

# Blue's News

Feature Article Issue

## One-Act By Gabi Goeden

Bringing her own twist and experience to the stage, Emma Stokely hopes to take the GACC one-act team all the way to state.

After coming back to West Point from her college years, Emma was looking for a way to get involved again at GACC. From watching all of the hard work and talent the students showed last year's one-act team, and with four years of her own experience, one-act seemed like the perfect fit.

In her own experience, she has done two Shakespeare performances, which she enjoyed with great results. Also knowing that the students were up for the challenge, she decided on William Shakespeare's performance, The Taming of the Shrew. This comedy will be a new learning experience for its actors and great competition at one-act meets.

Throughout practices, students will develop skills in public speaking, learn how to become a different type of character, and learn how to interpret Shakespeare. Both Emma and the student directors, seniors Hannah McGill and Allie Knobbe, have a two-part strategy at practices. After going through the performance nonstop, they give verbal critiques followed by a stop-start run through correcting errors and adding in different staging. Tate Gentrup is a student director for the crew members.

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In Publications, students have been working on their interviewing and writing skills. The result is the following feature articles. Enjoy.

## The Africa Experience

By Bobbie Ortmeier

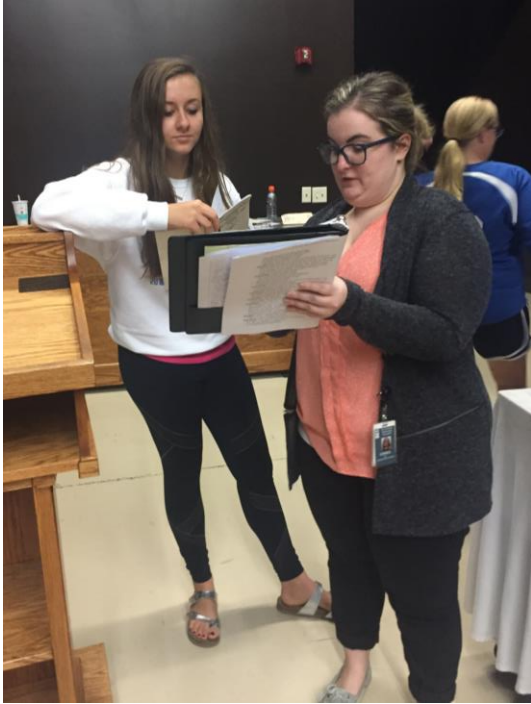
"I wasn't nervous before I left, but when I got there, it finally hit me. I experienced major culture shock and had no phone to call home." Carolyn Fraher, 2016 GACC graduate, reveals that at the very beginning of her experience in Kenya, she was a little uneasy. However, she soon "fell in love with Point of Grace Academy and the children there," making her hardest day in Kenya the day that she said goodbye.

Carolyn's brother owns a non-profit organization located in Kenya, and it was through the connections he'd made that Carolyn was presented with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Even though Carolyn is not interested in teaching as a profession, she eagerly jumped at the chance to volunteer. Carolyn decided that college could wait a year and packed her bags for Kenya.



"My first day was rather overwhelming," Carolyn said, as it would be for nearly anyone who had just arrived in a new country of which they had little knowledge. The children she was to teach spoke Swahili, their native language, which Carolyn couldn't even understand at the time. Although the children couldn't quite interpret what she was saying, they made Carolyn's fear fade quickly by answering her questions and asking their

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Director Emma Stokley points out some lines for Sophomore Brooklyn Bailey to block which means where actors move and stand during a scene.

Emma has once performed in two different Shakespeare plays for one-act before and helped out last year. With her experience over the years, she believes the students will get further with more experience and starting rehearsals earlier. Along with the traditional Shakespeare dialogue, there will also be a 90s twist to make the performance more relatable and fun. She hopes judges will see the difficulty level in the performance and enjoy it just as much.

Emma Stokely's biggest advice to the actors is to throw themselves into the characters. Overall, Emma really enjoys working with the students and hopes the outcome at performances will be as outstanding.



GACC students stand outside Independence Hall in Philadelphia with Bancroft students.

## March for Life 2017

By Regan Dorcey

680,000 men, women, and children gather in the streets of Washington D.C. annually for the March for Life. Last year, Max Einfalt was in this crowd wearing his "highlighter" hat. Looking around, he saw many, pro-life people like himself. Signs fighting abortion were everywhere. The March for Life is a peaceful event to protest *Roe v. Wade*, the bill that made abortion legal. Since 2012, Central Catholic students have been allowed to go on the March for Life.

Before Central Catholic Students left for the March, they had some difficulties due to weather. First, the trip was delayed for about six hours. After lots of praying and waiting, the Archdiocese of Omaha decided that any town South of Norfolk would be allowed to go if they could get themselves to Omaha. The Omaha Hub provided a seventh bus for anyone who originally planned to go with the Norfolk Hub. This seventh bus picked up the name "Hobo" Bus. It was filled with people from West Point, Bancroft, Oakland, and Humphrey. Max stated the extra bus was one of the many things that made the March so much fun. The friendships he made were unforgettable.

Max's favorite part of the March for Life Pilgrimage was being able to meet new people who share the same faith and beliefs as himself. During the 2017 March for Life, kids from all over the Archdiocese of Omaha headed to Philadelphia. In Philadelphia, they toured Independence Square, which includes the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the Church of Christ. Students also prayed outside an abortion clinic in downtown Philadelphia and visited the Shrine of St. John Neumann as well as the Shrine of Katharine Drexel.

Overall, as Max said, the March for Life was life-changing. Some advice Max gave was that anyone going on the March for Life for the first time should pack accordingly and always expect the unexpected.

## Riley Throener By Alison Meiergerd

Improving math and reading skills through shapes and letters in the Kindergarten room is Riley Throener's job every Monday through Friday from 9:43 to 10:29. This is the third period of the day. She job shadows the Guardian Angels Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Wangler.

Even though teaching is not the major she is going into, Riley likes children. Riley's duties in the classroom include watching over the children and helping them learn. She is also able to help the teacher with whatever needs to be done.

Riley chose Kindergarten because she enjoys the teacher and all the little children. She says "Everyday is a joy with the little children. They are social little children."

Riley remembers when she was in Kindergarten the technology was very different and rarely use, and now teachers are able to use technology more to interact with the children. The one thing Riley dislikes is hearing the bell ring and having to say goodbye to the children.

Riley plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She plans to major in Dental Hygiene. But she will continue to miss spending memorable moments with the young students.



Riley and her Kindergarteners

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own, despite the language barrier. "Every time I would walk in the room, the first thing they always said was 'welcome.'" Surely, this kind gesture also did a great deal to put Carolyn at ease and help her grow more comfortable in her foreign surroundings.

"More than anything, I think about the kids and miss them. There were a lot of memories made and we had many fun times." The orphans living in Point of Grace Academy had a massive impact on Carolyn's life. With all the fun they had spending time together, they became a family. Carolyn loved spending her time with them and fondly remembers the

days when she taught them how to play softball. They found the equipment in a storage container, and during breaks, they'd spend eight hours straight playing the game until it was time for dinner. Carolyn also spent much of her free time with the children having dance parties, writing and casting plays for them, playing games, and even receiving Swahili classes from them.

Carolyn learned quite a bit about teaching down in Kenya. "It was a lot more challenging than I thought it was. It is definitely one of the most important careers," she said. The other teachers at Point of Grace Academy were very kind to Carolyn, and even though the teaching methods in Kenya are different from those of CC, they worked together and learned from each other daily. Carolyn taught English to roughly 60 5th graders, math to 50 4th graders, and English to 50 7th graders. Carolyn's favorite class to teach was 4th because they were always so keen to learn, and when they understood something new, they'd clap their hands and thank her.

Carolyn Fraher dedicated her time to help educate orphans. At Point of Grace Academy, she found a second family and experienced something most people only read about. "Experiencing other cultures and immersing yourself in a different way of life is one of the best experiences a person could have. I learned so much, and the way I view the world will never be the same. The relationships I formed were life changing, and if more people have these experiences, I believe that we will be a more understanding society."



## A Unique Path to Learning

By: Alisen Niewohner

Nineteen year old Shaelyn Vering did not live the typical teenage life after her junior year in high school at Guardian Angels Central Catholic. She decided she wanted to be homeschooled her senior year. Then, she made the big decision to go to an out-of-state college in Georgia. She loved Georgia for two simple reasons, her passion for showing horses and the top-ranked Landscape Architecture program.

Shaelyn said that she would highly recommend taking that leap of faith and going to an out-of-state college. "I think the important thing to know about going to an out-of-state college is that, no matter where you go, it's not as far away as you think. Sure, I may not be able to go home on the weekends, and I do sometimes call my mom three times in one day to tell her that I did my laundry! Class got cancelled! What should I buy at the grocery store?, but I think I could've gone anywhere in the U.S. and still been able to make great friends, turn them into family, and establish a home away from home. I love the people that I've met here, and time flies when you're having fun, so before I know it, I'm right back in NE. College is tough, and anywhere you go, it's not going to be challenging, but it should be because that's how you grow, so why not seek the college that has the perfect program for your major, a study abroad that you just know you want to do, or a team that you want to be a part of, and forget about where it is? Georgia has it all for me - a consistently top-ranked Landscape Architecture program, an SEC Champion Equestrian team. There are so many opportunities out there at colleges across America - don't be afraid to check it out!" Shae is now on the state equestrian team and loves it!

Just when you would think Shaelyn's life couldn't get even more exciting, she decided to take a trip to Italy! She had mentioned that it wasn't hard deciding where she wanted to travel. Her mom's side of the family is very Italian, so she feels a connection to the country.



She said she remembers listening to the song "Ophelia" by The Lumineers when she got on the plane and was thinking about how the Delta Biscoff cookies always reminded her of her grandpa. She said she was caught somewhere between extremely excited that the day had finally arrived and that

knowing that she wouldn't see the USA again for 2 months and Nebraska for way longer than that. That aside, she was ready to go. She had been waiting her whole life for this and finally having the opportunity to travel and study abroad just felt "natural" to her. She also mentioned "flights. Get. Delayed. And you will miss your connection. In my case, you'll miss your connection 4 times just trying to get from England to Naples. It happens - you get to spend seven hours in Belgium and the night in Germany. You'll get there when you get there, and I promise, it is more than worth the trouble of planes and trains." Sounds like an adventure to me!

The trip was overall pretty pricey. Considering her tuition, the flight, hotels, museum admission, it came up to around \$10,000. She sold her horse to help pay and also covered some of it with a scholarship.

What could Americans take from Italians? Her answer actually shocked me. She mentioned how fast Americans live life. We don't take the time to enjoy it. Italians live a slow-paced life. Life in Italy is so carefree and chill. They really value taking time out of their day, working or not, to talk to their friends over an espresso or pastry. Everything about Italy is so human - this is something we talked about a lot in my Landscape Architecture class - human scale. The streets, homes, and piazzas (plazas) are not built strictly for living, working, and getting from place to place. Italy is built in a way that celebrates and encourages daily human interactions and connections. A scale that suggests bumping into a stranger in a market and becoming friends or living on the top floor of a building and still being able to call down to the people in the street because this building isn't a massive skyscraper built to provide seclusion. I think Americans could take a little stress out of their lives, talk to other people, make friends, be kind & honest, and in general, enjoy the simple things rather than rushing around day to day, pursuing money and mass production."

She said that her favorite thing about Italy was simply the fact that she got to live there. She wasn't just sightseeing and "playing tourist," she was making friends, speaking Italian, and "soaking it up!" She said she would wake up to church bells every day at 7:45, eat some salami and cheese on toast with espresso for breakfast, walk into town for fresh fruit while gazing out over the valley of Tuscany, hang out and sketch for a while, then snack on pesto and crackers for lunch. After lunch, she had class - design studio, then ceramics, then Italian. They all ate dinner together at a restaurant in town, and then, they'd go for gelato and watch the sunset from the wall across town. That sounds like the life to me!

These are her thoughts on her favorite memory from Italy. "One weekend, four other girls who I'd just met on this trip and I decided to hop on a train to Cinque Terre. If you haven't ever seen a photo of Cinque Terre - please do not google it. They had described it to me as the 'five colorful cliff towns,' but I'd never really seen any photos of it, and I was absolutely blown away. It was like a vacation in the middle of my study abroad - which sounds ridiculous, but I'm glad we went and I'm grateful to the friends I made for pushing me out of my comfort zone of little Cortana and out to the beach for that weekend. On day one we hiked along the cliff between the towns and on day two we went on a boat tour of the bluest waters I'd ever seen. We had so much fun, even made a few friends during our short stay."

I then asked one of the hardest questions known to man... What was your favorite food in Italy? She said she honestly could not choose one. "This is about to get real cliché, but I know that Italy is known for food and all, but it's really not about the food, it's about who you share it with. I'd rather have wine and cheese with my two best friends than a five course meal any day. My favorite food memory is making gnocchi from scratch in our little kitchen at the dorms with my roommate and a couple friends. Could we have gotten better gnocchi at a restaurant in town? Probably. But again, it's about the people who helped cook and helped eat."

