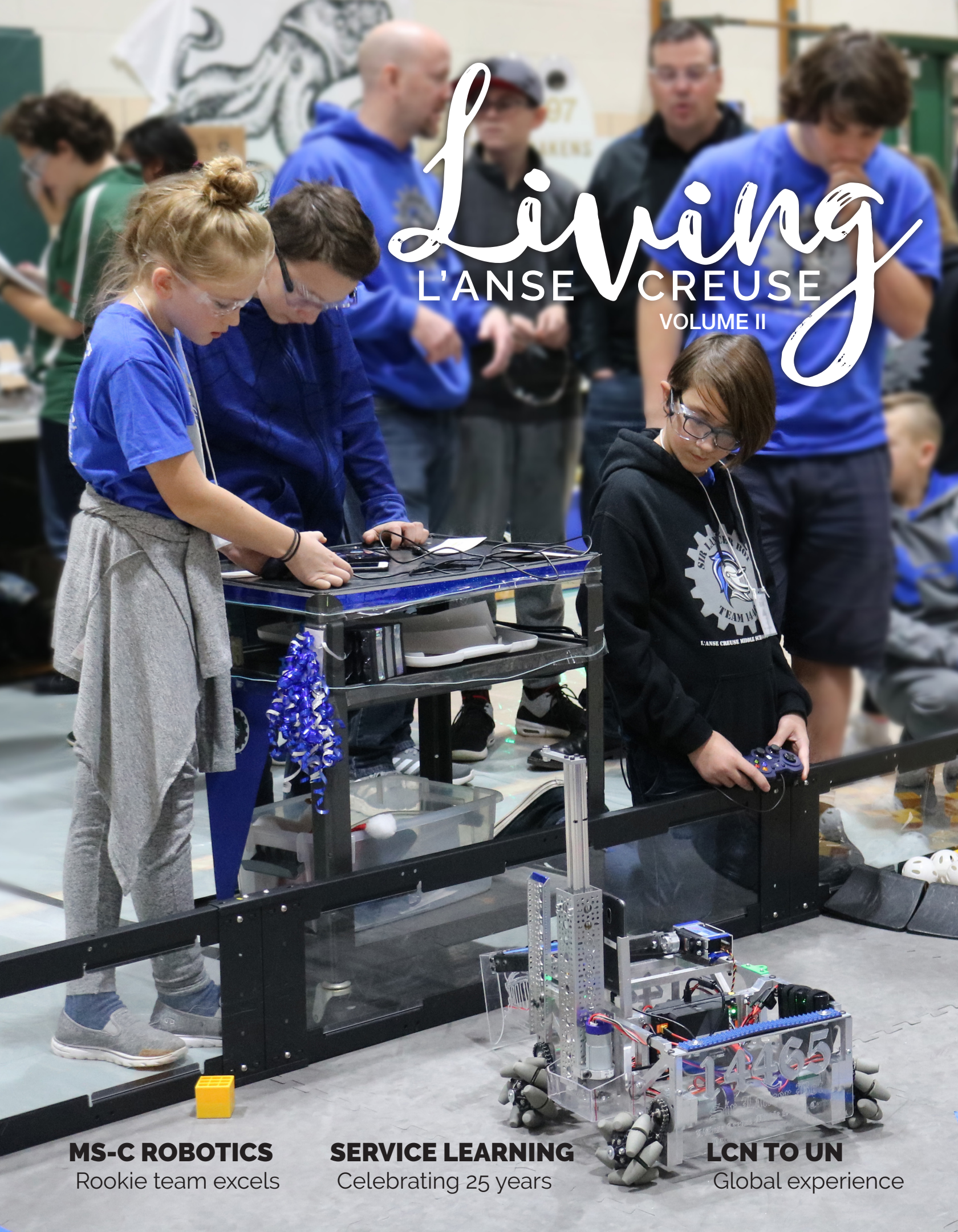


Living

L'ANSE CREUSE
VOLUME II



MS-C ROBOTICS
Rookie team excels

SERVICE LEARNING
Celebrating 25 years

LCN TO UN
Global experience

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Living L'ANSE CREUSE



Inspiration is the fuel that drives our students to discover their talents and achieve their dreams. In L'Anse Creuse we acknowledge and celebrate each student's unique approach to learning, while fostering inspiration from many places throughout our schools and community. We see it in our classrooms, laboratories, performances and competitions.

Often we assume that inspiration comes from a parent or teacher, but many others from the community can ignite a spark that carries a student through school and their career. Coaches, friends, neighbors and civic leaders make positive impacts on our students and community every day. Under this guidance, our students are learning about themselves while developing the skills necessary to align their goals with reality. Our students' success is constant reminder that we are all in this together.

As you look through the pages of this edition of Living L'Anse Creuse you will get a glimpse into how our students are inspired to make this community truly special.

Personally, it is your support for our students and schools that inspires me.

Erik Edoff, Superintendent

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LIVING L'ANSE CREUSE

is a bi-annual publication of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, produced by the Office of School and Community Relations:

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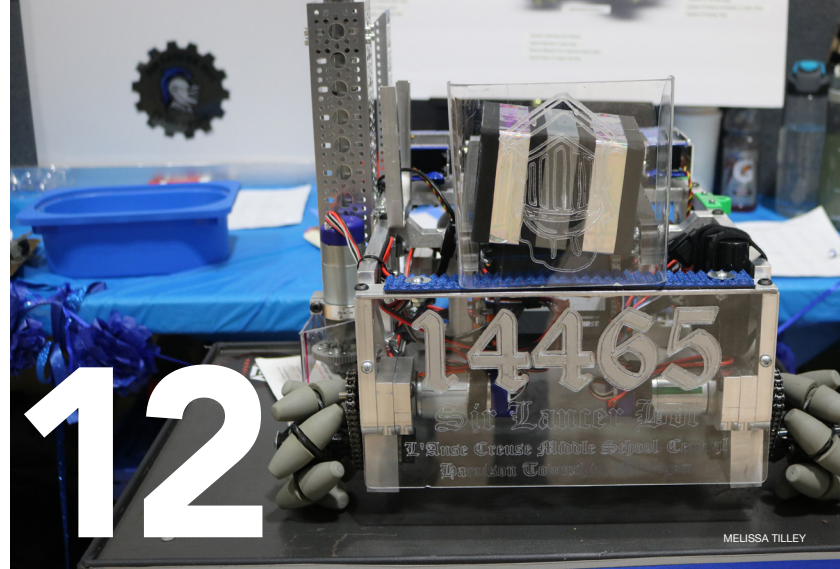
20 Hall of Distinction:
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MICHAEL KAUFMAN



MELISSA TILLEY



KELLY ALLEN



COURTESY OF TIFFANY TIEU NGO



SIELOFF STUDIOS



COURTESY OF ANN HART

TV & BROADCAST MEDIA

by Melissa Tilley | photos by Michael Kaufman

“Getting so much footage, having to condense it all down, and working with other people to get something that I’m super proud of, was very inspiring. It gave me a lot of inspiration for the rest of the year to continue to do more things with the community.”

Lauren Bayless

MANUFACTURING DAY VIDEO
won first place in county competition

“I got a message saying, your film’s going to be up at 5:55 PM on PBS NewsHour. This was like a game-changer for me. My video that I took to heart, worked on for months, is now going to be on national TV where millions of people are going to see it. Not only are the people closest to me going to see this video and my story, but people all around the world.”

Noah Hudson Peralta

“LIVING WITHOUT LIMITS” VIDEO
aired nationally on PBS NewsHour

“The police department figured out a way to get us to help them film some PSAs. We came into the classroom that night, we all sat in a giant group, and we talked about how to go about getting the shots that we wanted, the shots everyone else wanted, what would look the coolest so we’d all be able to use it, and really go in depth into all the cool shots and all the unique shots that not everyone would be able to get.”

Jack Braithwaite

SAFE DRIVING PSA VIDEO
produced for Macomb County Sheriff’s Department

The TV & Broadcast Media program at the Pankow Center consistently wins major awards, earns national recognition, and partners with professional and community organizations. Teacher **Michael Kaufman** sat down with a few shining stars to learn about their experiences. See full interviews and student-produced videos at www.livinglansecreuse.com

“It was just really interesting to work with the community. It was just cool to do something and get it out there. To see people like Mark Hackel come and give us the gift cards and say that it was a good video was really cool.”

Angel Delich

MANUFACTURING DAY VIDEO
won first place in county competition

“That’s video in general. You spend hours just to edit a minute. And you’re so proud of that minute. You play that minute back over and over again just watching it. And that’s what we’re in it for.”

Shane Verkest

COURAGEOUS PERSUADERS
Grand Prize winner

“When I saw the rough cut of the video I watched it at least five times so I could hone in on what needed to be lifted up in quality. The video was very good, but there were things that I felt could have been better, things most people don’t even notice, but subconsciously it affects how you view the video. A lot of fine-tuning and tweaking goes into how you view the video rather than what’s up close and personal.”

Jacob Ashba

MANUFACTURING DAY VIDEO
won first place in county competition

SUPPORTING THE SCORE

by Kelly Allen | photo by Sieloff Studios

Imagine for a moment, being on stage with your fellow musicians as your director explains to a filled auditorium that the next piece is no ordinary song, it is a song composed by you. You stand for acknowledgement from the back row though you aren't a limelight type person. But now it's your time to shine, the bright lights and all eyes, and ears, are on you and your team. What thoughts are running through your head? For Maxwell Kowal, it was: "Lord save me!"

On November 29, the L'Anse Creuse High School — North Wind Symphony Band performed a complex, eight minute song titled "Space Continent" composed by 16-year-old high school junior Maxwell Kowal.

The story of "Space Continent" is one of teamwork, creativity, perseverance and support from all the right people.



PHOTO BY NICOLE TUTTLE FOR THE MACOMB DAILY

"Max showed me this piece in January [2018]," said Band Director Dan Griffith, explaining how he became involved in this process. "He would play it and we would give feedback. The melody is a great melody!"

Max and Mr. Griffith spent several months working together to finish the piece, working through the composition and simplifying some of the more complex sections to make it appropriate for high school musicians.

Once the song was complete it was presented to the band. Though it was a difficult piece, his classmates accepted the challenge in the spirit of supporting one of their own. Mr. Griffith recalled, "Every kid had a lot of respect for what [the song] was, what we were doing, and why we were doing it. Nobody questioned why and they gave it their all."

They say lightning doesn't strike in the same place twice. However, in Max's case it does - "Space Continent" wasn't the first of his original pieces to be played by his bandmates.

"One day in eighth grade it came to me in class," Max explained. "I just started writing it down on a piece of scrap paper. I wrote 40 to 50 measures."

With the help and support from his friends and Middle School — North Band Director Justin Comerford, those measures became "Shadow Battle," a three minute piece for 17 instruments that the entire band performed at the Spring Concert. Mr. Comerford remembers fondly, "The students were pretty impressed. Every day in rehearsal, when it was time to practice Maxwell's piece, you could hear the excited whispers of, 'YESSSSS!'" He went on to say, "The performance was a success for Maxwell and his classmates. Everyone was proud to perform his music."

Overall Max has started approximately 60 songs and considers four of those to be complete. Of those four, the

two previously mentioned pieces have been performed live by a full symphony band. Another was a duet he wrote in high school for himself and his best friend to perform at the Solo and Ensemble competition.

With all three songs, Max's band directors were instrumental in helping his dream become a reality. Max's mom, Colleen Sloan-Kowal, proudly stated, "Until recently, the only music training Max has received has been through the fabulous music educators in our district, such as Gennifer Bradshaw at Atwood, Justin Comerford at MS-N, and David Mety and Daniel Griffith at LCHS-N."

It's clear to everyone that Max has a

gift, but many times talent needs support, and Max's talent has had plenty. His teachers, colleagues and family haven't just created a nurturing environment, they've been the steady note from which Max has been able to build. Max's music filled the auditorium and the hearts of those who have stood by his side, and on a chilly night in November, everyone involved enjoyed the fruits of their labor.

As for the future, Max intends to pursue music and composing. The university he will be attending is still being determined. However, regardless of where he ends up, it's safe to say this won't be the last we hear of the talented Maxwell Kowal. ♦

"That's the bottom line of music, making music with your friends. That's the goal."



MATTHEW MAN

by Melissa Tilley



MELISSA TILLEY

It may not surprise you to hear that a member of the L'Anse Creuse community is a published author whose debut book is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

But what if we told you that the author in question is 12 years old?

Matthew Carson is a seventh-grader at Middle School — South who enjoys reading, playing video games and spending time with his two sisters.

"I always wrote little stories," Matthew said. "Usually about magical beings and monsters." But to make the leap into writing a full-length children's book, he needed a little encouragement.

Back at Tenniswood Elementary, Matthew wasn't exactly on track to become a child author. "He was lacking confidence even more than he knew," said his mother, Nicole.

Two particular teachers, Stephanie Share and Cynthia Abdelnour, changed all that. They praised Matthew's talents and encouraged him to work harder to develop them. It was Mrs. Share who first suggested that he write a book.

Matthew was inspired and began writing that very day. "I wanted my voice to be heard," he said.

He combined his love of writing and his fondness for dinosaurs to create

John the Raptor, an adventure centered around a family of velociraptors who fight various enemies.



The book took about a year and a half to complete. Nicole served as Matthew's typist and editor, proofreading his work and giving feedback on what parts should be expanded. When the process was finished, the Carsons sent the book off to a publisher. When they received the acceptance letter a few months later, Matthew was ecstatic.

According to Nicole, the confidence

that he had lacked before "just skyrocketed." He couldn't wait to share the news with his baseball teammates and teachers.

Matthew's involvement didn't end with the writing process. He drew up detailed plans for the appearance of each dinosaur for the book's illustrator. There were another few rounds of edits, until finally, they had a published book.

John the Raptor is just the beginning. Matthew wants four book series in total. He's currently working on his next book, *Matthew Man*, about a young boy who is chosen to protect the world. *John the Raptor 2* is also in the works. Matthew writes every week and works on multiple projects at a time.

Matthew's ambitions go even beyond writing. He wants to be a writer and paleontologist, and plans to attend Yale University. Nicole attributes it all to the confidence he gained from writing a book: "This is a whole new kid."

When the published book came out, Matthew returned to Tenniswood to present a copy to the teachers who had inspired him. It was a symbolic gesture, Nicole explained. She wanted them to know:

"If it wasn't for teachers like you, he wouldn't have done this." ♦



“We Did This!”

by Kelly Allen

A year ago the L'Anse Creuse High School — North Make a Difference Club was a smaller group of dedicated students doing what they could to positively impact local families. Little did they know that when they embraced the decision to become a Key Club, they would significantly expand that impact among the students, school and community.

Key Club is a high school service organization that empowers its members to lead and serve by cultivating leadership skills, developing friendships, and performing community service. In partnership with their local Kiwanis club, these students are making a positive impact as they serve others in their schools and communities.

To kick off the year, several members of the club's executive team attended the District Fall Rally. The rally is an annual leadership conference where students from several Key Clubs from across Michigan connect and learn from each other. President Katie Joquico explained, “It was really eye-opening as to how much we could be doing.”

Treasurer Payten Lamky agreed and added, “I realized our impact could go much further than this building.”

Inspired by what they learned, the team got to work recruiting and volunteering. That inspiration was contagious. As students heard about their positive experiences helping others they started joining one after another, after another. This natural progression has resulted in the club tripling in size in just a few months and membership still continues to rise.

First, they joined forces with Kids Coalition Against Hunger to help portion and package over 100,000 meals. They were at it again a few weeks later helping to sort and distribute non-perishable items for the Clinton Township Kiwanis Annual Food Drive and Distribution. Along with the LCN

Volunteer Village, they learned how to weave homeless mats from grocery bags for Macomb Feed the Need. Next, they teamed up with the Key Clubs at Dakota, Chippewa Valley and International Academy, as well as the Clinton Township Kiwanis, to host an outstanding holiday party for local children in need. Then before leaving for the break, even after taking on all these new tasks, the group kept and expanded on their tradition of adopting several families for Christmas.

“I'm so proud of the kids,” said club sponsor and LCHS-N social studies and English teacher Pam VanThomme. “They have really taken on leadership roles and they are doing so much to make a difference.”

“It's kind of surreal, last year it was so little and not known,” Katie recalls. “I would talk about how we were doing something for Key Club and no one knew what it was. Now we have over 60 kids. It just feels like *wow, we did this!*”

All executive officers are seniors this year and the feeling is bittersweet. “We're here and doing so much, I'm excited but sad about it ending for us,” Co-Vice President Matthew Madou explained. “Hopefully we can hand it off to some good kids.”

But before they go, they have a whole second semester of having fun while helping others. As Katie said, “I think it can only get better for us!” ♦

“It's amazing that we can get so many kids to help those in need, making an impact not only in our school, but in our community.”



by Kelly Allen | photo courtesy of Tiffany Tieu Ngo

LCN TO THE UN

Tiffany Tieu Ngo was a valedictorian for the L'Anse Creuse High School — North Class of 2015. She is very bright, friendly and driven; the perfect combination for success. Everyone knew she was sure to do big things. This past December, she did just that.

THE INSPIRATION

Tiffany explained that she had a very positive experience at L'Anse Creuse and that she credits two teachers for helping her become the person she is today. The first teacher makes sense, considering that she is studying biochemistry at the University of Detroit Mercy. Tiffany explained that it was Ms. Sara Strozewski's AP Chemistry class that sparked something in her. She explained, "Ms. Strozewski helped cultivate my love for science. Chemistry just spoke to me."

Then there is the less obvious but equally impactful teacher, English and Performing Arts teacher Mr. Kirk Erikson. Tiffany explained that she found her voice and courage in his class, "When I got into the acting program it was a big leap of faith for me. I had never been on stage and I was always the shy person in middle school." She continued, "Being on stage and putting myself out there, really helped me to [take this trip]."

THE EXPERIENCE

The trip Tiffany is referring to is not just a vacation to a new place. It was her first time out of the country and she went without any family or friends. Tiffany was one of nearly 23,000 people from all over the world who attended the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, more affectionately referred to as COP24. The two-week conference was hosted this past December in Katowice, Poland, about 200 miles south of Warsaw.

Though there were thousands of delegates, scientists, business leaders, observers and journalists at the conference, it was not open for just anyone to attend. Tiffany went through a lengthy application process to become one of five students representing the American Chemical Society. The students attended the event with two COP veterans, Dr. Keith Peterman and Dr. Gregory Foy, professors at York College of Pennsylvania.

Tiffany explained how she spent her week at COP24, detailing some of the sessions she attended and all that she learned. She explained that the sessions were in different formats, including lectures, panels and workshops, and that the spoken language was English, so many individuals were wearing headsets to hear the appropriate translations.

Highlighting her favorites Tiffany explained, "I saw Al Gore speak about the climate crisis and what we have to do about it. That was really fun!" The other session she really enjoyed was a panel discussion on how the fashion industry is doing their part to reduce their carbon footprint with a goal of becoming climate neutral by 2050.

At the end of the conference the delegates come together in a session called the plenaries. This is where all the big decisions are made. Tiffany and her colleagues made several attempts to attend; however, getting everyone to agree is not always easy and the session

was pushed back several times. The next day, when the delegates finally came together, the important decisions were made and those who attended the conference would call it a success; COP24 introduced the Katowice Rulebook, which will guide countries in their efforts to uphold the Paris Agreement in aspects of finance, transparency and adaptation.

While Tiffany was there for business, she also had the opportunity to be a bit of a tourist, visiting Warsaw, taking in the culture, appreciating the architecture, meeting the locals and loving the food. She even picked up a bit of the language, learning the phrases *dzień dobry* (good morning) and *dziękuję ci* (thank you).

Looking back Tiffany spoke fondly, "There were people of so many different ethnicities that attended. The scope of the conference was just amazing." You can see the sense of pride she has after being a part of

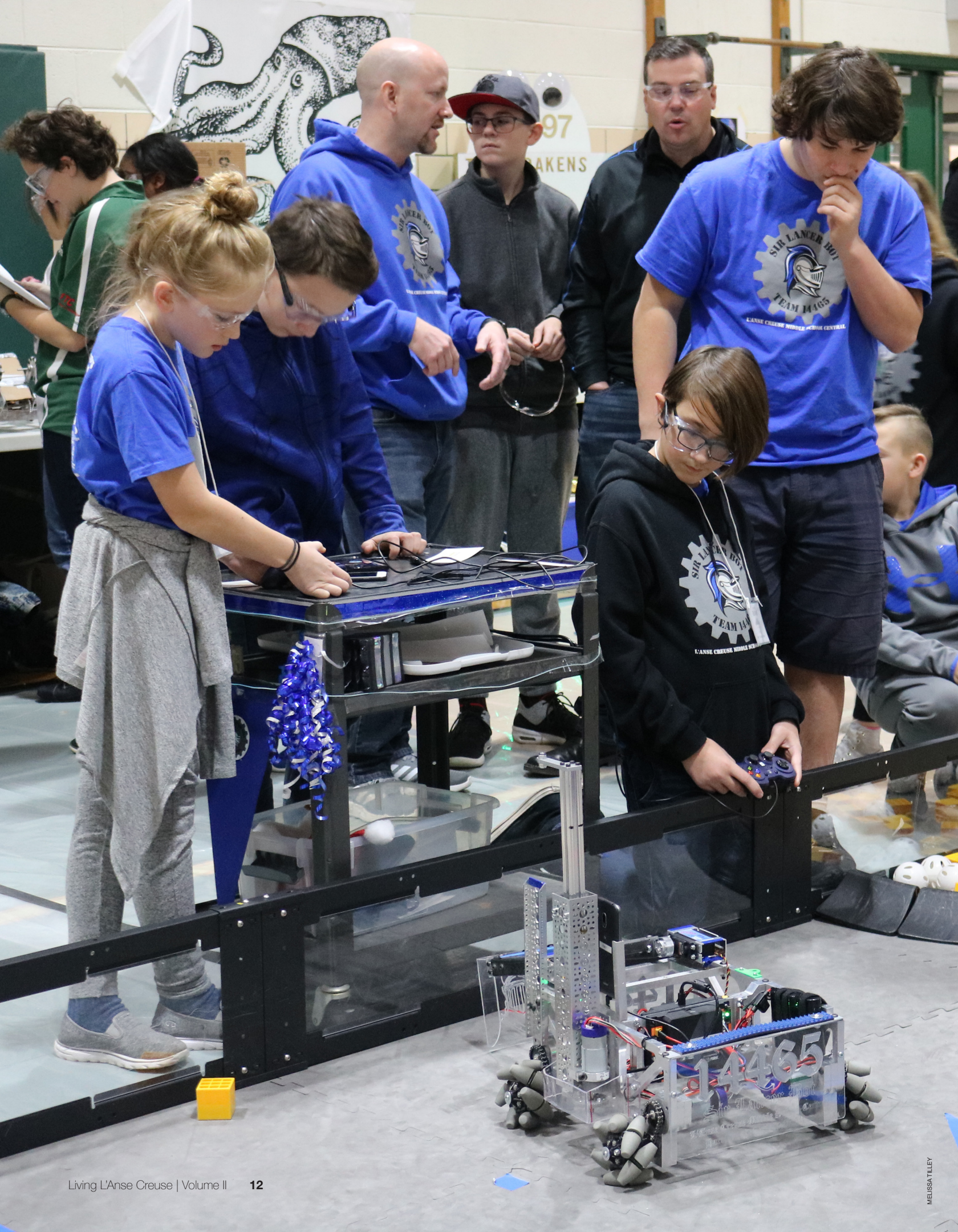
COP24, an experience that gave her a stronger global perspective and a sense of accomplishment.

THE FUTURE

As for her career plans, Tiffany knows that she wants to be in the lab - hopefully managing that lab. She has not yet narrowed down her exact field but she is leaning toward cosmetic chemistry, pharmaceuticals or maybe even the Environmental Protection Agency.

Tiffany will continue to be an advocate for what she believes in and she suggests that others find what they are passionate about and do the same. She hopes that she will be able to attend another COP in the future.

We will be sure to keep in touch with Tiffany as we know she will continue to do big things. ♦



Sir Lancer Bot



by Melissa Tilley

As Sidney Bates prepared to start the sixth grade at Middle School - Central, she had a unique goal: "I wanted to be able to build my own robot." She had seen her older brother participate in the high school team, Rockem Sockem Robotics, and wanted to try her hand at it.

This prompted Sidney's mother, Gretchen Bates, to begin the long process of bringing the very first middle school robotics team to L'Anse Creuse. With the support of MS-C administration, and no shortage of interest from students or parents, the robotics team hit the ground running.

The newly-formed team christened themselves Sir Lancer Bot and began practicing in September. It was an uphill battle from the start.

"No students had background in any of the areas of expertise necessary to design and build a robot," Bates said. "While that put all students on the same footing, it also created the conundrum of having no student experts to rely on for expertise and training."

Along with the dedicated parent coaches and mentors, students from the high school Rockem Sockem Robotics team stepped in to help Sir Lancer Bot get off to a good start.

The students were excited to get into engineering and programming the robot, but weren't quite sure where their skills would fit. According to Bill Mandoky, a L'Anse Creuse parent and one of the coaches for the team, students would volunteer for certain tasks and then realize it wasn't their thing. "This was especially difficult for them while us coaches were trying to figure things out ourselves," he added.

There is a lot more that goes into robotics than just building a robot. The students had to learn how to write code, which is used to control the robots during practices and competition.

There were also the logistics of running a brand-new club with a group of

students who had never participated in anything like it before. There were numerous rules and intricacies to learn in order to prepare the students for competition.

"It was extremely overwhelming how much was involved," said Mandoky. "To say it was time consuming is an understatement."

In November, after just a few months of practice, Sir Lancer Bot competed in a qualifier in Temperance. They were still finding their footing, and it was a rookie event in every sense of the word - the team ranked 33rd out of 36 teams.

Rather than let it beat them down, the team used it as a learning experience.

"We didn't know what we didn't know, until we knew it," said Bates. Using their struggle to get a handle on the competition, the students redesigned and improved their robot. In doing so, they became more engaged in the game and worked hard to fill in the gaps of their knowledge.

For the next district competition held in Troy in December, Sir Lancer

Inspire Award and Motivate Award. They were first ranked in qualifying points out of all 35 teams in the competition. Best of all, they had qualified for the state finals!

Less than two percent of all first-year teams made it to the State Competition in 2018. It was quite a comeback, and one that speaks volumes about the dedication of the students, mentors and coaches. The next week was a whirlwind of excitement and preparation for States, which took place December 14-15 at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

While the students did well, they did not qualify to move on to the "Worlds" competition in April. But this taste of success has just made the team want to work harder.

"Making States showed our students that the sky is the limit!" Bates said. "We are very proud of how our novice team went from defeat to success and even winning awards at Districts."

In the future, Sir Lancer Bot plans to keep working harder and make it to the Worlds competition. Throughout their participation in robotics, students have

"Getting to States was great, but knowing the kids either learned something new, had fun, made new friends, or are excited about coming back next year, that defines a successful season that any of us can be proud of."

Bot was ready - and it showed. A far cry from the rookies who had struggled in their first competition, they won match after match, making it all the way to the semi-finals. They were the No. 1 Alliance seed team for most of the day, and were the No. 1 Alliance team captain for the semifinals. They won the Connect Award and were finalists for the

learned valuable engineering, teamwork, and coding skills that will be sure to benefit them both in future education and their careers.

As for Sidney? In addition to being able to say that she has built her own robot, a claim not many 11 year olds can make, she explained: "I learned that hard work and perseverance pays off." ♦



OUR TURN

by Melissa Tilley
photos by Chuck Pleiness for the Macomb Daily

"It was finally our turn."

DECEMBER 16, 1978 Seven points down, and with 47 seconds on the clock, the Lancers were sure they would be walking away with a second-place trophy.

For the past three years, the L'Anse Creuse High School girls basketball team had lost in districts to the eventual state champions. This year, they made it all the way to the state finals at Jenison Fieldhouse, and it was looking like history would repeat itself in their game against Flint's Beecher High School.

But a few strategic passes, layups and free throws later, the game was tied at 51-51. A foul granted the Beecher team a free throw — which they missed.

As the game climbed into overtime, the score continued in a virtual tie. Then with 37 seconds left, Tammy Brehen took the lead with a successful layup. Beecher scored another point, but Ann DeLodder scored a layup to cinch the victory with 16 seconds to spare.

The team who had come up just short for the past few years was now the state champions.

"It felt fantastic," recalled Coach Mary Knechtges. "It was finally our turn."

"We are family."

DECEMBER 13, 2018 To commemorate the 40th anniversary of their thrilling victory, the 1978 State Champions reunited during a home game at their alma mater. Eight team members, as well as assistant coach Sandy Brown, attended the game and met with current JV and Varsity girls basketball players.

However, it wasn't a reunion so much as a regular occurrence for the tight-knit team.

"We have remained close throughout the years," said Knechtges. She has attended her players' college graduations and weddings, taught and coached their children, and lent her support during their parents' funerals. Many of the team members meet monthly for dinner, and even those who have moved out of state stay connected to the others.

The same sense of collaboration and teamwork that won the Lancers the state championship has also kept them close throughout the decades. ♦





EDUCATION GOES GLOBAL

a conversation with Jim Ekdahl (pictured right), German teacher at High School — North, about his partnership with Jan Hambsch (pictured left), English teacher at the Josef-Durler-Schule in Rastatt, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

How did the partnership between LCHS-N and the school in Germany begin?

Back in 2012 or so, [I attended] this session about how to use Twitter as a teacher. I thought: 'Wouldn't this be a great way to contact some teachers in Germany?' So I found out that they have a hashtag they use in German education, #EdChatDE. I randomly started sending messages to teachers, it didn't really work too well, and then all of a sudden a woman answered me, a very sweet woman who does IQ testing in Frankfurt.

After talking, I said: "Do you know any teachers who teach English in Germany?" And she set me up with Jan Hambsch. So we were on a student trip and he and I met up for coffee and we came up with this idea about his students of English and my students of German [working] together.

So they would send us videos in English that our kids could comment and help them with, and our kids could send them videos in German back. The kids just thought that was the best.

What impact has it had on the students?

I have a student who went to the University of Michigan this fall, and

she has a German class there and she had all these questions. Instead of contacting me, she contacted her [peer]. I told her, you're not just leaving with German, you're going to be leaving with your own German connection for life. This young lady in Germany helped her for four hours on her classwork.

[The students in Germany] were very interested in the United States and very interested in communicating with our students. That really gave them the motivation to learn English, and for my

"There is a group in Baden-Württemberg where when they think of the United States, they think of L'Anse Creuse first."

students a huge motivation to learn German.

Was it easy for the kids to connect with one another?

They related very well to each other. I had a young man who was a reluctant learner of German, and then he did this project and turned in a video that was the best in the class. He said, "I didn't

want to embarrass myself in front of the Germans." And you know how teenagers are when they meet other teenagers, they have that connection. Their German skills impressed them, that they could communicate in German with these people pretty easily.

How do the school trips to Germany factor in?

On this last trip, I sent the chaperones and the students back without me on the flight and I stayed behind by myself. And I took the train to Stuttgart and [Jan Hambsch] picked me up. He's got a wife and two young children and they just let me into their home for a week and let me stay with them.

I got to go to the same school where those students were who made those videos for us, and I felt like I knew these kids already because we had seen them in all these different videos throughout the years, we saw where they lived, and the school.

So the next trip, we have 44 people signed up already. And what we're going to try to do is bring a smaller group of those kids with me to stay for a week [in] homes of [German] kids. Wouldn't it be great if they do this video project with a student and at the end of the year they stay with that student? ♦



Warm Hearts

Living L'Anse Creuse | Volume II 16



Marilyn has been a resident of Harrison Township for 45 years and raised two children who attended L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. She began her journey with the district as a volunteer at Graham Elementary School, where her children attended. Then when the time was right, she became a media clerk, working for nearly 30 years at Graham and 15 at Lobbstaal Elementary School.



Anne is a registered nurse who obtained a Master's in education and went on to teach health career classes for 17 years at the Pankow Center. L'Anse Creuse has been a part of her life for decades, as her husband worked for the district in several capacities over the course of 40 years and her three adult children all attended L'Anse Creuse schools. She is just a few years into retirement and finally finding the time for her favorite hobby: knitting.



Sharon spent a significant amount of time in the schools, volunteering as an active PTA member when her children were young and then with band and sports in the later years. She and her husband moved to L'Anse Creuse when her children were young after hearing about the district's reputation. Years later, she credits the district for helping her kids to become "great citizens."



Darlene became involved in L'Anse Creuse when her four children were in school. Over 28 years she held several different jobs in the district, but her legacy is as a preschool teacher at Tenniswood Elementary. She has watched our community grow up, teaching the children of former students and several staff members. Now that she is retired, she is still in L'Anse Creuse, volunteering with her grandchildren.

"It gives you a warm feeling. It's nice to know that on some of these bitter cold days, you are helping a child stay warm."

Marilyn Bondy, Anne Da Via, Sharon Pernicano and Darlene Pranion are all proud long-time L'Anse Creuse residents. Though their paths are similar, they really didn't get to know each other until recently. Today, these four wonderful women are all members of the St. Louis Stitches, a charity knitting group based out of their church. The group works on several projects to help community members throughout the year, and one of those specifically helps our students.

"Too many times I saw kids in the winter without the proper clothing," said Marilyn. "They would have to stay inside for recess and it would break my heart. So I suggested to the group that we make winter hats for the kids."

The stitchers took this task on with gusto, making dozens of hats and scarves in just a few months. Then in the beginning of November, as the temperatures began to drop, the hats were

given to students at Marie C. Graham and Tenniswood elementary schools. Both schools received two large plastic



bins filled with all the styles and colors a student could want. At Tenniswood, the room was filled with smiles as students browsed through the options selecting their favorites. At Graham, the students were happy to accept all the

hats but more excited to see their old friend Mrs. Bondy. At both schools, the bins will remain in the main office so that hats are available to any student who might need one.

The experience was so positive that the St. Louis Stitches plan to continue this project, replenishing hats throughout the season and for years to come. "It gives you a warm feeling. It's nice to know that on some of these bitter cold days, you are helping a child stay warm," said Anne. "I don't have children in L'Anse Creuse anymore but I still want to be able to give back and this is one way to do that." ♦

The St. Louis Stitches meet at 10:00 a.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month in the building next to the church. All are welcome to attend regardless of religious affiliation.

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KELLY ALLEN

CELEBRATING Community Service Learning

by Kelly Allen

On a brisk afternoon, two long-time friends share coffee, memories and laughs. Emma DeAngelis and Ann Hart admit to becoming one and the same, finishing each other's thoughts and sentences and joking about a time where they worried they might show up in the same outfit. As they talk about the program, they pick up where the other left off in a flawless fashion they developed after working on a mutual goal side by side for 15 years. These two are the foundation of a landmark program that shines a national spotlight on L'Anse Creuse Public Schools: Community Service Learning.

In 1992, when the L'Anse Creuse Board of Education voted to implement the community service graduation requirement, no one knew the impact it would have on the students, staff or community. There have been a few changes along the way since the inception of the program, but the goal has remained the same: providing academic learning and personal development of all students through service to the community.

Emma started her journey as the Service Learning Coordinator at L'Anse Creuse High School — North in 1992 and Ann took the same position at L'Anse Creuse High School in 1994. Both remember the way it felt in the beginning.

Emma described: "It felt like, here's the job, now do something with it." She knew she was starting with nothing and

needed to create a solid structure for the program to be successful. Some of those first steps included setting student and organization expectations and best practices.

Ann recalls finding out about the requirement when her husband (Jack Hart) returned from a Board meeting. "I remember thinking, 'You must be out of your mind!'" But then two years later she was offered the job, attended a national conference where she learned about connecting service with education, and from that point on she was in.

Focusing on the connection between service and education, the two began exploring the service-learning methodology. They began working to tie the program into the classroom, making both the service and the curriculum more relevant. Then in 1996, the district received its first Learn and Serve America grant to support the program.

Together the dynamic duo created a system that is still used today. "Emma is the talker and I'm the writer," said Ann, acknowledging their strengths. "That is why we worked so well together. Emma could schmooze with anyone, anywhere, and I was very rigid and careful to see that everything was done right."

To ensure that the program was running identically at both high schools, the two worked in unison to promote teacher involvement, provide workshops, and bring in guest speakers. They formed a service-learning advisory council that gave mini-grants to fund service-learning projects and they

partnered with many local organizations to maximize opportunities. In addition to all the work they did for L'Anse Creuse, Ann and Emma would also present at the state and national level, meeting notable politicians in Washington D.C. and making an appearance on a PBS education-focused show.

During their tenure, the success of the program was evidenced by several state and national awards. In 1998, Emma received the Governor's Service Award and Ann earned that same honor in 1999. Then in 2002, L'Anse Creuse High School was selected as a "National Service Learning Leader School" by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Two years later, the district received the "Spirit of Service Out-



COURTESY OF ANN HART

They believe the success of the program is measured by what the students gain from their experiences, the staff involvement and the connections made with all of the local non-profit organizations.



COURTESY OF ANN HART

standing Program" by the CNCS. The list of awards goes on, with staff and students winning recognition as well.

Though these awards gave the district great recognition, neither Ann nor Emma considers these accolades to be the program's biggest achievements. They believe the success of the program is measured by what the students gain from their experiences, the staff involvement and the connections made with all of the local non-profit organizations.

These measures of success is still strong today with the Class of 2018 (LCHS & LCHS-N) completing 67,549 community service hours in high school. Over the past 25 years students have explored career options, finding their career path or discovering what they don't want to pursue. Others are finding a passion for community service and helping those in need.

Of all the life lessons students have learned through the program, the one that resonates the most is that community is much more than a word. When a L'Anse Creuse graduate steps out into the adult world, they are highly educated and fueled with the knowledge that they can have a significant positive impact on their community. ♦

HALL OF DISTINCTION

The L'Anse Creuse Hall of Distinction was created to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the district and to provide a tangible means of presenting the history of the district to the general public. On October 3, 2018, John Da Via and Kenneth N. Hoover became the fifth and sixth inductees.



"John's drive to do what's right makes the people around him better. They don't want to disappoint him. They're willing to go outside their comfort zone. They know they're appreciated for their efforts. He makes people around him better. That's what a good leader does. That's what John is."

MARK BROWN, *nominating committee*



"Ken's accomplishments and his contributions are outstanding. However, his love for students, staff, community and the district, his respect for the rich history and the high standards of L'Anse Creuse, and his professionalism, integrity, passion and commitment, complete the profile of a man I am proud to consider a colleague as well as a friend."

DIANNE PELLERIN, *nominating committee*

John Da Via

John Da Via served L'Anse Creuse Public Schools for over 40 years as a caring, respectful leader who worked tirelessly to do what was best for students.

Da Via joined L'Anse Creuse in 1974 as a teacher and coach at L'Anse Creuse Middle School — North. He transferred to Middle School — South in 1983, and in 1986 earned a law degree and moved to L'Anse Creuse High School, where he also served as a Teachers' Association officer. He became associate principal of Middle School — Central in 1994 and North in 1997. In 2000, he became principal of Middle School — North, where he remained until retiring in 2014. Under his leadership, the school emphasized professional development, reduced student failure, and promoted environmental awareness. Da Via also served as Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in 2013 and Interim Principal of Tenniswood Elementary in 2018. Throughout his career, he exemplified the mantra of doing "What's Best for Kids." ♦

Kenneth N. Hoover

Kenneth N. Hoover's service to L'Anse Creuse spanned 54 years as a teacher, coach, District Art Coordinator, and a Board of Education member.

Hoover spent most of his teaching career at L'Anse Creuse High School, where he developed the district-wide art program that became state exemplary curriculum and a national model for the "New Definition of the Arts." His impact on students reached far beyond the classroom, coaching girls track from 1976 – 1999. He led his teams to win over 50 championships and titles at the regional, state and national level. After retirement, Hoover served on the Board of Education from 2003 – 2016, as trustee, secretary, vice president and president. Serving with three different superintendents, his greatest contributions were the implementation of the 2005 Bond Issue and his continued efforts to preserve the history and culture of L'Anse Creuse. ♦



Michalea Roy, "Parrot" (Grade 12, LCHS-N)



Zoey Young, "Gamora" (Grade 12, LCHS)



August Osterbeck (Grade 5, Carkenord)



Harper Purvin, "Unity" (Grade 12, LCHS)



Payton Thurber, "Still Life" (Grade 9, LCHS-N)



Shane Eatmon, "Oak Serpent" (Grade 12, LCHS)

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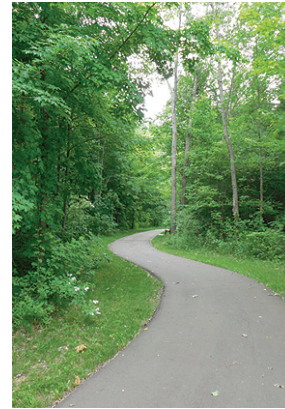
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COMMUNITY



Macomb Township

Positive growth in the heart of Macomb County

From its thriving economic opportunities and robust retail shopping to its excellent schools and wonderful recreation activities, there are many reasons why Macomb Township is one of the fast-growing communities in Michigan.

In fact, from 2010 to 2014, the township boosted its population by nearly 5,800 to more than 88,000 residents. That's an impressive leap, but the number of people who want to call Macomb Township home doesn't come as much of a surprise for longtime residents who have always known about one of the best-kept secrets to live, work and play.

Its location in the heart of a bustling Macomb County keeps drawing people to Macomb Township, an area first settled in the early 1830s. Back then, it was flat land and fertile soil courtesy of the Clinton River that prompted people, many of them German farmers, to construct homes and build businesses.

Today, Macomb Township's combination of world-class schools, parks, recreational opportunities, shopping and sense of community makes it appealing to individuals, couples and families who want the convenience of modern living, but the amenities that make it a pleasant place to call home.

Growth is a point of pride for township officials, who are quick to point out that affordable housing and low tax rates make the area attractive to new residents. The population growth has resulted in a building boom with a number of single-family housing projects as well as a variety of other options such as condominiums and apartments currently under development to meet the needs of all families and budgets.

Families find that the school districts are a great fit for their children. The township is served by four school districts: L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, Chippewa Valley Schools, New Haven Schools and Utica Community Schools. All offer a quality education with innovative programs and a focus on career preparation. L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, for example, has an average graduation rate of 97.6 percent, with both high schools among the top five in Macomb County, according to the district's website.

All of this positive growth hasn't taken place overnight and it hasn't happened by chance. For years, township officials, with

input from business leaders and township residents, have carefully crafted a plan for a strong industrial and commercial corridor designed to boost the community's tax base and create employment opportunities for residents.

With growth comes changes to infrastructure and Macomb Township is no exception. As traffic increased, officials carefully evaluated road conditions and traffic congestion, targeting a number of roadways for improvements.

Current road projects include widening the two-lane 23 Mile Road to five lanes through a one mile stretch between Fairchild and North Avenue. A roundabout is also slated for the western section of 25 Mile Road and Romeo Plank where an easterly roundabout was completed in 2016 at Romeo Plank's split intersection on 25 Mile Road.

While road projects improve the township's infrastructure, the parks system speaks directly to residents. It is an attractive amenity for families who appreciate the peaceful green space available at Waldenburg and Macomb Corners parks as well as the opportunities for fitness and leisure at the Macomb Township Recreation Center.

The 92,000 square foot recreation center opened in 2004. It houses a fitness center, two gymnasiums, three birthday party rooms, two aerobics spaces, an indoor playground and a meeting area in addition to an activity pool, lazy river feature, water slide and hot tub. According to its website, the center is visited by several hundred people daily.

Interested persons can become annual members or pay for daily access to its exercise facilities and activity pool area. Classes are a popular option for youth, adults, seniors and individuals with disabilities and include everything from swimming lessons and water aerobics instruction to yoga and Forever Fit classes.

Join in the fun during unique community events such as the popular Music in the Park series, Movie Under the Stars event and Tons of Trucks as well as seasonal activities like Halloween Hoopla, Holiday Tree Lighting and Eggstravaganza.

For more information about Macomb Township, visit macomb-mi.gov.

Harrison Township

Plan a visit to “Boat Town U.S.A.”

Harrison Township is the type of community where once people decide to live there, they rarely leave. That's because it is a mostly residential area with great restaurants, located close to a major highway, and truly a boating community.



restaurants that draw visitors from around southeastern Michigan. Diners can enjoy all types of cuisine including American, Mexican, Italian and seafood.

During the summer months, the township offers a free shuttle service on Friday evenings as well as Saturday and Sunday. Whether you want to enjoy one of the many fine restaurants or attend religious services, you can call (586) 612-4454 for a free ride. This is available for both residents and guests and is especially popular with marina guests.

With roughly three-fourths of its borders nestled along Lake St. Clair, Harrison Township has been referred to as “Boat Town, U.S.A.” given the large number of marinas located within its borders. That lake access is a big part of the township's identity, according to Township Supervisor Ken Verkest.

“It's a popular attraction not just for residents but many of our visitors who may know Harrison Township as a great place to grab a meal, enjoy time with friends and family and experience lake life together,” Verkest said. “We certainly have families and individuals who may consider the township their second home because that is where their boat is docked.”

From Luigi's to River Rat to Crews Inn and more, Harrison Township has a number of well-known and highly regarded

Finally Harrison Township is the home of the Air National Guard 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base. In addition to air shows and other public events on the base, the 127th Wing is active in the community in assisting civic groups, schools and community projects.

Learn more by visiting
<http://www.harrison-township.org>.

FAST FACTS

Founded: 1827
Population (2010 census): 24,587
Square miles: 23.6



Chesterfield Township

“Gateway to Anchor Bay”

Surrounded by 4.6 miles of shoreline along Lake St. Clair, Chesterfield Township is the Gateway to Anchor Bay. Many miles of shoreline frontage add to the charm of Chesterfield, bringing the public here to enjoy the waterways and keeping residents here, enjoying the quality of life it offers. Easy access to major highways, great shopping, and enjoyable eateries is what sets Chesterfield apart from other communities.

Along with three great school systems, L'Anse Creuse, Anchor Bay, and New Haven, our community has a diverse park system that includes baseball diamonds, soccer fields, fishing, outdoor tennis and basketball courts and a seasonal splash pad. With an exceptional recreation department, residents enjoy organized sporting leagues, summer concerts and regular programming throughout the year. The Chesterfield Senior Center offers seniors a place to gather Monday through Friday.

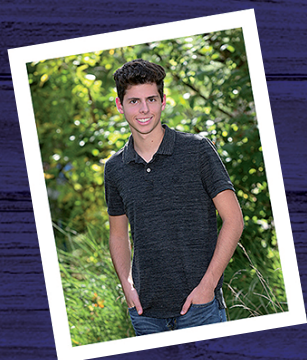


The Webber Paddle Park will be constructed this summer and will give kayakers the opportunity to gain access to the Salt River. This year will also see the replacement of the Jefferson Avenue Bridge over the Salt River. Residents will now have a safe, non-motorized pathway over the bridge, beginning the townships plan to connect its assets.

Enhancements to the townships infrastructure, improved public safety, and substantial upgrades and improvements are slated for Brandenburg Park, which will include the softening and repair of the seawall and renovating the existing basketball and tennis courts.

Growth continues in Chesterfield Township with residential construction on the rise with more than two hundred new homes expected to be built this year. When completed in 2020, the new 160,000 square-foot Veterans Facility, at the former Seville Manor site, will be a staple in Chesterfield Township. We are proud and excited for this new development and the many more developments coming to Chesterfield this year.

For more information about Chesterfield Township, visit www.chesterfieldtwp.org.



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