beat us as badly as we want to beat them. Beating them gives us extra confidence going into the next time we face off against them," said Nathan Keller, a freshman who helped the boys clinch a .500 record for the season.

The success of the boys' season was closely mirrored by the girls, who also managed to pick up a few key wins. "It feels good to win meets. It's all for the team," said Katie Guelcher, whose wonderful first season as a freshman

contributed to the team's success.

This season had many highlights, including Gavin Kemery picking up a few medals by placing at league and district meets. Gavin qualified to run the state cross country meet at Hershey, while T.J Dooley just fell shy of two places with a very good effort. Gavin finished 54th out of 225 runners, finishing second best out of the District XI qualifiers.

Success on the girls' side really shined through freshman Katie Guelcher, who despite being a first-

year varsity member, has made her way to the head of the pack. Her hard work and dedication paid off as her times decreased at each consecutive meet.

Other promising talents following in Katie's footsteps are upcoming runners Alison Lorah, Raegan Pender, Preston Kemery, Nathan Keller, Kyle Kremposky, and Hunter Haas, who have proven themselves to be worth watching next season.

The girls and boys both have very young teams with great potential. "We're really going to be hurting

with upper classmen next year, but I'm confident that we have some strong individuals who will make for good leaders," reassured Coach Oertner. A stronger, more experienced cross country team is expected for the years to come, even with the loss of some of the veteran runners.



Photo Credits:
lehighvalleylive.com

HIGH SCHOOL 'BIGS' INFLUENCE 'LITTLES' AT PETERS

By Tyler Roth

Positive role models are necessary in every child's life to help them grow and develop. Bigs and Littles is a program that offers elementary school students a chance to have that positive role model in their lives starting at a crucial age.

High school students act as the program's "Bigs," who help the younger students, or "Littles," in a variety of ways. Many Bigs assist the Littles with homework assignments and

other academically-related tasks, while others help the children think about and work out social issues. These types of guidance can greatly influence and benefit the Littles' lives both in and out of the classroom.

Miss Zeiser, the club's adviser, is very enthusiastic about the student involvement in the program at both the high school and elementary school level. "The most valuable part about being a Big to an elementary student," Miss

Zeiser said, "is being someone who the kids can look up to and count on. For the high school students, I think that it teaches them compassion, responsibility, and putting another person's needs ahead of their own. For the elementary students, it gives them the opportunity to work one on one with a high school student who serves as a role model to them."

Junior Jessica Evans is one of 17 current volunteers who are trying to make an impact on the Littles' lives. "I signed up for Bigs and Littles because I like to work with younger kids and gradually see them grow as individuals," Jessica explained. When asked about her favorite part of being involved, Jessica said that the Littles' appreciation for what she and other Bigs do makes her want to keep helping out.



"My favorite thing about the program is seeing the Littles walk in the gym with smiles on their faces. It proves how much they look forward to seeing their Big," she said.

The Bigs also plan events to help encourage physical activity in Littles, such as a Bigs versus Littles kickball game. According to sophomore Blake Schuck, this is one of the highlights

of the program, in addition to "getting to bond with your little so you can see the similarities between the two of you."

In the spring, signups will take place for a second session of Bigs and Littles. Anyone who is interested in this worthwhile and rewarding program can sign up some time in January or February.



NL STUDENTS SEND HOLIDAY CHEER OVERSEAS

By Gavin Kemery

November 11th is a date that sticks out on any calendar. Veterans Day is celebrated

across the nation to honor the men and women who have served our country.

This holiday has special meaning not only for our armed forces, but also for every American who enjoys the freedom for which they have fought.

Veterans have dedicated their lives to preserving our freedom and national identity. This year, two groups of Northern Lehigh students worked together to acknowledge the

servicemen and women's sacrifices. Mrs. Ahner's class and the student council



collaborated on a project in the weeks leading up to Veterans Day to give back to those who give so much to us as Americans.

The two groups raised stamps to go along with cards that were shipped to soldiers who are away from their families and friends.

Joshayah Harris, a big advocate of this mission, said about the project: "These cards are for the soldiers who can't see their parents and family members. I hope they get to see their families soon."

The card packages were sent to places where the materials to write home aren't easy to obtain. Unlike the town of Slatington, war zones and encampments don't always have an accessible post office. The mission of Mrs. Ahner's students and student council was to attempt to fill this hole in the soldiers' lives by providing them with the opportunity to stay in touch with their loved ones.

"This project allows us to commemorate Veterans Day along with the servicemen and women currently serving and making daily sacrifices for our freedoms," explained Mrs. Ahner.

In total, the groups have assembled a remarkable 345 card packages. The project was able to honor 115 men and women who are serving our country by giving them something that truly does hold value. A simple letter or message to someone can go a long way, especially when the ones to whom you're writing are concerned about your fate.

"I have had the honor to experience this first-hand by having a son in the Army, and can attest to the fact that family members receiving mail from their soldiers is just as important as soldiers receiving mail from home," said Mrs. Ahner.



Mrs. Ahner's class and student council, by working together, have succeeded in making a difference in this world. It is important to note that they are giving back to a group that has given us so much. Thank you to all who have served!

Photo Credits: Gavin Kemery and Mrs. Ahner

THE DEBATE CLUB COMPETES IN A BATTLE OF WITS

By Erika Algard



Here at Northern Lehigh, the Debate Club is in a league all its own. Debate is a group composed of students who can so thoroughly argue a point that they can convince you to believe the sky is green, even when you clearly know it's blue. Or, as Senior Zachary Ohlson said, "Debate is an intellectual duel to see who has the more dominant brain."

Being able to persuade and dissuade people into believing various concepts is not all that goes into a debate. A standard debate lasts roughly forty-five

minutes and could be compared to combat. Each side has its soldiers, the four team members, who are well-trained, informed on their topics, and ready to add another victory to their belts.

The first soldier to enter the battle is the First Affirmative Speaker. It is his or her job to recognize the proposed argument and establish a clear-cut resolve for why his or her stance on the issue is correct. Once this person has finished the speech within the timeframe of 4:45-5:15 minutes, the opposing team sends up its counterstrike: the Questioner. The Questioner's job is to manipulate the Speaker into saying or agreeing with something that goes against his or her speech, all in two and a half minutes.

Next, the opposing team sends forth its first speaker into the skirmish. This person is called the Negative Speaker, as he or she seeks to negate the affirmative team's proposition in order to show why opposite viewpoint should be taken. After the Negative Speaker has finished, he or she is cross examined by the Affirmative team's Questioner.

This process repeats once more for each team. Once both the Second Affirmative and Second Negative Speakers have been cross examined, there is a five minute recess. This recess acts as a rallying time for the teams before each side presents its rebuttal. The Rebuttalist for each team acts as the last ditch effort to dissuade the audience from believing the opposing team's side and to summarize his or her own team's argument.

Due to this strenuous battle of wits, Northern Lehigh's Debate Team must thoroughly prepare themselves for each debate. They

meet every week during Bulldog Block to discuss their strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, a day or so before each debate, the team meets after school for roughly two hours to practice. The Debate adviser, Mrs. Leslie, says she is very proud of the team's "can do" attitude.

Thus far, their efforts have paid off well for the Junior Varsity team. The JV team won both of their

rounds in the last competition on November 18th at Catasauqua. Even though the Varsity team competed well, they were unable to gain the victory. However, Junior David "DJ" Custer has an answer for why they lost: "I can't win debates because the reasons why I'm right are too complex for my opponent to understand."



Photo Credits: Erika Algard

NORTHERN LEHIGH WRESTLERS TAKE THE MAT

By Jaclyn Hollenbach

This season is a rebuilding year for the wrestling team. Many crucial team members graduated in June, but key returning seniors Matt Schmall, Cameron Kates, and Colton Rex are expected to step up and fill their roles.

Matt Schmall said he and the team are setting the bar high, expecting to make a district final appearance once again. Last year's season was a great one for the Bulldogs, as they accomplished even more than they anticipated. "We got to participate in states at Hershey. It was a stepping stone and provided good experience," Coach Snyder said.

Matt Schmall said he and the team are setting the bar high, expecting to make a

district final appearance once again.

"I hope we can build on what we did last season. Just escape the skin diseases and injuries that every team encounters. It's a good group and they have great attitudes. The quote we have in the wrestling room really stands out to me: 'Play like a champion today.'" Coach Snyder said.

The team is looking forward to taking on its two biggest rivals this season: Northwestern and Saucon Valley. The team is confident that if the returning members and new members work together – and practice and play like champions every day – that they will have another fantastic season.



Photo Credits: Jaclyn Hollenbach and tnonline.com

TAKING A STAND ON FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Rose Quigley and Carmen Alvaro,, respectively

People don't like paying taxes, and they certainly don't like when their taxes increase. This is why most people are against the proposal that community college should be "free" for everyone. But is it really free? The money to pay for it has to come from somewhere, and that somewhere is our government's funds given by taxpaying citizens.

President Obama and several other prominent Democrats support a plan to make community college free. It is estimated that \$60 billion over the course of the next ten years will be needed to fund such a program, with the federal government contributing most of the money, and individual states contributing about 25% of the costs.

Many states will not be able to come up with this amount of money, and to force states to reevaluate their budgets is unfair. To pay for the free college, the states would either have to cut funding from other programs or raise taxes, neither of which is a good option.

The price of Obama's plan could also exceed the \$60 billion estimate due to the increasing price of college. From 2004 to 2010, the price of community college increased by 9%. But from 2010 to 2015, the price increased by 18%. Therefore, the cost of college is unlikely to stop rising at this ever-increasing rate, which means that taxpayers will continually be asked to pay more.

Because more people will be going to community college, many buildings will

become overcrowded. States will be forced to use even more funds to not only send more students to school, but also to build new colleges or expand existing ones to meet the demands of a larger enrollment. Also, because classes will fill up more quickly, students may not be able to take the courses that they need. More faculty will have to be hired, yet again driving up the cost.

Additionally, many people will be using the free community college to the value of a college degree has been decreasing. In 1973, bachelor's degrees were rare. Only 43% of high school graduates attended college compared to today's 68%. Since college degrees are more common, the value will decrease. Employers will want higher degrees and more work experience. According to Census

Bureau data, a professional certification is more useful than an associate's degree. This means that graduates may not be able to get a job with their degree. Unemployment among recent graduates is at an all time high of 10.6%.

And while more students will be graduating, many will still be dropping out. Only about 39% of students graduate within six years. A quarter of students who attend in the fall don't return for the spring. The proposed plan states that the students will need to maintain a 2.5 GPA and take classes to work towards a college degree. They do not have to graduate. Money will be wasted on students who do not graduate.

Also, there will be negative effects on four year colleges. More students will go to community colleges

for their first two years and then transfer to a university. Due to the decrease in students, four year institutions will lose money. And although 80% of students say they want a bachelor's degree, only 20% of those students transfer to a four year college. Four year institutions will be hurt by free community college.

Pell grants are also available to the students who really need free community college. Low income students can get up to \$5,775 to pay for tuition. The average tuition for community college is \$3,000. Students can then use the remaining money to pay for books and other expenses.

Although free community college is very appealing, there are many flaws in its plan.

If the government makes community college free, there is no doubt that everyone would benefit. The United States' population as a whole will become more educated, and it could lead to a better economic situation for everyone.

In 2018, about 63% of jobs will require some kind of degree beyond a high school diploma. Therefore, people who can't afford to go to college will have their job options greatly limited. On average, someone with a bachelor's degree earns \$1 million more over the course of his or her lifetime than someone with either a high school diploma or GED, or someone who didn't complete high school. People who cannot afford to go to college should not be forced into a lower-paying job.

The argument that Pell Grants can pay for the students who need free community college can easily be argued against. Pell Grants are grants (i.e. money that doesn't have to

be paid back) given by the government to low-income students to use toward their college tuition. However, there are many students who are just above the income threshold who cannot get Pell Grants, but still do not have the money to go to college.

Also, the scholarships and grants available are not plentiful enough. Not everyone can receive them, which prevents those people from having access to an education. And although community colleges have high dropout rates, the majority of those dropouts are due to not having enough money to afford college. Free community college will help those who could not afford college before.

Although raising taxes to fund free community college would be unavoidable, there are ways that those increases could be felt less by the general taxpaying base. Tennessee has already started to offer tuition-free community college under a plan called

the Tennessee Promise. The state is using lottery reserves to cover part of the tuition price tag, and the program has already proven to be successful.

Approximately fifty thousand first-time freshmen enrolled this year compared to last year's forty-six thousand. 75% of those now attending Tennessee's community colleges are part of the Tennessee Promise program.

Oregon is trying to follow in Tennessee's footsteps, as it looks to be the second state trying to implement a system for providing students with free community college. The cost to implement and fund this endeavor is \$60 billion over a ten-year time span. The state itself will have to pay for 25% of this plan, and the federal government will assume some of the costs.

Still, many worry that the average American will be burdened with paying for students to have a college education that is funded by

the government. However, many believe that this fear is misguided, because if the government can try to eliminate economic loopholes for wealthy investors, the money gained from that would be used towards college funding.

Free community college may also help increase the enrollment at four-year colleges. The advantage of not having to pay for two years of community college is that students will be able to save more money. With those savings, many would be able to transfer to a four-year institution. On average, transfers from community colleges do better academically than those who go to four-year colleges directly from high school.

It's important to remember that students will actually have to work to receive the free tuition – it won't just be handed out to anyone who wants it. It will be required that students maintain a 2.5 GPA in order to remain eligible. They must also be enrolled at least half-time and be

making steady progress towards their degree.

Community colleges must also help students get transfer credits if the students wish to go to a four-year college after their first two years. Additionally, the community colleges have to adopt evidence-based reforms to improve student outcomes. The result is that only the students who work hard and make academic progress will be able to continue with a free education. Money would not be given to students who are failing.

Free community college is what this country needs to get back on track educationally and economically. Those who benefit are not just the students, but their families and eventual employers. Overall, a nationwide program for government-funded community college for hard-working students will improve many aspects of our society, and should be implemented as soon as possible.

WELCOMING MRS. MEYERS TO THE DAWG POUND

By Hannah Kukitz

Although Mrs. Meyers is new to the Northern Lehigh faculty, she is not new to the school. A recent graduate of Northern Lehigh, Mrs. Meyers joins several of her colleagues in the science department who were once her teachers, including Mrs. Everett, Mr. Oertner, and Mrs. Leslie. “I have the yearbooks in my room to prove it!” Mrs. Meyers said.

After leaving Northern Lehigh, Mrs. Meyers went on to study at Cedar Crest College, where she earned her degree by completing dual majors in chemistry and secondary education. She is using that knowledge

to teach courses this semester in integrated science, honors physics 1, and academic physics 1.

Mrs. Meyers has always been focused on pursuing a career in education. “Ever since I could remember, I was passionate about science. In high school, I fell in love with chemistry and physics.”

However, she was concerned about the fact that a lot of people seemed confused about her career



told others about my goal of becoming a chemistry or physics teacher, the usual response was disgust. “That was my least favorite subject—the teacher was horrible!”

My goal is to make chemistry and physics less terrifying subjects for students to master and enjoy learning about.” Mrs. Meyers genuinely loves what she teaches, and is dedicated to making her subjects more fun, engaging, and easier to understand.

Before settling in here at Northern Lehigh, Mrs. Meyers got some teaching experience at Orefield Middle School, Brandywine

Heights High School and Parkland High School. However, she is excited to be back at her alma mater. “I love the school as a whole. There aren’t many places where the students and staff are so supportive of one another,” she said.

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Meyers has gotten involved with student life by becoming one of the co-advisers of the class of 2019. Outside of school, she and her husband are involved in their church youth group. Mrs. Meyers also loves antiques and crafts. “Put me in a flea market and I will be happy!” she said.

BUILDING A CAREER AT LCTI

By Alexis Handwerk



Have you decided what you want to do with your life? Do you know the direction you want to head in after you say goodbye to Northern Lehigh? If not, you may want to consider seeing what the Lehigh Carbon Technical Institute has to offer. At LCTI, students are given access to and instruction in a wide variety of marketable skills and trades that prepare them to enter the workforce after graduation.

Having taken courses there myself, I promise that making the decision to go to LCTI is a good one if you’re interested in getting ready for the post-high-school world. When I first came to Northern Lehigh, I had no clue what I wanted to do with my life. However,

during my sophomore year, I heard announcement made about LCTI and received a few pamphlets about taking a tour of the campus.

I decided it couldn’t hurt to take a visit and see what the school offered. I expected it to be different than a traditional high school like Northern Lehigh, but when I got there, I saw how many different labs there were – from business and marketing to dentistry and computer science – that it opened up my eyes to a whole new world of possibilities.

The choices were overwhelming at first, and I didn’t just want to choose one thing to learn about. I was scared that if I picked

one thing to specialize in without giving other things a try, that I would be stuck in a job that I don’t like every day until retirement.

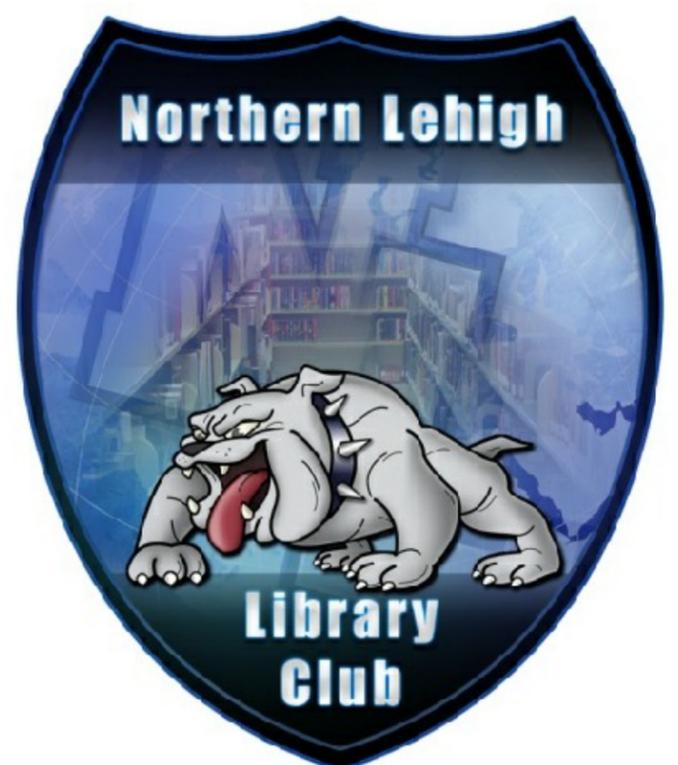
Luckily, at LCTI they let everyone try several classes that are offered before having to make a final decision on what to do. Students get to go through three different rotations, each of which is about 2-3 weeks of experience. After the rotations, students have the ability to choose a more focused path and course of study.

Since enrolling in LCTI, I have gotten to take several fun (but educational) trips to colleges, go to tournaments with DECA through business and marketing classes, receive chances to win school supplies such as books and iPads, and have the opportunity to earn credits towards college. I have also had the opportunity to learn things that I wouldn’t normally be able to until college. The skills and knowledge I acquire at LCTI put me ahead of all the other people

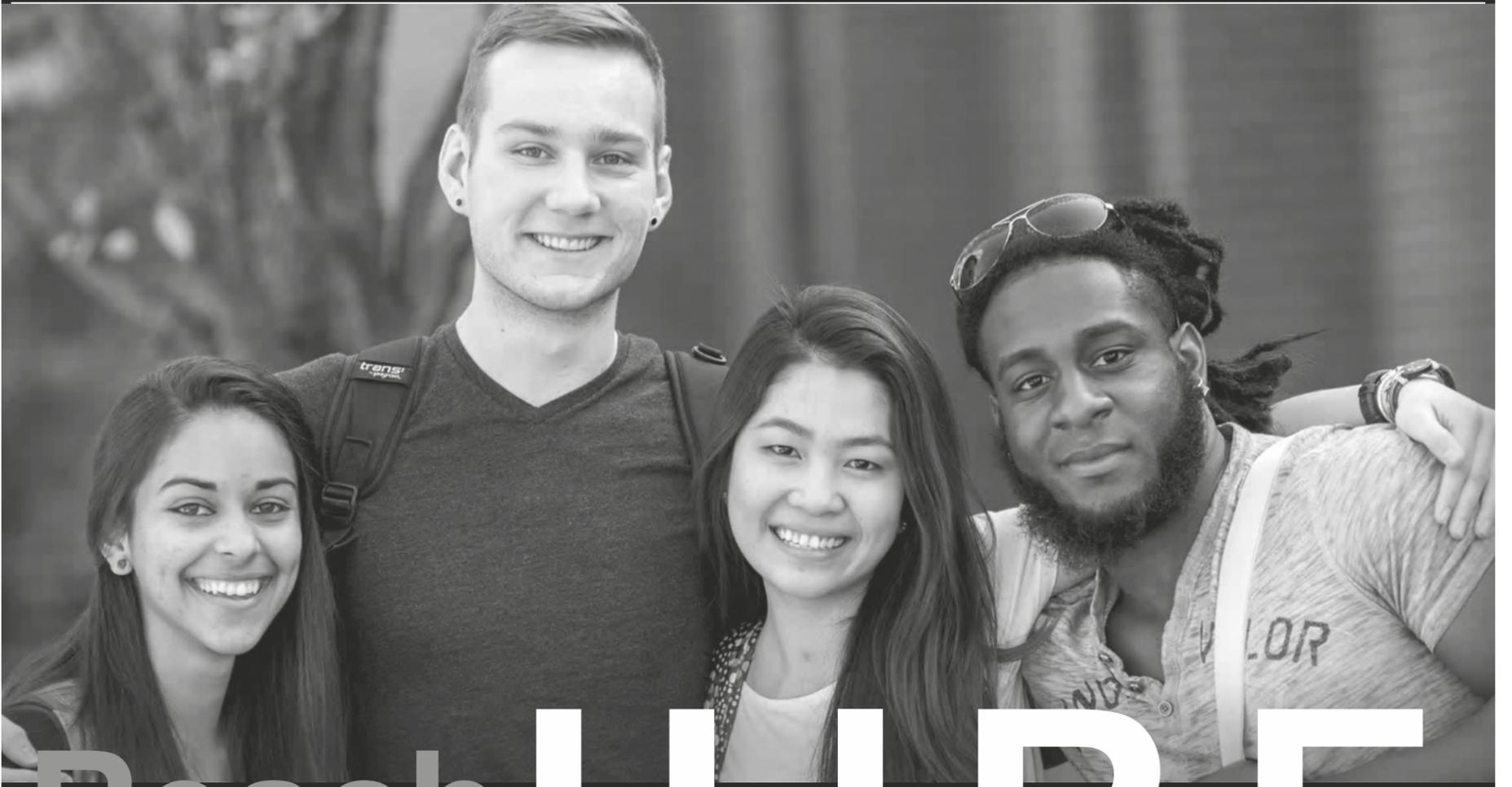
who will be trying to get similar jobs after high school but do not yet have the same training that I do. I strongly encourage every student here at Northern Lehigh start thinking ahead to what you want to do after high school. Depending on

what you decide, going to LCTI may be the best way to get started on that path.

Photo Credits: Alexis Handwerk



Meets second Tuesday of every month, and as needed.



Reach **HIRE**

Better investment. Better future.

Continuing your education after high school is one of the most important things you can do for your career. At LCCC, you're not only saving money, you're also getting the opportunity to earn more. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you can make an average of 20% more by earning your associate's degree. Enroll in one of our

90+ DEGREE PROGRAMS
today to reach higher tomorrow.



Lehigh Carbon
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Start Here | Go Anywhere

NL LADIES FIGHT FOR POWDER PUFF VICTORY

By Gavin Kemery

The time is 5:15. Darkness fills the sky as fans fill the bleachers. Silence sweeps across the battleground in anticipation for one of the mightiest clashes anyone has ever seen. Uniformed players take the field with paint smeared across their faces. Four teams walk out, resolute and ready to take on their opponents. They all set foot on the turf, intent on achieving victory. But only one team will leave the stadium triumphant. The Powder Puff tournament has begun.

On one side of the field was the game between the seniors and the sophomores. The seniors, determined to make their mark on the tournament, and the sophomores, looking to pick up from where they left off after last year's performance, both went into the game set on victory.

The sophomores' start revealed their long-held energy as they led the offensive against the seniors early on, dominating the playing field for the entire first half. Sophomores Jill Olewine and Shelbie Hyrowich

picked up two early-game touchdowns, while Katie Hoffman made several receptions and Sagan Shaffer made a fair amount of runs. The sophomores' prospects of winning were looking good going into the second half. However, the seniors refused to go down without a fight. Cheyenne Mozzocca's speed gave the seniors a bit of an edge when she had the ball, and Sage Hargreaves continually managed to find gaps in the sophomores' near-impenetrable defense that led to a decent amount of yardage.

The second half of the senior vs sophomore game was just as impressive as the first. Katie Hoffman picked up a game-changing interception that gave way to a barrage of touchdowns for the sophomores, who wound up clinching the game with a final 20-0 shutout, which advanced them to the championship game.

The other first-round game was held between the juniors and the freshmen. The juniors, the defenders of the title, went into the game with the intention of

celebrating a repeat championship. The freshmen, on the other hand, were prepared to make this game an upset to remember. The juniors were quick to find the touchdown zone with Tiffani Yesik running the ball, as she managed to score three touchdowns within the first half. Though the running game of the juniors was strong, the receiving end was just as impressive, with receivers like Karlyna Kemery making catches from throws that spanned the length of the field. The dual offensive of Tiff and Karlyna was not easy for the freshmen to defend. However, quick maneuvers from freshmen Lexi Meckes and Katie Guelcher kept the juniors outside of scoring range numerous times. For the freshmen offense, Franki Dibilio took charge as quarterback. Her throwing game and hand offs to Cayla Novicki consistently helped the freshmen pick up substantial yardage. But in the end, the strengths of the freshmen were simply outweighed by the strengths of the juniors, as the first half ended with the juniors taking a 26-0 lead

In the second half, touchdown passes and drives went on like replays for the juniors, with two more scores coming from Tiff and Karlyna. The juniors' experience and readiness to compete was evident, as their 44-0 shutout carried them to the final game against the sophomores.

The final, a match between the reigning champs and a team on the hunt, started off with high intensity as the two Powder Puff rivals battled it out for the title. Meghan Handwerk and Tiff Yesik started the game with an opening drive but were stopped short by the strong sophomore defense. When it came time for the first sophomore possession, Dani Hoffman found Katie Hoffman in the endzone for an opening touchdown. Both teams resorted to some of their best players from the start, but the opposing defenses were just as strong as their offensives. The sophomores didn't stop at one. They extended their lead by finding Katie Hoffman and Jillian Olewine several more times in the

endzone to rack up the scoreboard. These touchdowns added fuel to the juniors' fire as they began to make a comeback. Juniors Tiff and Karlyna started to chip away at the deficit by scoring one touchdown a piece. Another touchdown and a two-point conversion put the juniors ahead by four points going into the two-minute warning. It came down to whether or not the juniors could hold on to the lead in the final moments. As the clock ran down, the sophomores ran the field. Play after play, close call after close call, the juniors held the sophomores at their own 20-yard line. Eventually, Dani Hoffman fired a bullet to the far side of the field, finding Katie Hoffman's hands. From there, Katie ran the ball the length of the field, maneuvering through swarms of enemy hands grabbing at the flags attached to her waist. Dodging all of the defense, Katie scored her team's final touchdown, and the sophomores emerged victorious, beating the juniors by a narrow margin in a 28-26 win.

The Slate Staff

Adviser - Ms. Hock

President - Erika Algard

Technology Editor and Layout Specialist - Meghan Miller-Brown

Writers

Erika Algard
Carmen Alvaro
Alexis Handwerk
Jaclyn Hollenbach
Sara Hunsicker
Gavin Kemery

Hannah Kukitz
Meghan Miller-Brown
Rose Quigley
Tyler Roth
Andrea Snyder

Special Thanks

Noah Freudenberger for being a technology wizard.
Alexis Handwerk, Jaclyn Hollenbach, Mr. Lehtonen, Ms. Zeiser, and the Science Club's Instagram for providing pictures.