



Katie Garrity and Carly  
Pina Spotlight p. 7

The Osama Generation pg. 2  
Gene Kelly nominations pg. 4  
Senior Sports Scholarships pg. 7



# Eagle Eye

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## Rose Doerfler, Valedictorian

By Katherine Pilewski '11  
Staff Writer

After years of hard work, all the members of the senior class eagerly anticipate graduation as the momentous occasion when we say farewell to Oakland Catholic and begin a new chapter of our lives. Only one senior, however, earns the prestigious title of valedictorian after putting forth an incredible amount of effort and dedication, and this year Rose Doerfler is celebrated at the top of the senior class of 2011.

Throughout the past four years at OC, Rose has been very involved in various extracurricular activities in addition to working studiously. A member of the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars and the National Honor Society, she is also the Sports Editor for our own Eagle Eye, as well as a

member of the crew, cross country, and swim teams. Rose has many fond memories of different sports trips, particularly of cross country camp. Additionally, across the years, she liked participating in a variety of math and science activities, such as science bowl, PJAS, and the Integration Bee.

Rose has enjoyed her language classes, AP World History, AP Calculus II, and CE Physics last year. Some of her favorite memories at Oakland Catholic have been in these classes, including "Fun French Fridays," the trip to France, and various celebrations which include snacking in class.

At the end of four years at OC, Rose's advice to underclassmen is to develop good time management skills early in fresh-

man or sophomore year so as not to have to pull all-nighters. Otherwise, she encourages everyone to "be open to being friends with people who are really different from you, because a lot of people I like and respect now are not the people I thought I would be friends with when I started."

In the fall, Rose will attend the University of Notre Dame's College of Engineering, where she also intends to continue to row. She is looking forward to being a part of the crew team there, a sport she has participated in since freshman year of high school. In the collegiate environment, however, the races will be more competitive and demanding.

The involvement with the crew team itself also excites Rose, because she feels the group has "a good dynamic," with very friendly rowers and coaches. Along with engineering and crew,



Rose also may pursue a second major in Chinese or East Asian studies.

Looking back at her time at Oakland, Rose rightly considers her greatest achievement to be "balancing the schedules of three different sports with each other and with academics." She has nonetheless figured

out how to be successful at all four of these demanding things, and should be commended for this accomplishment; if you see her in the hall, be sure to congratulate her for earning this high recognition.

## Katherine Pilewski, Salutatorian

By Rose Doerfler '11  
Co-Sports Editor

Katherine Pilewski has enjoyed her four years at Oakland Catholic, balancing her academic successes with activities and good memories of time spent with friends. Among her favorite experiences of Oakland are the back-to-school picnic every year, this year's spirit week, which she describes as "fantastic," and the New York trip with Mrs. Streiff and Ms. McNulty.

Katherine, the salutatorian of the Class of 2011, will be attending Boston College next year, where she is in the honors program. She intends to study mathematics on a pre-med track, with the hope of eventually becoming a doctor.

Katherine also wants to continue her interest in languages. She has studied Spanish and Latin in her

time at Oakland, and she hopes to become more proficient in Spanish while she is in college.

Katherine's favorite classes at Oakland were AP Calculus I and II with Ms. Sciacca, because they helped her realize her love of math, and her junior and senior English classes with Ms. McNulty and Mrs. Streiff. Katherine has also participated in various activities related to her academic interests. She has competed in Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, with success in the Mathematics category at both regional and state levels. She has earned honors for her project researching cryptography, the mathematics involved in the encoding of messages. She is also in the Joan of Arc Society of

Scholars and National Honor Society, and is a staff writer for the Eagle Eye.

Outside of the world of academics, Katherine enjoys dance. She participated in dance – tap, jazz, and ballet – for 11 years, before her dance studio closed. She especially enjoyed tap dance and was sad that she was not able to dance with her studio this year. While she does not have definite future plans for dance, she would enjoy some participation in dance in college.

One of Katherine's other favorite memories of high school was traveling with her family to Rome last year. Katherine says that her



trip to Rome was a very interesting cultural experience, and it even allowed her to use her Latin knowledge to read inscriptions. She says, "I loved visiting the Vatican and seeing all the history there." Katherine has enjoyed her travel experiences of high school and the cultural opportunities they have offered to her.

Katherine also par-

ticipates in volunteer service with her parish, St. Scholastica. She is part of the youth group leadership team at St. Scholastica. She has gone on the Appalachia mission trip with her youth group for the past four summers, and intends to return this summer. She enjoys the time she spends with her youth group, and she is also a Eucharistic Minister.

Katherine's advice to the underclasswomen of Oakland Catholic is to "just do your best, especially in whatever your 'thing' is, and make some great friends." Katherine will keep the strong friendships she has made at Oakland Catholic as one of the most lasting reminders of high school. Congratulations to Katherine and best of luck in the future!

## The Lowdown on Libya

By Kendall Fitzgerald  
Staff Writer '13

When the former president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, stepped down from his position February 11, 2011, due to increased pressure from opposition leaders and rebels, many other countries rejoiced, hoping that this example would allow for their own freedom from oppressive rule. One country with such belief is the African nation of Libya. When Libya gained independence from Italy in 1951, it was clear that the nation would need a strong leader who would promote development. When it took years for that leader to arrive, a “bloodless coup,” led by the country’s current leader, Colonel Moemmar Qaddafi, successfully took control. With that coup occurring in 1969 and Qaddafi currently maintain-

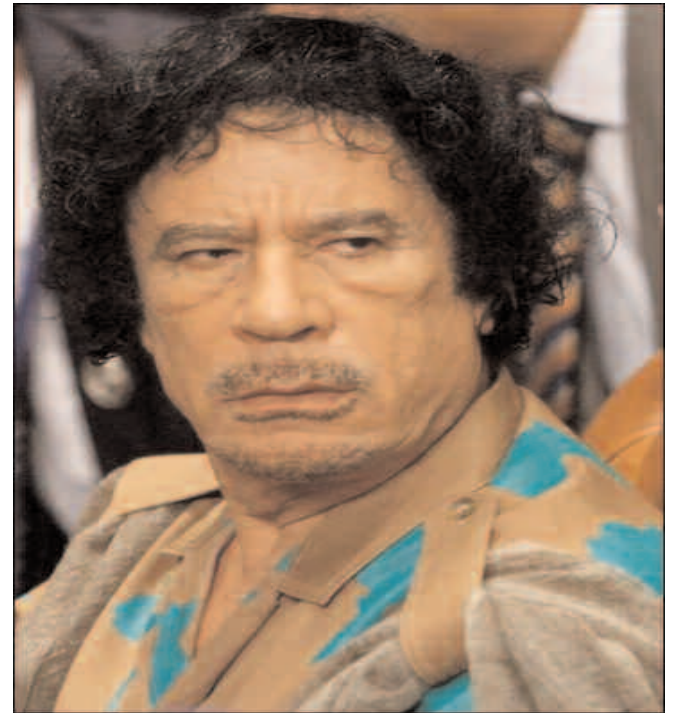
ing rule, it is not surprising that a harsh and oppressive régime has developed. With many nations currently running as democracies, most look down upon the confusing and tyrannical governing of Qaddafi. In recent years, the tumultuous relationship between Qaddafi and Western nations has been depicted upon the international stage. Qaddafi’s foreign policy, rule, bizarre face-lift, and numerous name spellings have only made him into a comedic figure that is easily and commonly disrespected. Because of this open ridicule, Qaddafi has only become harsher and baffling over the years.

When Qaddafi’s citizens found their opportunity to challenge him, they formed militias and were aware that their battle would

not be easily won. As soon as protesters, both violent and nonviolent, stormed the streets they were attacked by Qaddafi’s infamously brutal military. These military attacks, easily seen as being human right violations, have prompted many of Qaddafi’s enemies (The United States and its allies) to assemble. Because America is currently occupying and fighting in two wars, our nation allowed the UK and France to initiate the plan of preventing Libyans from using airspace in order to attack its citizens. This combined with airstrikes and a donation of arms and supplies to anti-régime militias from NATO has slowly aided the fight, but has not advanced it. This is because most militia members have little training

and are usually outmatched by Qaddafi forces. Although negotiations have occurred between the Allies and Qaddafi, he still is unwilling to relinquish his power. Most fear that if he does, one of his sons may occupy

his former place, leaving Libya’s citizens to still suffer under oppressive rule for possibly another forty-two years.



## OC students build faith on mission trip

By Delia Scoville  
Staff Writer '13

This year for the first time, Oakland Catholic sent a group of girls on a mission trip to St. James Parish in Mount Rainier, Maryland. Although the trip began with some minor difficulties, including a bus that lacked air conditioning, the experience was absolutely incredible. From April 19 to April 23, the girls worked to help clean the parish and

connecting school, prepare for Holy Week activities, and assist homebound members of the church community.

As a team, Oakland girls, sisters of The Incarnate Word, and members of St. James Parish prepared a Seder meal, organized a walking Stations of the Cross through the community, and thoroughly

cleaned the church facilities. Although they stayed busy, the girls managed prayer time every morning and night and attended several bilingual masses. The trip provided an excellent service opportunity and a faith-deepening experience.



## The Osama Generation

By Jemma Frost '12 and Julie Mueller '12  
Staff Writer and Assistant Editor

At first, it may seem like a stretch to define ourselves as the “Osama Generation.” But when one considers the profound effect the atrocities of 9/11 have had on the US and the world, it is hard to deny the impact of the actions of 9/11 mastermind Osama Bin Laden and his followers. It may be cliché, but it is true; every single one of us, though none of us were older than ten, remembers where we were on September 11th, 2001.

Since that terrible day nearly ten years ago, Osama Bin Laden has been a shadowy yet ever-present reminder and manifestation

of evil in the world.

After his death was announced May 1st, thousands of Americans across the country poured into the streets, bridging lines of partisan division, to celebrate the elimination of the head of the most horrible terrorist organization in the world. With Bin Laden’s death came also the death of the grim specter that haunted us for nearly a decade, directly taunting us with threats of violence and indirectly tearing us apart as both sides of the political world, though equally determined to eradicate terrorism, fought each other in the chambers of Congress instead of fighting



terrorism abroad.

With his death, an era of fear has ended, at least symbolically. Though it is natural to celebrate a victory, especially one so satisfying, it is important for our country and our generation to keep its head amidst

the jubilation. Though Osama Bin Laden has died, the threat of terrorism, both domestic and abroad, remains potent and very tangible. And even as crowds gathered outside the White House and near Ground Zero, the families of victims

who perished on September 11th remained far more somber. Many spoke of a sense of relief or even closure more than a feeling of joy or happiness upon hearing of Bin Laden’s death. Viewing Bin Laden’s death as the final stage in an accomplished

mission does not fully take into account or honor the significance of the needless slaughter of the thousands of people who died on 9/11. Despite our victory, our guard must remain up, and our resolve to eradicate terrorism cannot waver.

## Caroline Walker: President, Captain, and Morning Announcer

By Andie Seabrooke '13  
Staff Writer

Whether you know her as captain of the golf and swim teams, president of Student Council, or the voice reading the daily morning announcements, almost everyone knows Caroline Walker is a great leader and mentor for underclassmen. Caroline said she has really enjoyed her time at Oakland Catholic and is grateful for the many opportunities she had to participate in a variety of activities. Caroline recalled, "My favorite class I ever took was CE Chemistry my junior year with Ms. Arnold (who is no longer here)." However, she liked most of her classes as she admitted, "Yes, I am a super nerd." Caroline was also a member of the Chamber Choir and golf and swim teams.

Caroline played golf and swam for all four of her high school years and in her senior year Caroline was a captain of both teams. She said, "One of the highlights of my athletic career was making it to

WPIALs in golf because I just absolutely love to play golf and making WPIALs was just the icing on the cake." Caroline also enjoyed leading the swim team in an undefeated season this year. She has surely left her mark on both the golf and swim teams!

With Caroline as president, the Student Council had an extremely successful year, reinstating spirit points and the semiformal dance, as well as organizing the Princess Tea which allowed the seniors to provide our school with the "Make Dreams Come True Scholarship" as their senior gift. Caroline insisted, "I couldn't have done it without the dream team of Aislin, Jess, Mary Claire, Juliana and Anelise." It was exciting for the student body to see all that the Student Council was able to accomplish this year with Caroline and the other wonderful seniors as their leaders!

Outside of school, Caroline works in the pharmacy at Giant Eagle. She



Photo courtesy of

also volunteered for UPMC Passavant and Heritage Valley and participated in the Medallion Ball.

As for Caroline's future she will be attending Vanderbilt University next year. However before she heads off to Nashville, Caroline is excited to accomplish her final goal for high school, running in the Pittsburgh Half Marathon!

There is no doubt that Caroline has left her mark on Oakland Catholic. Thank you to our president, captain, and announcer! Good luck next year!

## Farewell From the Editor

For the past few weeks, I haven't been able to bring myself to write this farewell. At first, I didn't understand why. But, I now see that my procrastination in doing so stemmed from my trepidation in saying goodbye. Once this issue goes to print, it finally really is all over. Once I came to terms with the idea that an approaching goodbye is inevitable and sat down to write, I was still at a total loss. For someone who wants to possibly major in English and Writing, I could not think of a single sentence to write. With time, I realized that this is because words, and the amount of space I have left in this issue's layout, are not adequate for all that I wish to say.

It's hard to believe that it has already been four years since I first joined the newspaper. A timid freshman who didn't really know anyone, I was anxious to find new activities. Now, as a slightly more confident senior, I realize that I have completely fallen in love with this eight page spread (and the many breakdowns in Andy's office that ensued because I could not get the computers to work) the entire staff works so hard on. Sometimes, as I walk through the empty hallways, with no one left but the janitors and to my car in the vacant, now dark parking lot after spending endless hours in Mr. Finnegan's tiny windowless room reformatting articles, I thought to myself: "Why do I do this? Will people even read it?" Over the years, I have been able to answer my own question with this: No matter what, I believe in the idea of this paper. I believe that, even if some girls do toss it aside, it has the power to represent the entire school and keep everyone informed. By reading one issue, our student body can grow just as excited over the basketball team's latest success as they can someone forming a new club, or an update on current events. I believe in freedom of the press, or rather, in this instance, whatever we are allowed to print. I believe in the friendships I have made because of these long afternoon meetings. I believe in the chances I have had to grow as a writer. In my four

years here I have seen the *Eagle Eye* transform into an entirely different, more successful paper than it began as, due to many former excellent editors and, thus, I firmly believe that, even though many refer to newspaper journalism as a "dying field", this paper will never fade out, but, rather, continue to flourish and succeed in bringing the entire school together.

To my wonderful staff, thank you all so much for the long hours and dedication you have put into every article! It has been a pleasure working with every single one of you and I will never forget our meetings or long laughter filled afternoons spent swapping funny stories and gossip.

Mr. Finnegan, I could never thank you enough for everything you have taught me these past for years, not just in your classroom, but also in the field of journalism and life experiences.

And last, but certainly not least, to the senior class of 2011, these past couple years have been a crazy rollercoaster ride of tears, fun, stress, and drama, but mostly just laughter and good times. Looking back, I honestly couldn't have asked for a better group of people to spend this time in my life with. And the only regret I will ever have is not getting to know some of you a little better. I have full faith that each one of you will go on to be successful, accomplished individuals and I wish you the best of luck.

As I send this in, I finally accept that the end of this era in my life is fast approaching. I am thankful for everything this school and this paper have given me and know that I will never be able to forget this place. I hereby pass the *OC Eagle Eye* into the ever-capable hands of Julie Mueller: Julie- best of luck next year (and try not to annoy Finnegan too much!).

Well seniors, we did it! And with a fairytale ending I might add.

Love always,  
Nicolette Blackwell '11

"And they all lived happily ever after..."

### Senior Student Council Members

#### Executive board

President – Caroline Walker

Vice President – Aislin DeFilippo

Treasurer – Mary Claire Doyle

Secretary – Juliana Schneider

Historian – Jessica Hardin

#### Senior Class

President – Anelise Zamarripa - Zoucha

Vice President – Hanna Lauff

Treasurer – Stephanie Walker

Secretary – Jessica Hubson

Historian – Sam Bursic

#### Senators

Veronica Vento

Christin Thorpe

Haley Salera

Kerry Dolan

Audra Rhodes

Lindsay Schricker

Ashley Whigham

## Farewell to our Editor-in-Chief: Nicolette Blackwell

By Catherine Calhoun '12  
News Co-Editor

As the year comes to an end, we are all preparing to say goodbye to our senior friends. One of OC's seniors that is graduating is The *Eagle Eye*'s Editor-in-Chief, Nicolette Blackwell. Though she enjoyed her years in high school, Nicolette is ready for new experiences. Her new experiences will begin at Villanova University, where she is excited to figure out what she wants to study and do in the future.

During her time at OC, Nicolette has been in an active student. Besides being the editor of the newspaper, she has also participated in Yearbook, Italian Club, Latin Club, Dance Club, and Campus Ministry. Nicolette was a participant of the Medallion Ball this past November and she also is a member of NHS, a student ambassador, and a Eucharistic minister. Along

with keeping busy in school, she coaches and choreographs cheerleading at her grade school. She also goes to Appalachia with her church for volunteer work.

Throughout her time at OC, Nicolette has enjoyed great and fun moments, such as when Mrs. Streiff told Haley Salera and her to get a life. She also says that she will miss her favorite classes such as English with Mrs. Riale, World History with Mr. Finnegan, and CE Argument. Though she had fun times in Oakland, she also learned about good study habits from her classes. Her English classes especially taught her how to write papers.

...continued on next page.

## Service Feature: Juliana Schneider

By Danielle Harrington '13  
Staff Writer

Photo  
courtesy  
of  
Google  
Images



From outstanding service to academic achievement to extracurriculars, Juliana Schneider is one of Oakland's finest seniors.

Jules originally started her non-profit organization "Jules for Schools" in her junior year as a religion service project. Jules for Schools helps to build or rebuild schools in impoverished areas all over the world. After seeing a CNN article about a married thirteen year old girl whose dream was to attend school, Jules began to think of ways to help children who are unable to attend school.

Her first major project with Jules for Schools began after the Haiti earthquake. Jules learned that the best way for children to cope with the devastating effects of the earthquake was to go to school, so she began to focus her efforts there. On October 23 of this school year, Jules hosted a walk to raise money for her organization. Jules for Schools is currently raising money for schools in Hawaii.

Jules has received several awards and scholarships for her dedication to service, including the Outstanding Citizen award

from the Tribune. This award selected 100 students based on their service and academics, and Jules was one of the ten people out of these 100 that was presented with a gold medal for her achievements. She also received the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship for her service.

Next year, Jules is attending Dickinson College. She plans on majoring in biochemistry and premed, and eventually attending medical school. After college, Jules would like to continue helping others by joining Doctors Without Borders, an organization that provides medical care to people in war-torn or natural disaster effected countries.

Along with all of her volunteer hours, Jules has both danced and cheered since the age of three. She plans on continuing to participate in cheerleading and take dance classes when she attends college in the fall.

Jules views her time at Oakland as an extremely beneficial time in her life. "I definitely credit Oakland for everything I've done because it's shown me I can do whatever I put my mind to and helped me grow as a person."

## Congratulations Masque for 5 Gene Kelly nominations!

Best Actor: Luke Halferty

Best Lighting Design

Best Costumes and

Best Musical: Budget II

Best Choreography



Photo Courtesy of Devan Mercurio

## Farewell to our Editor

...continued from page 3

When asked to give advice for the upcoming seniors, Nicolette suggests, "Get your applications done early. And of course study hard and everything, but have fun too. Looking back at the end of senior year, four years is a really short amount of time so make sure you do what you want and enjoy it."

We will miss Nicolette as both an editor and a friend. The whole newspaper staff wishes Nicolette the best and knows she will do great things in the future. Good luck!!!

## Administrative Professionals Appreciation Day

By Polina Langer and Stephanie Kambic '14  
Staff Writers

Unbeknownst to many students, the celebration of Administrative Professionals Day occurred on April 27, 2011. Celebrated at Oakland Catholic every year but unheard of to many, Administrative Professionals Day is a day to recognize all of the people who help our school run smoothly. Without this team that assists behind the scenes, our school would not be able to run as flawlessly as it does. We had the privilege to speak to Dr. Marsteller about this day of appreciation. Generously answering our inquiries, she shared with us the origin of Administrative Professionals Appreciation Day. She said, "The day first started out as a day to honor the school secretaries. However, it soon became important to recognize everybody on the staff, not just secretaries, who

helps out in schools." She divulged that on the 27th, the staff left school during lunchtime traveling in a limo, and were treated to an enjoyable ride around the city. Afterwards, they ate a wonderful lunch on Mount Washington, and arrived back at Oakland Catholic at the end of the school day.

Miss Teeters most kindly organized this event for the staff, and deserves many thanks for her efforts. This year, to make the celebration more special, she arranged for all of the teachers to contribute to the cause.

Overall, the 2011 Administrative Professionals Day was a fantastic way to celebrate all of the staff at Oakland Catholic who selflessly devote hours of time daily into making our school experience more enjoyable.

### Attendees of the Lunch:

Mrs. Ceponis  
Mrs. Devinney  
Sr. Veronica  
Mrs. Just  
Mrs. Moran  
Mrs. Werner  
Mrs. Marchiano  
Mrs. Ferrari  
Ms. Marner  
Ms. O'Malley



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

## News Editor: Jess Hardin

By Katherine Pilewski '11  
Staff Writer

To anyone who knows her, Jess Hardin is a studious yet extraordinarily personable and fun-loving student and friend. Over the years, the members of the senior class have all come to know and respect Jess for her scope of knowledge and amicable personality. For this reason, as the year draws to a close, we are sorry to wave farewell to our classmate who also fills the position of news editor.

As a member of the newspaper, Jess has written and edited many articles, her favorite of which was the article she penned about Middle States. In addition to the newspaper, she is a member of the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars, National Honor Society, and Student Ambassadors. She has spent a few years on the soccer and swim teams, and she was a

valued contributor to the deep thoughts of the Philosophy Club.

In the classrooms of OC, Jess's favorite haunts were McNult's room for English or History discussions, the intellectual sparring arena of Mrs. Streiff's AP English class, Ms. Nichol's Art room, and Ms. Sciacca's Calculus classes. She loved all of these teachers and the subjects they taught sparked her imagination and intrigue.

One of Jess's favorite high school memories was the trip to New York City during senior year with Mrs. Strieff and Ms. McNulty, where she enjoyed "hipster-ing it out with McNult." This alone should show that, of the many words in Jess Hardin's vocabulary, "average" is not one of them; she is a unique individual who

makes anything she does recognizably her own, from her art, to her writing, to her sense of style.

Next year Jess will attend Georgetown University where she has yet to decide what she will study for the next four years, though it will be something in the realm of the humanities. "I want to find something that makes me happy," she said; one of her dreams is to learn Russian and travel to Russia sometime in the future.

Words of advice from Jess: "Don't stress, because in the end it's probably not worth it; just have fun." As everyone approaches summer and new beginnings, hopefully all can take her advice to heart and enjoy the vacation, looking toward future endeavors.

## A Season of Statements

By Andie Seabrooke '13  
Staff Writer

Leading up to the 2010-2011 swimming season, there was much speculation as to whether Oakland Catholic would continue its swimming success as the team moved up to the AAA level. However, the Oakland Catholic swimmers proved themselves numerous times as the team went on to win their section undefeated, took second place at WPIALS, and sent several girls to States.

Bethel Park girl's team had not lost a section meet for several years. The Eagles were proud to end Bethel Park's winning streak. The Eagles also defeated many other tough teams including Mt. Lebanon, Peters Township, and Upper St. Clair. Winning the section sent a message to the swimming world that Oakland Catholic was not only ready to compete at the AAA level, but ready to continue their

took first, second, and third place, a rare occurrence at a meet as competitive as WPIALS. Sophomore Leah Smith won the event, setting the WPIAL record and the University of Pittsburgh's pool record, Shannon Haberman took second, and Allison Viverette took third in that event. The Eagles came in second place out of twenty-seven teams, losing only to North Allegheny, who defeated Franklin Regional by 30 points. The team once again proved that they are one of the teams to beat in AAA.

Several girls moved on to States after their successful WPIAL swims. The Eagles had another strong showing. Leah Smith set another record in the 500 freestyle, beating the second place finisher by ten seconds, a large margin for a state championship meet. The team took fifth out of fifty-two teams, a great showing for their first year in AAA. An extremely successful season allowed the Eagles to make a strong statement to the swimming world: watch out AAA swimming, the Eagles have arrived.

success. Many girls qualified for WPIALS, where the team battled against teams from all over Western Pennsylvania, including the swimming powers of North Allegheny and Franklin Regional. Oakland Catholic had a great showing, with many swimmers making the podium in numerous events. In an exciting 500 freestyle, the Eagles



The team had a successful regular season going undefeated and beating Bethel Park to win the section. Throughout the season many swimmers set personal records as well as pool records at nearly every meet. Oakland Catholic made a strong statement as they defeated Bethel Park in a close meet to clinch the section. Up until this meet, the

## Softball Team Features Carly Pina

By Danielle Harrington '13  
Staff Writer

Carly Pina, senior at Oakland Catholic High School, has played softball since fourth grade. In her fourth and final year of playing for the Eagles, Carly was made captain and provided the team with a solid outfielder. As captain, it is her duty to keep the girls in line, lead stretches, and be a positive representation of both the team and Oakland Catholic.

After two years out of the WPIALS, Oakland's softball team now faces a higher level of competition. Despite the difficult season, Carly remains positive about the team's future. "We're in a tougher division now, which is harder for us because we are a team that's still growing and learning. However, we are getting progressively better."

This growing team consists of many diverse personalities. Nevertheless, this group of individuals work well together and form a close knit team that has the potential to progress in the coming years. Carly has some parting words for the team: "I just want to say that



Photo courtesy of Nicolette Blackwell '11.  
Editor-in-chief

I have been on the team for four years now, and this year is by far the best. All the girls on the team are very nice, and I enjoy spending my time with them. They are like my new best friends. I hope they all enjoy the rest of their years at Oakland, and also enjoy having practice every day again next year. I will miss everyone."

## Basketball Wrap-Up

By Abigail Lesko '12  
Staff Writer

Congratulations to the basketball team on their amazingly successful season! Moving into a brand new, tougher section, no one knew how successful the team would be this year. The team shocked everyone by beating their section rivals, North Allegheny and Shaler, and then going on to be second place in that section.

The regular season was jam-packed with exciting events and victories. The team participated in a holiday tournament at Penn State Beaver in which they came in second place. Playing for a great cause, the team sponsored its annual "Pink the Pavilion" to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research. Players and coaches donned pink socks, shoelaces, and junior Chrissy Berenato even wore pink

shoes! The most successful part of the event was the "Peace, Love, Hope" T-shirt sale which OC students, teachers, and parents excitedly supported.

Entering the post-season, the team's potential was still underestimated. During the first round of WPIAL playoffs, the Eagles were pitted against Upper Saint Claire. Foul shots proved crucial at the end of the game, and the team went on to beat USC by 13 points. After a week of intense preparation, the team was ready to face the formidable Baldwin team. Faced with a deficit at halftime, the Eagles came back fighting and went on the win by an 11 point margin. Moving onto the WPIAL Semifinals, OC was up against the WPIAL and PIAA powerhouse, Mt.

Lebanon. Unable to pull off the win, Mt. Lebanon advanced to the finals, but OC's long playoff run allowed them to advance to the PIAA state playoffs.

Breezing past Brashear in the preliminary round, the team was ready to play Altoona, a team that defeated them by just two points earlier in the season. In a gym packed with Altoona fans, the Eagles banded together to defeat Altoona by 13 points and advancing to the second round. After an inspirational pep rally, the team was ready to take on their rivals, Shaler, who had just come off of winning the WPIAL championship. After a hard fought and extremely close game, Shaler pulled out the win, narrowly defeating OC by only 6 points.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Martinson '12

When asked about their achievements this season junior captain Bobbi Baker relayed, "This was the most exciting season we've had in a long time. We've worked really hard to get as far as we did. We started conditioning in May and never stopped training to keep in shape, and I think that our stamina is what made the difference in some of our key victories. All of our success was really a team effort, and I am very pleased with our performance this season."

Ending with

an overall record of 18-10, the Eagles were happy with their performance this season. The team had the most post-season success it has had in the past few years. The five graduating seniors, Molly Delaney, Erin Lavery, Ally Schmidt, Marissa Polk, and Alexis Restori, will undoubtedly be missed. The Eagles look forward to next season with excitement and anticipation that their new playoff experience will come in handy next year. Congratulations on a great year team!

## A Hard Hitting Topic

By Alex Delazio '13  
Staff Writer

to function normally”.

According to the official website of UPMC, a concussion can be caused by “anything that makes the brain bounce around and against the side of the skull...”.

Melissa continued, “Your brain is like an egg yolk: You don’t have to break or hurt the shell to hurt the yolk”. While outwardly I looked fine (with the exception of the bump and bruises) internally I had a concussion, which is nothing to fool around with.

Melissa also clarified that concussions usually become evident through symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, difficulty concentrating, vomiting, and even academic struggles.

When I suffered from a concussion, I did not experience any symptoms and since that was the case, it appeared that I had just a bad contusion or bruise on my forehead. To be on the safe side though, Melissa, who had examined me immediately after the incident, told me to take the ImPACT test.

The ImPACT Test, (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) is a computerized test that was originally created in Pittsburgh in order to test a person’s cognitive skills in a twenty-minute period. Melissa stresses that the test is designed to test “immediate recall and delayed memory recall, reaction speed and concentration” through a series of tasks and trials. The ImPACT test is used on every level of athlet-

ics, including middle school, high school, and various professional leagues such as the NFL, NHL and MLB.

At Oakland Catholic, it is mandatory to take the ImPACT test as a baseline test before participating on any of the contact sports teams. A baseline test reveals how a person reacts to the test under normal circumstances. This way, when someone is said to have received a concussion, she can take the ImPACT test again and the results are compared to those of her original baseline test in order to signify any changes.

When I took the ImPACT test after my concussion, my scores decreased on certain sections compared to my baseline test. This signaled that I did indeed have a concussion, even though I did not outwardly show any of the symptoms.

Melissa proceeded to explain, “Everyone is different and that’s what makes it difficult to diagnose concussions. When one person gets a concussion, they could be out for a week and then back playing their sport, while another could be out for the season.”

Take Pittsburgh Penguins’ captain Sidney Crosby, for example: Crosby was diagnosed with a “mild” concussion the day after the Pittsburgh Penguins defeated the Tampa Bay Lightning 8-1. This concussion was the result of two brutal hits to Crosby’s head during both the Lightning game and the Winter Classic. While it still remains unknown which of

the hits caused Crosby’s concussion, what was initially thought to be a “mild” concussion has kept Crosby out for over half of the season.

On January 8th, just a few days after he received his concussion, Crosby spoke in an interview on PensTV and admitted to having bad neck pain, headaches, “feeling off”, and feeling sick.

As Crosby mentioned in the interview, “I think it’s kind of a process—Just go [according to my] symptoms and hopefully soon I’ll be symptom free and be able to start doing exercise and if I can get through that without any symptoms, then [I’ll] go to the next step and maybe stuff like that so [I’m coming back] sooner than later.”

This is exactly the process that everyone who suffers from a concussion must complete. Similar to Crosby, I, too, had to follow the recovery guidelines as quoted from the official website of the ImPACT test:

1. No activity - rest u n t i l asymptomatic;
2. Light aerobic exercise;
3. Sport-specific training;
4. Non-contact drills;
5. Full-contact drills;
6. Game play

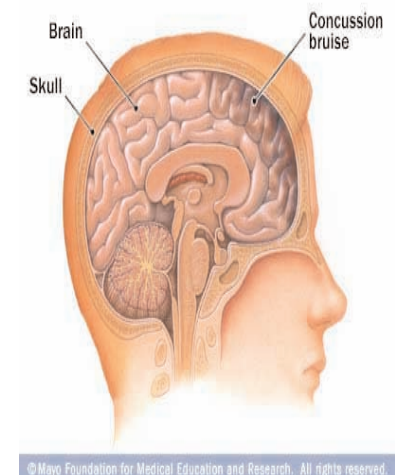
Far too often, athletes from every level who are diagnosed with concussions do not take the proper steps to recover from their concussions. If one returns to the

sport too soon after a concussion, a more drastic injury can occur. Melissa explains that “it is important to understand that there are worse things that can happen to a person than just missing a couple of games.”

While concussions have occurred for a long time, there seems to be an increase in the number of them. In response to this increase, Melissa admitted, “I think it’s more that people are recognizing that people are sustaining concussions and seeking treatment than an increasing number.” She also discussed that the growing number of concussions could also be due to an increase in the number of people involved in physical activity.

For further research on concussions, visit the official website of the ImPACT test, <http://www.impacttest.com/>, or the official website of UPMC, <http://www.upmc.com/>.

*Photos courtesy of Google Images.*



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Last September, on the first day of my sophomore year at Oakland Catholic, I walked into school with a black eye, an ugly black and blue bump, and cut on my forehead. I remember how people would look at me in the hallway and ask me different questions: “What did you do? Did you get into a fight?” The answer to that question was “No, I did not get into a fight!”

I am a goalie for the Oakland Catholic Varsity Soccer team and during the final days of pre-season camp, I attempted a save on one of the coach’s shots. Instead, I dove into the goal post, hitting my head. As a result, I earned the black eye, the huge bump and cut on my forehead, but most of all, a concussion. With my entire OC soccer season ahead of me, I was benched for four of the six weeks of the season with this injury.

Oakland Catholic’s UPMC Sports Medicine Athletic Trainer, Melissa Nadeau, explained that a textbook definition of a concussion is, “a metabolic crisis in the brain..., [which causes] the brain to lose its ability

## The Spirit of the Game

Grace Handler '13  
Staff Writer



*Photo courtesy of Molly Nace '12.*

OC has a lot of unique clubs and sports because of our diverse student body. One of the many up and coming hobbies of OC students is Ultimate Frisbee! Coached by Mr. Patrizio, the head of the religion department, the team has been rising over the past few years. The spring sport began meeting in early March and started their strenuous practice schedule by the end of the month. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the team runs to Flag Staff Hill across from the Phipps Conservatory. There they run defensive and offensive plays after going through drills to develop their

Frisbee skills. In early April, the team took a trip to Manheim, Pennsylvania to compete in the Keystone Classic where Caitlin Farley, class of 2011, scored a goal in her first game ever! Though they did not win any games, the team began to develop a bond that will keep them going throughout the season. Following the weekend, the team played their first game against Mt. Lebanon, with a loss of 1 to 15. But this is just the beginning! The season proceeds until the end of May, with the Irwin, PA state tournament rounding out the season. Before May, they will have the opportunity to compete

with Allderdice, Schenley, North Allegheny, Fox Chapel, and Shadyside Academy. “Compared to other sports, ultimate is a relaxed, yet very competitive sport. Everyone you meet throughout the season is always nice. The game consists of a lot of endurance, while still having fun and learning a lot along the way,” says one of Oakland’s Ultimate Frisbee team members. With an awesome coach, lots of new members, and the “spirit of the game,” one of Mr. P’s favorite quotes, the Ultimate Frisbee team is only beginning!

## Senior Sports Scholarships

By Maureen Deken '12  
Staff Writer

This year, some of Oakland's best senior athletes have earned the opportunity to attend college with athletic scholarships. They represent a variety of Oakland's sports teams. Among these talented athletes, Rose Doerfler, Marissa Polk, and Hailey Farrell have each signed letters of intent to participate in collegiate sports. Rose Doerfler, who has rowed for the Eagles for four years, will attend Notre Dame to row on their crew team. Marissa Polk plans to attend Robert Morris University with a scholarship for track and cross country running. Hailey Farrell will go to Delaware University where she will compete on the swim team. All of the universities they plan to attend are Division I schools. Those countless hours of hard work on the water, in the pool, and on the track have definitely paid off!

According to George Rudolph, Athletic Director, a

number of other girls will continue to participate in sports during college, including Natalie Polk, Emma Ross, Allison Viverette, Kayla Browning, and Ally Schmidt. Natalie Polk plans to play field hockey for Dickinson College and Emma Ross will participate in field hockey for Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Allison Viverette plans to attend Boston College for swimming, while her teammate, Kayla Browning, will swim for Gannon University. In the fall, Ally Schmidt will play basketball for Washington and Jefferson College. Their hard work, talent, and perseverance have earned them these scholarship opportunities. The accomplishments of these young women are a testament to their dedication and the strength of Oakland's athletic programs.

## OC Track Team: Higher, Farther, Faster Season

By Rose Doerfler '11  
Co-Sports Editor

Many would argue that track is one of the most competitive sports in the WPIAL, with exceptionally high standards required for victory. Winning a track meet requires a team to have strong athletes in a wide range of events, including distance and middle distance running, sprinting, hurdles, jumping, and throwing.

Nevertheless, OC Track has had a remarkably strong spring season, finishing the regular season as section champions. The team made a transition from the winter indoor season to the outdoor season in late February. The track team has not won the section in a few years, so this year's victory was a sign of the rewards of their hard work.

There are several seniors who have dedicated four years to track, including Marissa Polk (distance), Michaela Mozley (distance), and Kayla Browning (throwing/ jumping). One senior, Marissa Polk, will be continuing her running career in college at Robert Morris uni-

versity. She plans to compete in distance events and cross-country. Marissa is a three-time state qualifier in cross-country, a member of the all-state team, and a WPIAL qualifier in track.

There are several talented OC runners who have qualified for the WPIAL Championships in individual events or relays. The WPIAL Championships will take place on Thursday, May 19, and in order to qualify, the girls had to place well at the WPIAL Qualifying meet.

Congratulations to the following girls: Freshman Taylor McCorkle qualified in the 100 meter and 200 meter sprints. Senior Marissa Polk qualified in the 1600 meters, commonly referred to as the "mile." The 4 x 100 meter relay of Corey Taglienetti, Ashley Vojtek, Olivia Utterback, and Taylor McCorkle qualified for WPIALs.

The 4 x 400 meter relay of Jessica Mrdjenovich, Olivia Utterback, Ashley Vojtek, and Marissa Polk also qualified.

From the WPIAL

## Rowing: According to Katie Garrity

By Erin Higgins '13  
Staff Writer



What defines your high school experience? For some, academics, volleyball, or their friends. But with practice everyday and a literally never-ending season, crew is what defined senior, Katie Garrity's high school years. Due to crew Katie defines her high school experience as "Different, but always fun." While most girls were getting ready for dances or parties, Katie was usually getting ready for her crew race somewhere in Ohio. She never regretted missing things though, and stated, "Even though maybe my social life suffered, I always had a great time with my friends at races." The bonds she made at crew, on both the Central and Oakland teams, became extremely important to her. Looking back on the past four years, she says rowing is what sticks out the most. It changed what she did on weekends and gave her some of her best friends.

Hopefully these strong bonds can survive college, where Katie will be

rowing in the A-10 division for Fordham. Her former teammates, including one of her closets friends, senior, Aleena Yobbi, will now be her competition. At least we know that they will still keep in touch. Not only did crew give her good friends, Katie thinks that rowing has also given her several advantages for college. During the spring season, there is practice everyday and races every weekend. Not to mention, it's the end of the year and major projects are due in almost every subject. Katie gloats, "I now have crazy good time management skills. I think I'll almost be bored in college when I'm not rushing to do projects." Not only has crew taught her time management, but also leadership. She has been stroke seat of the 1st Varsity boat since junior year. Stroke seat is the person in charge of setting the pace for the entire boat, and Katie is the perfect for the job. She learned how to keep people in line and really kept the team working

together and in sync. Always keeping calm and organized, less experienced team members could always go to Katie when they had questions and she would take the time to help them. Finally, crew gave Katie something truly special, the drive to win. When asked what her favorite part of crew was she responded simply, "I love winning."

With all of these valuable skills in tow, Katie is ready to head off to college and face her challenges head on. After the blisters, morning practices, and never-ending season, Katie can handle anything that she is faced with in college. The crew team will really miss her leadership and attitude and wish her the best in college. Good luck, Katie!



Photo courtesy of Erin Higgins '13.

championships, the girls will have an opportunity to try to qualify for states. Oakland Catholic made a very good showing at WPIAL quali-

fiers, and the team is continuing to build and improve.

Congratulations to the WPIAL qualifiers and best of luck at the championships!

Signing Letters of Intent  
Photo Courtesy of Ms. Decker



## Who is He Is We?

By Jackie Klunk '12  
Staff Writer

The band He Is We confidently steps into the world of music with their first full album debut, *My Forever*. This album, released in November of 2010, is composed of both brand new songs and revamped versions of the band's older demos. Since each song is as catchy as the last and so easily relatable, one feels as though his or her own individual emotions have just been set to music and made into a song. He Is We provides listeners with breezy, carefree, laid back rhythms that give the band its uniquely indie pop vibe marked by just a hint of a folk and country twang. Band members Trevor Kelly and Rachel Taylor combine their musical talents and produce a sound that lies somewhere in between the quirky Regina Spektor and the famed Taylor Swift. While this is undoubtedly an odd blend of music, He Is We executes it excellently in *My Forever*, an album spanning the gamut of the many facets of love.

From falling blissfully head over heels in love to standing happily independent, *My Forever* covers it all. Songs like "All About Us" and "Everything You Do" kick off the album, proclaiming the wonders of being in love. While the songs are just a tad sappy, He Is We's real, meaningful lyrics and varied spectrum of rhythms keep the tunes from becoming overwhelmingly mushy. The



Photo courtesy of Google Images

sweet and slow "All About Us" is a perfect slow song that focuses on the special, inimitable relationship between the members of a couple and creates a dreamy, romantic reverie for its listeners.

Meanwhile, "Everything You Do" is lighthearted and upbeat, with lyrics that draw the listener in and remind him or her that a person's little quirks should be most cherished in love. Admittedly, love songs can grow annoying, but these songs are made tastefully and avoid seeming too cliché.

However, He Is We is not blinded by romantic bliss. "Fall" tells the story of a bitter break up, excellently portraying the raw and relatable emotions of frustration, vulnerability, and anger. The angst filled melody echoes the sadness of the lyrics to fully connect with the listener. The band also emphasizes the importance of moving on and valuing independence. A song with a swinging, country melody, "Love Life" chronicles the process of moving past a breakup into acceptance with a realistical-

ly snarky attitude that does not sugar coat the feeling of being heartbroken. The quirky but cool rhythms of "And Run" do not overshadow the song's important message: value oneself as a strong individual who does not allow personal insecurities to prevent progress on the crazy journey of life.

In *My Forever*, He Is We demonstrates a true understanding of love in relation to the unpredictable nature of life. The band's message is as great as its music, and can be summarized in "Happily Ever After" a song with a simply fun beat that optimistically explains that life is a turbulent journey; no one can hope to understand it before its end, only to enjoy it along the way. *My Forever* is a terrific CD that can be listened to again and again. It is a relaxed and relatable compilation of songs that remind listeners that regarding life and love, "We all have a story to tell" (from "Happily Ever After"). Through *My Forever*, He Is We tells its own story, and invites all to listen.

## OC Eagle Eye

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## Advice to Seniors

Ellen DeSimone '13  
Staff Writer

When you get on campus, get involved in clubs. Make new friends. Of course, study and have fun, but not too much fun." ~Ms. Bielich

"Shop around for your textbooks. They're expensive.

And get ready for your entire grade to be based around one paper or one test." ~ Mr. Finnegan

"Don't be afraid to go to a professor's office even if it a class of a couple hundred." ~Ms. Coleman

"Keep an open mind." ~Ms. Lehman

"Work hard, but have fun. And always answer the phone if it's your mother calling." ~ Mrs. Fratto

"Life is filled with decisions to be made. Learn to evaluate situations quickly and make good decisions. If you choose wrongly, don't waste any time on regret, but decisively pursue a different path." ~Mrs. Kasunic

## Limitless: Entertaining and Visually Stunning, Despite a Lackluster Ending

By Lauren Leblanc '13  
Staff Writer

One of the most entertaining ways to analyze a society is on the creation of its myths and how it reflects the fears or hopes of the day. Superman came from Planet Krypton and reflected a culture fascinated with space travel; Godzilla, born from radioactive waste, expressed fears of radioactivity gone wrong. In the new movie *Limitless*, released this past March, Bradley Cooper plays a man who becomes a new kind of myth: A man who gains amazing powers and

insights from a pill.

Cooper plays Eddie Morra, a struggling writer with massive writer's block who has convinced himself that he is a complete failure. All that begins to change, however, when Eddie runs into an old friend who provides him with a little clear pill, known as NZT. Upon taking the drug, Eddie is able to access all the recesses of his mind and become a superhuman version of himself; he finishes his book in two days, makes a fortune in the stock market, and learns

amazing skills in a matter of hours. But, as expected, things begin to go wrong when the NZT begins to run out, and dangerous men pursue him to get their hands on a drug worth millions of dollars.

I really enjoyed the premise of this film, especially due to its originality and interesting concept. However, though I was entertained, the plot lacked as much depth as I expected, and the ending lacked real closure to the story. The cinematography surprised me

in this film, helping the audience understand NZT's affects and making what otherwise could have been a dull filler scene into a very memorable one. Some of the effects in this film really stood out, especially when Eddie is writing his novel and the letters literally fall out of the sky. However, some of the disorienting camera effects may make you a little nauseous. Also, there is some considerable violence in this film, and a few gory scenes that made me cringe.

*Limitless* has the potential to be a great movie filled with depth and dimension, but often feels like it has more style than actual substance. Despite its shortcomings, *Limitless* is a fun,



intense movie that introduces a new kind of thinking about the brain and how it can be affected.