

Model Congress Models Perfection

By Annika Basch

Model Congress members made a strong impression at Princeton Model Congress last weekend. Six out of the twenty-five students that attended received either gavels or honorable mentions.

Pranay Vissa ('15), Matthew Perry ('15), and Andrew Leffler ('15) won gavels, while Grace Headinger ('15), Elena Zhou ('15), and John Metz ('16) won honorable mentions.

Model Congress conferences follow the arduous process of Congressional procedure.

"Essentially, before you go to a conference, you pick a committee, which are the same as in Congress. Then you write a bill that's part of the committee's purview," said Headinger, a representative in the conference's House International Relations Committee.

But once the conference begins, so does the real work.

"When you get to the conference you go to your committees and you debate everyone's bills. You pass bills, then they go to full House or full Senate and if they pass there, then they go to the President who can veto or sign the bill. If the constitutionality is questionable they go to the Supreme Court to debate it there," Headinger continued.

Representatives must demonstrate intelligence, knowledge, and skillful debate in order to receive any kind of recognition from the conference.

"You want to know a lot about the topic, write a good bill and debate it well," said Headinger.

Andrew Leffler, who won his first gavel at PMC, explained his strategy.

"Every bill that was submitted was grossly and horrifyingly unconstitutional. By focusing on that, rather than the bills' substance, you can allow yourself



MLWGS representatives gather at Princeton Model Congress. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Hillgrove.*

to play a definitive role in the course of debate."

Attendees found this year's debate particularly engaging.

"PMC is one of the larger, more well-respected conferences on the East Coast," said Leffler. "It offers high-level debate." Even out of committee, Leffler believed participants had a lot of great discussions and learned a lot.

Headinger agreed. "You get to see a lot of new perspectives on issues you might not have thought possible," she said.

Somewhat counterintuitively, these debates seems to lead not to quarrels, but rather to a sense of camaraderie.

"Model Congress is like a giant family," said Headinger.

"A wonderful experience," said Leffler.

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Another Farewell

Do remember spending multiple lunches freshman year rushing up and down stairs, frantically searching for my teachers' workrooms, and grabbing any possible conference slots I could find. Our previous system was definitely an added layer of stress for students, but this anxiety served a greater purpose. Although our previous system of pen-to-paper student sign-ups was hectic for freshmen, it held some subtle benefits that were lost with the introduction of our new online parent-oriented system.

Student responsibility and self-motivation are essential to creating the community we love at MLWGS. Our environment pushes freshmen to take responsibility for their schoolwork, to think independently, and to connect with their teachers and peers. Having students sign up for their own conferences, although a miniscule aspect of our school year, helps to instill these ideals into our student body. Students should be the leaders of their school lives, not their parents. By relegating this responsibility to parents rather than students, students no longer have any involvement in the conference process, which is, ultimately, all about them.

Our former system served a very practical reason as well: forcing students to locate their teachers' workrooms. As a senior, I've come to appreciate our relationships with our teachers

just as much as our variety of classes at MLWGS. Tracking down teachers to ask about tests and assignments has become a part of my daily routine at MLWGS, but as a freshman, the prospect of having to find a teacher in their workroom was daunting. It is so very important for students to get over that fear, and the first step is actually getting to know where their teachers' workrooms are.

As a freshman, I would have been thankful for this change in our system, but as a senior, I can see how it has pushed me to take responsibility for my school life and to get comfortable with communicating with my teachers.

-MJL

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER TO
THE EDITOR

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THE MLWGS Jabberwock

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All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us.

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Field Trips Engage Students

Opinion

By Radhika Srivastava
(15)

When we think back to our elementary school field trips, the traditional image of loading onto yellow school busses with bagged lunches for a trip to the zoo comes to mind. But, whether we realized it or not, field trips brought more than just excitement and a break from everyday monotony to our six-year old lives.

The conventional education system may involve a classroom setting, however, real-life application is as important, if not more.

"Field trips are an important part of education because it allows students to gain a fuller understanding of what is being taught," says Priya Kundur ('14). Field trips teach what can't be taught in a classroom."

In recent years, there has been a push to bring the focus back to the classroom. Schools have ceased to plan more than one, or at most two yearly field trips, especially at the middle and high school levels.

"It was a lot more interesting than I expected."

However, field trips are an invaluable part of a comprehensive learning experience, because appreciation of art, culture, and innovation is as beneficial as knowledge of arithmetic and literature.

"Whether depicted by mural paintings or sculptures, I had the chance to



walk through hundreds of years of rich history in one magnificent building of the legislative branch," says Kundur about the recent sophomore class field trip to Washington, D.C. "The beauty of it is that the Capitol ties the past to the present."

Without this chance to apply everything they've learned in the classroom, students will gain the "book smarts" of life, but not necessarily the "street smarts"- an essential counterpart.

Though they may take away from in-class instruction, field trips provide a broader, world-based learning experience. When students look back on their school days, trips to museums, historical sites, and other class bonding sites will be quite memorable. The cost of planning and attending a field trip is outweighed by its long-lasting benefits.

Kaite Pokorny ('14) agrees with the sentiment, saying that field trips "allow us to learn things in a different environment and from a different perspective."

Moreover, field trips need not be limited to local parameters. International experience is the best way to further our MLWGS mission statement while improving students' perspective of our society.

Every summer, some of the language department leads an excursion to Italy

on a non school-sponsored trip. Students can mingle with peers from different parts of the country, and even the world, while taking their in-class language knowledge to an all new level.

"International Trips give students an opportunity to actively engage with the language of study we pursue," says Nivi Saravanan ('15), who will be travelling to Italy during the summer of 2014.

Students will visit the Forum, relax along the Tyrrhenian Sea, and enjoy Sienna, among other activities.

Sindhu Vadlamani ('15), another student who will be going on the Italy summer trip, is looking forward to the cultural experience as well: food, language, historical attractions, and lifestyle differences.

In addition, she anticipates that three weeks in Italy will allow for a more relaxed, enjoyable, and informative stay; whereas a tourist-based vacation would have been more rushed and less eye-

"This trip was especially to show the school that we're responsible enough."

opening.

It is understandable that organizing the logistics of a field trip, especially for a large groups, takes the hard work and commitment of many individuals.

However, these efforts are worth it, given that these are the lessons students will take with them further in life, when they are no longer students, but rather members of a global society.

"Nothing can replace the value of experiencing something firsthand," says Zoe Nelson ('14). "Field trips help to remind us that the topic extends far beyond your next quiz or paper; that it truly matters."

Epi-what?

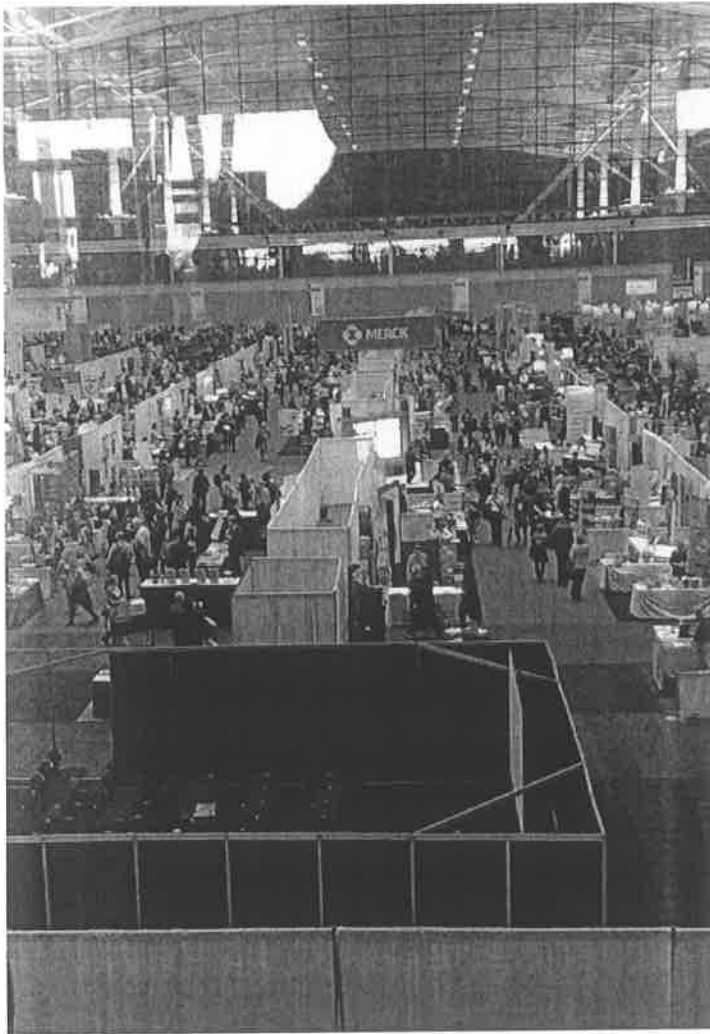
By Gowri Buddiga

On November 3-5, fifteen students in the Epidemiology Senior Seminar had the opportunity to see their classroom curriculum in action by attending the American Public Health Association's (APHA) annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

"From the conference in general I got a better understanding of how broad Public Health is and how there are so many directions that



Members of the MLWGS Epidemiology Senior Seminar taught by Ms. Anna Shore attended the APHA annual meeting. *Photo courtesy of the APHA Annual Meeting Blog.*



The convention center in which the APHA meeting took place. *Photo by Ben McClure.*

you could go," said Daisy Banta ('14).

Students heard from a wide range of speakers,

including the lawyer who successfully argued *Roe v. Wade*, walked through the APHA poster exposition, and witnessed grad students delivering their dissertations. They also had the opportunity to watch professional presentations on topics that piqued their curiosity and acquainted themselves to different methods of experimentation.

"I went to one about Alzheimer's and then one about Cancer Survivors. It was great that we had so much freedom to pursue what we are interested in," said Banta.

"One of my favorite presentations was about how parents of young children tend to underestimate their child's weight status, many stating that their child was in the 'Normal' range when in fact many were 'Overweight' or 'Obese,'" commented Ben McClure ('14).

These presentations tied closely with what the class does at MLWGS as part of the Senior Seminar program.

"Now that we've all been exposed to different studies and presentation styles, we have an idea of what to do and what not to do in terms of approaching our own final research presentation at the end of the year," remarked Lucy Conte ('14).

The class additionally had the opportunity to explore various sites in Boston.

"We walked the Freedom Trail to Paul Revere's house together, ate in Little Italy, and shopped in Quincy Market," recalled Conte.

Most of all, though, the trip brought the class together.

"I'd say the trip really solidified the group dynamic we'd already started developing, which is one of the biggest advantages of the seminar program. The class is 20 people, though only 15 of us went, so it's a lot bigger than the traditional seminar class. But we make it work," said McClure.

They Got the (Dead) Beat

By Annika Basch

The hallway resounds with an entrancingly harmonious chorus. This quasi concert is thanks to Deadbeats, an official and completely student-run MLWGS club of singers that performs without instrumental accompaniment, or a cappella.

The club abounds with musical passion and camaraderie.

"Music is my passion," said Deadbeats singer Joanne Choi ('15).

"Everyone in the group is uber-cool."

Julia Kinder ('15), one of the club's co-presidents, agrees. "I like it because it's a musical outlet, but it's also a social activity," she said. "It's like a fun social club of musically talented people."

The singers do have fun, but they still manage to work with intensity. They practice Monday through Wednesday after school from 3:30 to 4:30. Tenor and bass practice is Monday, soprano and alto is Tuesday, and the culminating day when everyone practices together is Wednesday.

Admirably, their diligence is completely self-motivated. "Mr. von Klein is our sponsor, but we are completely self-run," said Kayla Aaron ('15), club co-president.

The former Deadbeats co-presidents selected Aaron for future presidency her freshman year, and Kinder was selected likewise.

"I thought it would be a great thing to be involved with," said Kinder, "and it has been so fun these last two years." In order to usher in the next generation of Deadbeats singers, Aaron and Kinder held open auditions in October.

"We [had] a lot bigger turnout than last year," said Aaron. Unfortunately, this meant that not everyone could make the cut.

"You have to have some musical ability and be able to attend practices," said Kinder, "but we take as many as we can."



Members of the Wrestling Team spend some bonding time together after a tournament, MLWGS style. *Photo courtesy of Julia Kinder.*

Seventeen new members made it through auditions this year: Cole Alder ('16), Emma Jones ('17), Kiera Goddu ('17), Kojo Amanfu ('17), Nolan Oschenhirt ('17), Harrison Clark ('14), Sam Schwartzkopf ('15), Lori Horning ('16), Evelyn Saunders ('17), Mairead Guy ('17), Morgan Thweatt ('16), Dana Slayton ('17), Ivanna Jackson ('17), Tara Srivastava ('17), Andrea Medina

('15), Keira Beverly ('15), Krystal Turner ('16), Lea Booth ('14), Lyla Rossi ('16), Maddy Oliver ('15), Matt King ('14), Sarah Holliday ('15), Shelbie Dunivan ('16), Virginia Taylor ('16), and Tallie Hausser ('15).

Luckily, the new recruits already seem to possess significant talent. Choi, who listened in on auditions, was pleased with what she heard. "When there were auditioning, they were really good."

Aaron would agree. "I'm happy," she said. "I love the newbies." With a solid new group of performers, Deadbeats is ready for the upcoming year.

"We're trying to expand our repertoire and teach our newcomers our old repertoire," said Choi. "We are trying to get more exposure."

To that end, Deadbeats will expand its venues as well. "My goals are to have more performances out of school," said Aaron.

Hopefully, we will see Deadbeats achieve its goals, but no matter what, we assuredly will see their passion. "I just love to sing," said Booth.

"I like it because it's a musical outlet, but it's also a social activity."

('17), Asha Iyer ('17), and Ju Lee ('15).

These newbies have to strive to meet the talent of the seasoned members: Debbie Mayo ('15), Erica Lashley ('14), Gavin Binshtok ('14), Gwyneth Sholar ('15), Jack Scheibe ('16), Joanne Choi

News-In-Brief



Congressman Eric Cantor addresses the MLWGS Class of 2016. *Photo courtesy of Hal Waller.*

Revival of the Investment Club

By Daniel Yoo

Anant Kharkar ('15), with the help of fellow classmates Srishti Sanya ('15), Andrew Leffler ('15), has been reviving the investment club since last school year. According to Kharkar, the club existed before he began attending Maggie Walker, but had been dormant.

"The goal of the club is to educate students about the basics of investing and wealth management," Kharkar says, and is currently focused on giving tutorial presentations to teach the fundamentals of investing and the stock market. He also commented that these learned skills will be applied through a real-time stock simulator, and emphasized the growing importance of wealth management on a global scale.

Long-term ambitions include constructing a formal investing strategy for the club as a whole. "We are still a very new club," Kharkar says, so this school year is the year to gain momentum for the club. Their meetings are held on Thursdays at lunch in room 209

Sophomore Trip to Washington D.C.

By Daniel Yoo

The Class of 2016 took their class trip to the nation's capital on November 14th. The trip aimed to teach students about the Constitution and American politics. The Governor's School Foundation funded the trip.

One of the main parts of the trip was a visit to the Capitol. "I learned a

lot about the history of the capitol building, like how the office of one of the employees is in George Washington's tomb," said Morgan Thewatt ('16).

At the Capitol, students also discussed Obama's Affordable Care Act with US House Majority leader Eric Cantor followed by a question-and-answer session with Senator Tim Kaine. Sunita Ganesh ('16) said that "a session with a little bit less party bias would've been more beneficial" in regards to the session with Senator Cantor.

The students also spoke with Dr. Charles Haynes, who specializes in First Amendment issues in the educational system. Ganesh said that Haynes "showed us how a lot of First Amendment rights rely mostly on perspective and intent."

"My favorite part was the Newseum, especially the Pulitzer Prize section. All the photos there were so emotionally moving," said Zaira Mughal ('16).

Undefeated Season

By Claire Mendelson

20 years ago, the Maggie Walker field hockey program barely had enough players to field a team. This year, the team went undefeated for the first time in the school's history.

"This was definitely our best season yet," Coach Paige Hawkins said, "We played better than ever before."

The team ended with a 15-0 record, and only allowed two goals scored against them during the entire regular season. The Dragons ultimately fell to Midlothian 1-0 in a game for the Conference 20 title, and were eliminated by Tabb in a 4-0 South Regional Quarterfinals game.

Despite these disappointing final losses, the overall season was characterized by hard work and success. Co-Captain Heather Thomson ('14) said, "We worked hard and played intense. Everyone gave everything they had for the good of the team."

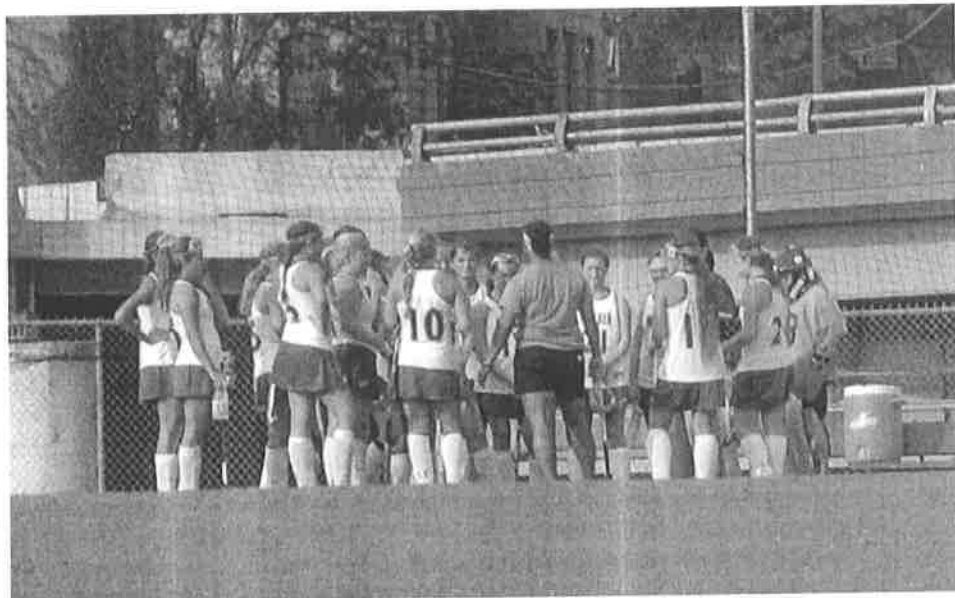
The team was confronted with several obstacles throughout the season. "We were a young team. We lost many starters last year and the girls rising to fill their spots did not have much varsity game experience, but they all went above and beyond what was expected and really rose to the challenge and helped build a powerful team," said co-captain Abby Williams ('14).

The change in districting was another challenge. As a result of these changes, Maggie Walker ended up playing in a new district. This didn't impact the regular season, but it changed the teams Maggie Walker played in the district and state finals.

Going into the postseason, Thompson said she felt "Excellent! It was an exhilarating challenge."

"If we played well and played our game, we could be successful," said Coach Hawkins. "In the end we played our very best, but sometimes top teams can lose to underdogs."

Two games do not characterize an entire season, though. "As a whole, the team played absolutely amazingly!" Williams said. "I couldn't have asked for



The field hockey team confers with Coach Paige Hawkins during a home game against Freeman. Photo courtesy of Claire Mendelson.

a better season, or a better group of girls!"

Having achieved their goal of going undefeated this season, Coach Hawkins hopes the field hockey team will continue to expand in the coming years and one day win the state championship. "We're definitely capable of doing it," Coach Hawkins said.

One way Coach Hawkins plans on continuing to develop the program is through the JV team. "The first few years I coached I would have to teach the varsity girls how to hold their field hockey stick during preseason. With the strong JV program in place now players get the fundamentals down early which leads to success for Varsity and the program as a whole later on," Coach Hawkins said.

Lucy Bellamy ('17) was one of the few underclassmen selected to play on Varsity this year. In addition to becoming close with all of the players on the team, she also recognized the important role Coach Hawkins played.

"Coach Hawkins has taught me about patience, hard work and determination. She's been such a great coach

and mentor, and she has taught every player on the team lifelong lessons," said Bellamy. This year marked Coach Hawkins' 20th year of coaching at Maggie Walker, and she has built the program from the ground up.

In the future, the program will continue to grow and expand, and perhaps one day carry home the state championship title. 20 years ago was the beginning, and 2013 was the year the team went undefeated. For Maggie Walker field hockey, the future looks bright.

Says Williams, "Being on the field hockey team the past four years has been one of the best experiences I have had at Maggie Walker. The friendships formed and the memories made will be kept with me for the rest of my life."



Walker 25 25 17 14 15



Windsor 14 23 25 25 12

Sarah Dishman ('14) led the Dragons to a Conference 33 championship with 29 assists, 15 digs, 4 aces and 2 blocks. Caitlin Swecker ('14) added 14 kills and 13 digs for Walker.



Walker 17 25 25 25



Bluestone 25 21 23 11

Carley Leckie ('15) had 14 digs, 9 aces and 7 kills, and Sarah Dishman ('14) contributed 25 assists, 7 digs and 2 aces to lead Walker past Bluestone.



Walker 13 14 16



Luray 25 25 25

Walker fought hard but came up short against a tough team from Luray High School. Although it ended in a loss, the season is the best campaign in school history.

Boys Volleyball



Walker 19 17 14



J. River 25 25 25

Christian Goodwin ('14) had 3 kills and 4 blocks, and Matt Reichert ('14) added 2 kills, 2 digs and 2 aces, but the Dragons fell to a tough James River team. Walker finished the year at 9-14.

Boys Cross Country



Alex Fleckenstein ('14) placed second at the 2A state championship meet to pace the Green Dragons to an impressive team title at Great Meadows in The Plains, Virginia. Ryan Buscaglia ('17), Evan Fisher ('16) and Austin Koch ('14) placed fifth, sixth and seventh respectively to help the Dragons capture the title. All seven Walker runners placed in the top 15, giving all team members All-State honors.

Girls Cross Country



Daisy Banta ('14) took first place at the 2A state championship meet to lead the girls cross country team to its first team title. Khloe Pointer ('17) and Emma Call ('15) came in second and third place for Walker. Six of seven Dragon runners placed in the top 15, giving Banta, Pointer, Call, Celia Wilson ('16), Lindsay Lickers ('15) and Archana Shekharan ('17) All-State honors.

Wrestling Preview

The Maggie Walker wrestling team is poised to take a big step in the 2013-2014 season, automatically placing for regionals in the new postseason format.

"I'm looking forward to a new age of Walker wrestling," captain Michael Bush ('14) said. "It's going to be a fun year."

The Dragons automatically advance from their district because of new, smaller schools not having wrestling programs. Bush added that the team is excited to be taking on new competition.

Girls Volleyball Makes History



The Walker girls volleyball team poses with its Conference 33 tournament trophy. The title was the school's first in girls volleyball.

The Maggie Walker girls volleyball team capped off the best season in school history with a hard-fought straight set loss to Luray, in front of a record-breaking crowd of close to 150 students.

"The whole team was really grateful for the valiant Green Machine turnout," said Hannah Lyons ('14). "It meant a lot to have that kind of support."

The team won the inaugural Conference 33 championship by defeating Windsor in 5 sets. The win propelled Walker into the team's first ever spot in the regional tournament.

The Dragons defeated Bluestone in the first round of the regional tournament, before dropping its next game to Luray.

Although the Luray loss was tough to take, the Dragons finished the year top eight in the state with the best record in school history, 19-5.

"I'm not quite sure how it happened. We were really led by Sarah Dishman ('14), Caitlin Swecker ('14) and Carley Leckie ('15)," Lyons said. "I'll never forget this team."