

THE HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL BROADSIDE



February 2012

A Whole New World: Hanover's First Exchange with China

By Chi Zhang

Last week, seventeen high school students and five teachers from China visited Hanover High School. These curious travellers came to the US to learn American customs and culture, experience its education, and visit some of the nation's top institutes. While this was not the first time Hanover has hosted an exchange program with another country, this was the first exchange with China. Needless to say, it was an eye-opening experience for both the Chinese kids and for us.

This program was run by the US China Scitech Education Promotion Association. Pei Zhang is the program director who organized this event with Hanover's teacher Bill Hammond. Together, the two of them made this exchange possible.

I, along with many other students from our school, hosted a Chinese student. On the night of January 28, we waited anxiously in our school atrium for the arrival of the Chinese students. Because the bus came later than planned, we waited for an extra hour while coming up with ideas for things we could do with our students. While Angad was very enthusiastic in sharing his ideas, we decided all of his plans were less than stellar—or less than safe. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity of kids and parents waiting in the atrium, the bus carrying the exchange students finally showed up.

Instantly, all of us ran up to the bus to greet our Chinese students. We held up the signs we had made with the Chinese kids' names on them. Some of us were even calling the names out loud, which was probably not a good idea, since most of us butchered their names. I think the Chinese students were surprised and a little nervous about meeting strangers, or maybe they were just intimidated by Chris's and Emma's overly emphatic welcomes. After a while, we all managed to find our Chinese students without scaring them away.



Chinese students enjoy Washington D.C. Photo: Zhang Pei

I brought Ma Xinyu—or Matthew, as he liked to be called—to his home for the week. In a way, Matthew was luckier than all the other exchange students because he got to stay with my family, which is also Chinese; therefore, communication was not a problem. At first my family thought he might have wanted to see how an American family functioned, so he wouldn't enjoy the experience as much as the others. But then Matthew told us that he was more interested in seeing how a Chinese family sur-

vived in the US, so it all worked out in the end.

Our Chinese students were to follow us around for the entire school day to see what classes were like in America. We would bring them to our classes, introduce them to our classmates and teachers, and repeat until school ended. Then every day after school, all the Chinese students would get together and take a trip to see Upper Valley's institutes. From Monday to Thursday, they visited DHMC, Thayer School of Engineering, Tom Tom, and An-

sys respectively. On certain nights, we would also take our students to attend school events, such as the play *Twelfth Night*, hockey games, basketball games, and quiz bowl.

On Friday, we had a closing ceremony for the Chinese students. Each Chinese student, with their host student, was supposed to come up to the podium to state one sentence about something they learned from the experience; however, everyone gave inspiring and wonderful speeches. It was a bittersweet moment for everybody, but Mr. Bill's magic trick in the end definitely brought smiles and wondrous looks to the crowd. Caroline is still dazed from the trick to this day.

On Saturday, the Chinese students and some of their hosts attended the Year of the Dragon event down at Boston Latin School. There were brilliant performances and delicious food, which, in my opinion, is a great combination. Even though I didn't go, I heard it was a lot of fun, even though Charly didn't seem too excited.

On Sunday, the last day, we got to just hang out with our students. My family cooked a big dinner for Matthew to celebrate the week we'd had. Melanie's student got to see Melanie and the girls'

Con't on page 3

Twelfth Night: A Review

By Anne Thompson

A Shakespearean comedy starring a ship-wrecked, crossing-dressing, lover-lorn heroine is bound to be funny. I can fully attest that HHS Footlighter's production of *Twelfth Night*, directed by John Galton and advised by Erin Piro, balanced the wit and whimsy of this timeless play excellently. Besides the heroine Viola (Olivia Zerphy), a beautiful countess Olivia (Kendra Comstock), a bereft Duke Orsino (Cas Stone), and the





rowdy drunkards Sir Toby Belch (Matthew Stebenne) and Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Nathan Gardner) all fill out a colorful cast.

Other charmingly kooky characters include Olivia's chambermaid and confident Maria (Pheobe Cullen), the Fabians (Anjali Sundaram and Hannah Sobel) Olivia's "licensed" fools who are perhaps the wisest and funniest characters, along with Olivia's puritanical servant Malvolio (Seamus Good). Though it feels a bit like *schadenfreude* to say so, poor persnickety Malvolio's humiliation from his attempts at showing his love for his mistress Olivia was quite funny and plays right into the old warhorse of "love making a fool of all of us" that Shakespeare seemed to so relish depicting in nearly every character in the play. Sebastian (Jack Higgins), the missing twin is comically willing to fill Cesario's shoes as Olivia's lover. The kindly sea captain Antonio (Nicolas Graver) proves just as useless as the others in distinguishing the twins, leading to his perceived betrayal by Sebastian into the hands of the formidable officer (Aurora Berger).

Yet, as another great Shakespearean plays title proclaims, "all's well that end's well" and since *Twelfth Night* is after all a Shakespearean comedy and in this sense the ending does not disappoint. The previously love sick characters all end up happily facing matrimonial bliss, presided over by the obliging priest (Alexandra Showorak). Each character marries who they love, or realize spur of the moment they could love just as much as their cross dressed twin, in the case of Olivia. The acting was excellent, and from authenticity of their deliveries it was clear the actors were having just as much fun as the audience.

Naturally, the acting was no the only outstanding aspect of the play. The costumes (designed by Eleanor Seaman) were all perfectly suited to the characters they clothed. The jester-esque interpretation for the Fabians was perfect for their blithe lampooning personalities. The clothes of Olivia's transformation from the dreary blacks to the delicate light blues was the perfect backdrop to her inner metamorphosis. The set design was also quaintly detailed, the "Assail her ale" shop being a personal favorite. As ever, the crew executed the play with adept efficiency. I particularly enjoyed the bursts of music throughout the play. They served well in modernizing and engaging the audience for pivotal scenes. One of the funniest instances was poor Malvolio's "theme song", Bob Dylan' folksy *Man of Constant Sorrow*.

After the emotional intensity of this fall's *Crucible*, *Twelfth Night* provided a welcome dose of comic-relief. However, to write off *Twelfth Night* has a mere farce would be to do it a great injustice. This boisterous ode to the Dionysian pleasures, with its ridiculous characters and bawdy sensuality, was an intentional attack on the Puritan powers (as evident in the character Malvolio) that had begun to tighten their stringent grip on the people of mid 17th century England. Furthermore, the play in no way asserts that gravity and propriety be thrown away for lewd bedlam, but rather highlights the power of levity and camaraderie to be as profound as any more serious material. Nothing serves better than comedy to warm the heart on a chilly winter night, an insight that is every bit as applicable today as it was four hundred years ago.

"All Because We Live in the Outskirts of London, and Because our Name is Smith"

By B Sachsse

Around the time before Thanksgiving Break, I went home and told my mom I'd be an "intern" for this year's Students on Stage (SOS) production. She was intrigued and went on to ask me several questions about the play. Although these questions were all fairly basic and straightforward, they were questions I found difficult to answer; then again, *The Bald Soprano* by Eugène Ionesco is not a "basic and straightforward" play. Our conversation went something like this: "So, B, is it a play or a musical?" "Well, neither... it's technically an anti-play." "What happens?" "Well, the whole point is that nothing really happens."

Needless to say, she was very confused. I probably should have given her some background on the play first. *The Bald Soprano* is an absurdist play written in French by Eugène Ionesco, and was first performed in 1950. SOS performed the translation by Tina Howe. The plot centers around two stereotypically dull married couples from 1950s London (Rachel Margolis, Nick Graver, Alice Rottersman, and Jack Higgins) who come together for a dinner party, and never actually get to the dinner part. These characters, along with a maid (Catherine Collison) and a fire captain (Tobias Reynolds), struggle to communicate throughout an evening in which language has little or no meaning. Although what they say to each other makes little sense, they experience a wide range of emotions, including anger, lust, bitterness, and confusion. The disorder culminates when the characters begin to throw things at each other, run around the room, and shout meaningless phrases such as, "gooey gurgles galore, gooey gurgles galore" and "The pope eloped. The pope's no dope. It's not a joke, but a slippery slope." While the play can be interpreted in numerous ways, many think that the play is a commentary on the futility and fruitlessness of structured human interaction.

Such a bizarre play would probably have been impossible to pull off believably without the guidance of our fearless director, Clara Lipfert, a Hanover High alumna as of the end of exam week. She was integral to the process, providing the actors with helpful tips and

insights about things like blocking and line interpretation. She also provided everyone, including myself and my fellow intern, Eleanor Patten, with priceless tidbits of her uniquely Clara-esque wisdom, although we were never able to carve out enough time to listen to her dive into existentialism, as we so badly wanted her to. Also valuable to the process have been Meredith Alongi, our co-director who has handled the logistic and administrative side to the play, Aurora Berger our props mistress, and Nicki Perez, who does the lighting and helped out during production week.

Coming out of production week and into the performances, it's strange to think all the way back to auditions, all the way back in November. It was my first time auditioning for a play since the sixth grade production of an abridged version of *The Tempest*, so I was nervous, excited and didn't know what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised at how relaxed the process was. We played improvisation games and read lines from the play while Clara and Meredith put everyone at ease with their various jokes and quips.

By the end of auditions, I knew that if I didn't get a part, I'd be thrilled to be an intern, just to get to be around these awesome people. It's good I felt that way, because happily I did become an intern, and it's been a great experience. I've had the privilege to make connections with people I'd never known well before, which was most of the cast, as well as discuss feminism with Clara and hair with Toby. Each rehearsal was a delight to go to. We would start off the day with highs and lows while munching on mustard and/or raspberry yogurt-covered pretzels, exchanging everything from disappointing biology grades and entertaining teacher stories to awesome dreams we'd had the night before. Next, we would warm up with tongue twisters and karate moves courtesy of Alice. Then, we would move on to the actual rehearsal, each of us laughing as we got further and further into the play and realized just how absurd and hilarious it is. Clara sorted through tough artistic choices, such as whether or not Alice should pretend to cross her eyes unsuccessfully, or whether To-

bias should twirl Catherine in the air or the other way around. These were tough calls; in the end, it was decided that Jack should cross his eyes instead, and Catherine will do the twirling (as she would say, “breakin’ that gender binary, y’all”). As time passed, cast members were able to ease more into their characters and learn valuable skills, like Catherine’s new ability to go from laughing to sobbing in less than five seconds, and Alice’s and Rachel’s new fantastic knitting skills. I loved seeing these gifted actors showcase their talents.

Overall, I am proud and thrilled to have been a part of the SOS production of *The Bald Soprano*. I made great friends, learned a lot about a style of theater I’d never before encountered, and learned how to do homework amid shouts and screeches of various high decibels. I thank everyone who came see the show, as well as the cast members, who luckily did not break so many legs!

relay team win States, which was awesome. Everyone also tuned in to watch the Super Bowl, but I don’t think any of the Chinese students understood or cared for football; Matthew certainly didn’t.

So after a week of school, dubstep, hockey, basketball, steak, football, and other things, the “Chinas,” as Grace likes to call them, were leaving. I hugged Matthew and wished him the best of luck in becoming his high school’s principal, which is his goal. I watched as he climbed into the bus and gave a final goodbye. I knew he would forever be part of my memories, as will all the other exchange students to their own host students.

For more information about

By Gabe Brison-Trezise

Welcome to a new year and a new semester! Just before holiday break, Council endorsed a revised version of the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct, a document begun by Council members nearly half a decade ago. A long time in the making, the CCCC is meant to replace unequal, dissimilar codes of conduct used by HHS clubs and athletics with a sort of “umbrella” policy that will make the consequences for violating the HHS handbook more standardized, fair, and geared less toward punishment and more toward conciliation. Council has also been considering a number of other issues and motions, some of which I have summarized below.

School start time motion - passed

“I move that the Council charge the Student Life Committee, teachers, administration, and Dresden School Board with reviewing the implementation of a delayed start time of school due to the overwhelming health, academic, and social benefits for both students and teachers of delaying the start time of school.” Ethan Winter, the 9th grade representative who brought this motion to Council, noted that teenagers have distinct sleep cycles and need at least eight hours of sleep each night. In principle, delaying the start time of school in the manner prescribed by Ethan would allow students to get more sleep. School would start an hour later and activity period would take place before school rather than between 3rd and 4th periods. It is unclear when Common Ground would take place. Ethan provided examples of several school districts that have delayed school start times and seen considerable increases in student GPAs and standardized test scores. Additionally, they have seen decreases in the incidences of car crashes and illegal drug use.

Many Council members expressed support for Ethan’s motion, and Council passed it by a relatively large margin. We are currently waiting to hear back from the staff, administration, and school board, as well as the Student Life Committee.

Mission statement discussion

As part of the NEASC reaccreditation of HHS, a committee of staff and other members of the HHS community is reevaluating the HHS mission statement, which was last revised in 2001. The committee proposed several changes to the current mission statement, including adding a clause under “hearts” about teaching students to become “responsible global citizens.” Ms. Eakin, representing the committee, emphasized that the statement should reflect the thinking and trends of the interconnected 21st century world in which we live. Council members also suggested adding statements about the role of the arts and that of environmental stewardship to the document. Council had what I thought was a very fruitful discussion about what should and should not be included in the mission statement. If the committee makes any significant changes to the statement, the staff, Council, and school board will still have to approve them.

Honor Code restitution discussion

Originally a motion, the honor code restitution discussion centered around modifying the school’s code of conduct to give violators an opportunity for self-evaluation. This opportunity would be optional. Individuals who chose the restitution “path” would have to read and agree to the honor code and would then fill out a “reflection sheet” with questions designed to prompt students to think critically about their actions. Council members raised several concerns about the idea, such as whether restitu-

tion would negate the rules and regulations outlined in the handbook (The answer: only insofar as the administration (Mr. Smith) would have the ability to give students lesser consequences). Also, there was some ambiguity about how restitution would fit into the code of conduct and whether students who would normally be reported to the police would get a reprieve if they chose to undergo restitution. Dmitry Steesy, who introduced the discussion, is currently revising and clarifying his original motion, which Council will hopefully get to discuss soon.

Test Returns and Test Preparation motions - the former was failed; Council is still discussing the latter

The Test Returns motion would have required teachers to return all student tests to their takers for good. Several teachers, mainly in the science department, do not return their tests permanently, which some Council members claimed makes it harder to study for cumulative and end-of-term exams in those teachers’ classes. Council’s Administration Committee distributed a survey to staff members to get their feedback on the motion, and many of them felt the matter was outside of Council’s jurisdiction. The Admin. Committee produced a resultant, more flexible motion, which would still obligate teachers to make their tests reasonably accessible to all of their students. Council failed the Test Returns motion and will continue debating the Test Preparation motion in future meetings.

As always, thank you for reading another Broadside update on Council happenings! For the most up-to-date Council information, though, stop by the oft-updated Council bulletin board and/or check out Council’s web site!

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No Snow, No Problem for Winter Track; Can't Stop Nordic Skiing

by Liz Haas



Aidan Bardos(Right) finishing 1st in 4x400 relay. Trey Rebman(Left) long jumping, photo courtesy of Doug Austin

From top left to right, Helen Tosteson, Lucy Skinner, and Caitlin Haedrich after the girl's team won the CVC skate race. Photo courtesy of Dmitry Steesy

Winter track is one of the only sports during the winter season that has benefited from the lack of significant snowfall this year. Throughout the month of December, the team was even able to run workouts on the outdoor track at the high school, contrary to other years when runners have been caught in heavy snowfall mid-run.

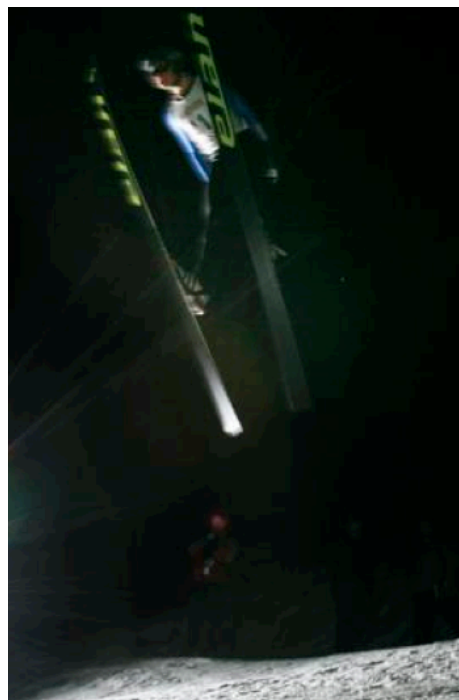
Going into States, distance coach Wes Leuthauser—"Coach Wes" to the team—said he had confidence in the girls' team, since both the sprinting and distance teams were looking strong, but that he was not putting any pressure on them to win. When asked about how the boys' team was looking, he said that they were a young team with potential, especially in the 4x200 meter relay.

On Sunday, February 5, the NHIAA Indoor Division II Track and Field Championship was held in Dartmouth's Leverone Fieldhouse. The Hanover girls' team placed third in the division with 36 points, behind Milford with 39 points and NHIAA indoor track champion team Bedford with 75 points. Junior Aidan Bardos had a spectacular day, winning the 600-meter run in 1:39.81 and scoring 10 points for Hanover. She was followed by senior Bryce Wallace, who took 6th in the 600. Junior Melanie Subbiah secured a total of 5 points for the Hanover girls by placing 4th in the 55-meter dash and 6th in the 300-meter dash. The Hanover girls also dominated the relays, winning

both the 4x400 and the 4x200.

The boys' team had several highlights as well, with the 4x200-meter relay team placing 6th in the division and senior Trey Rebman placing 6th in the long jump.

Both teams are young, which bodes well for next year's season. The girls' team will retain its two top scoring runners, Melanie Subbiah and Aidan Bardos. Both teams will have many returning sophomores and juniors, especially on the sprinting teams, which will provide the experience needed to possibly win the Division II States in 2013.



Sam Shapiro ski jumping. Photo courtesy of Valley News Online.



The poor snow year has hit the Hanover Cross Country Ski team hard. The team spent all of December "ski walking" and doing strengthening exercises in the Caf instead of being on snow. Head Coach Tom Masterson said this has been the worst snow year he has ever seen. Nearly half of the races scheduled for the season had to be canceled, including every home race at Garipay fields due to insufficient snow covering. Even the Division II state meet had to be moved from its original location in Plainfield, to the Great Glen trails near Mount Washington. Despite the setbacks and lack of snow time, Coach Masterson and new Assistant Coach, Dorcas Wonsavage, have done everything to prepare the team for the upcoming Division II state meet this Wednesday.

Both teams have been looking strong in the few races they have been able to compete in, especially with the girls' team securing first place at the CVCs, with sophomore Elise Hardy placing second and senior and captain Lucy Skinner

placing third. Sophomore Tucker Cadow won the CVC boys' race in a time of 16:08, and had captain Spencer Hardy been able to attend, the boys team likely would have won as well.

Both teams, especially the girls, have a shot at winning states again this year. With seasoned skiers Lucy Skinner, Emily Muller, Elise Hardy, Katlin Haedrich, and Helen Tosteson as scorers for the girl's team, they have the experience and technique to preform well even under poor conditions and much less training on snow than most years. The boy's team also has a fair amount of experience, lead by seniors Spencer Hardy and Charlie Bando-Hess and Sophomore Tucker Cadow, and with freshman Collin Pogue skiing right along beside them. With seasoned head coach Tom Masterson, who has coached many Division II winning teams, and former Olympic skier assistant coach Dorcas Wonsavage leading the teams, they will be well prepared to take on the challenge of winning another state meet.

Ski Jumping

by Tomas La Porta Drago

The 2012 season has been nothing short of an adventure so far for the Hanover High ski jumping team. With captains Sam Shapiro and Jonathan Gougelet leading the way, the team has not let the shortage of snow bring it down.

This winter season has only had one major snowfall, most of which is gone by now. The lack of natural snowfall has forced coach Tom Dodds and his team to blow artificial snow and create their own jumps at their home mountain, Storrs Hill in Lebanon. This is very expensive. Occasional freezing rain has made conditions icy, increasing the speed at which jumpers take off and making the sport more dan-

gerous. Ice is the last thing the athletes want as they launch off of big jumps and get incredible amounts of air. A few injuries have resulted: junior Angad Singh has been out for a few weeks with a broken foot, and sophomore Maddy Mulvehill is currently out with a concussion.

With only the state championship meet remaining, the overall title remains on the line for co-captain Sam Shapiro. He has been neck and neck with Matt Doyle of Merrimack Valley all season. They are teammates on the Eastern ski jumping regional team, and they have placed first and second at every meet so far this season. The best is yet to come.