



# From The Newsroom

Rockbridge Reporter Student Edition

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Quill graphic drawn by Liz Cawley, Class of 2010

## Rockbridge Students are Drama Queens ... and Kings

William Shakespeare comes to life in the hands of a group of Rockbridge Academy students and homeschoolers. Divided into two workshops, these students spend their weekends rehearsing at Annapolis Evangelical Presbyterian Church. One workshop completed and performed Hamlet in November, and the other consists of a selection of notable excerpts from various Shakespeare plays to be staged during March.

The students are coached and directed by Mrs. Sally D'Angelo, a Rockbridge parent with years of professional acting experience in New York City. Mrs. D'Angelo began this workshop in the summer of 2009, starting with a "Scenes and Monologues" class to emphasize the fundamentals of classical acting.

That fall, she staged the group's first full production, *The Taming of the Shrew*. In addition to their well-received performance in Annapolis EP's chapel, they went on to perform a condensed version for the Rockbridge student body during the winter, and won multiple awards for their performance at the annual Youth Shakespeare Festival at the Folger Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Since then, the troupe has grown considerably and put on two more shows: *As You Like It* in the spring of this year, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the summer. Rockbridge graduate and veteran player Alex Foley served as *A Midsummer Night's Dream's* assistant director before leaving for The King's College in New York City, where he is studying performing arts. Several more actors will be graduating this year, including Matthew Bradley, Isaac Duarte, Meredith Caton, Heather Cate, Alyssa Bouma, and Rob Schonthalder.

This fall, Mrs. D'Angelo decided to put on another "Scenes



by Peter Ramsey

and Monologues" class in addition to Hamlet. "In one year we have gone from a simple 'recital' with borrowed costumes, to performing a full-length show on a professional quality stage with authentic Renaissance costumes," she said. "And we even own our own stage combat swords!"

The students do not attend the class to learn more about Shakespeare – they have been reading his works in literature class since sixth grade. Rather, the primary goal is, simply put, to have fun. Memorizing and mastering one's text and characters is difficult and time-consuming, but the students are still able to succeed because they are enjoying themselves.

"I have been blessed with a group of students who do not shy away from hard work. I know we can put on these full-scale productions because the students will put in the necessary work into learning their roles...I think the joy that we find in this process of acting comes out in the performances," said Mrs. D'Angelo.

Now under the name of "Annapolis Shakespeare Company," the group performed Hamlet, assistant-directed by Liesl McClintock, on November 11th-13th. "Scenes and Monologues" will be performed on March 12th of next year. A condensed version of Hamlet will also be performed at next year's Folger Festival. The Company will be putting on *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder in spring 2011 and *Twelfth Night* in summer 2011.

"There is a lot of humor in Hamlet, and I'm really excited to see a troupe so experienced in Shakespearean comedy do a tragedy so rife with it," said Rockbridge rhetoric teacher and fan, Mrs. Corrina Neuman. "I would rather see this troupe perform a play than go to the movies."

## The Social Network: Rockbridge Academy Style

Usually, when a school wants to get their name out, they might try passing out ads or rely on word of mouth. It is not very often, however, that you see a school having its own Facebook page. After careful months of consideration by the administration, Rockbridge Academy appeared on the famous social network during the summer of 2010.

Now one might ask: Why Facebook? Rockbridge decided that social media was a natural extension of the community of Rockbridge and that it was a useful way for Rockbridge to have contact on a frequent basis with both its own families and the families of those who may be curious about the school. Also, it is no secret to Facebook users that this network is a great tool for connecting with people from all over the world.

Facebook allows the Rockbridge community, parents,



by Maddie Marmen

teachers, administration, and students, to share photos, articles, prayer requests, and messages of encouragement. Facebook has become very popular with families who have loved ones in college or moved far away. Likewise, it has become popular with the Rockbridge Family, and so Rockbridge went where its family already was.

It appears that this page has worked its magic and is favored by all who use it. Rockbridge parent Lisa Parker said, "I like the convenience of the site. I use Facebook daily and love seeing all the pictures from the different Rockbridge events." The students of Rockbridge also rave about the page. "I love being able to see the updated pictures about what's happening each week or so, and I love being able to pray more specifically for our alumni when announcements are made about them, too," says senior

## The Social Network: Rockbridge Academy Style (continued) ...

Haylee Scarborough.

Through this site, there are high hopes for what it will do for Rockbridge Academy. "Facebook is a really popular social network, so I think it's a great way to promote the school. It could also heighten the school's spirit, by informing everyone about important events and increasing the number of people that attend them by showing them how much fun they are through the photos on the page," said tenth-grader Nadia Northup.

So, if there is anyone who is a current Facebook user and is somehow connected to or has heard of Rockbridge Academy, they are encouraged to get connected with the school and see all of the wonderful and exciting things Rockbridge has to offer, whether it be Grand Tour, the History Parade, the latest play performed by the Annapolis Shakespeare Company, or just many of the everyday adventures at Rockbridge Academy.

## It's Time for Rockbridge Academy Youth Basketball!

Boys and girls in grades K-5 are encouraged to join the Rockbridge Academy basketball coaches for some fun! The purpose of the camp is to teach our younger athletes the basics of basketball and to develop the skills they may already have, including proper shooting mechanics, passing, dribbling, basic rules and strategies involved in the game of basketball. The camp will be taught by Donna Duarte, the Rockbridge Academy Varsity Girls' coach. She will be assisted by several current Rockbridge Academy athletes. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to have your aspiring basketball stars develop their skills! The camp will be held Saturdays, 1/8/11, 1/15/11, 1/22/11, and 1/29/11, from 9:00am-10:30am at Bay Area Community Church, 884 Chesterfield Road, Annapolis, MD. The camp will cost \$50 per player.



## MEET THE NEW FACULTY

This season, Mrs. Lorraine Lease is the newest addition to the cast of The Office . . . the Rockbridge Academy office that is. She and her husband Mark have three children, Anastasia, Erica, and Emery. Anastasia and Erica are both graduates of Rockbridge Academy, years 2007 and 2010 respectively, and Emery is currently in eighth-grade. Mrs. Lease has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and before she was married, worked as a flight attendant. In her free time, Mrs. Lease likes solving the Suduko puzzle in the Annapolis Capital, sharing Saturday morning coffee and bagels with her family in downtown Annapolis, and bringing her dog on family walks, beach vacations, and listening to books on CD. She started working at Rockbridge because she has two children in college. Mrs. Lease said, "At Rockbridge everyone is pleasant to work with and for. Time goes by at the speed of light."

*Lorraine Lease*

by Ethan Wilmot, 11th grade



*Mandy Ball*

by Emma Marmen, senior

Mrs. Amanda Emmitt Ball is the newest addition to the athletic staff. She assists John Cavallaro with the logistics of the athletic department and presides over the school's fledgling running club. At home she is a mother of four who enjoys baking and playing the flute. Mandy Ball is married to Coach Matt Ball they share a happy home with their children, Hannah (11), Elizabeth (9), Leah (6), and Andrew (4), along with their dog Scarlett. Mrs. Ball has a BM in Flute Performance. After graduation she worked for the Diamond Comic Distributors as the brand manager for Marvel and Image comics. Before coming to Rockbridge, Mrs. Ball home schooled her children for seven years.

Some of Mrs. Ball's favorite pastimes include baking: "I love Plugra butter [a special butter used in pastries]. I buy it in 40 lb. blocks and turn it into croissants, pastry crusts, and delicious sauces." In addition to this she also enjoys running. "Coach Ball and I are training for our second marathon in October after having run several half marathons."

Mrs. Ball came to work at Rockbridge because she wanted to be able to spend more time with her kids in addition to participation in the Rockbridge vision. Amanda states, "The Lord was good to provide this part-time administrative/PE position that allows me to work where my children spend a good bit of their day and support the athletic department."

When asked what her favorite part of working at Rockbridge was Amanda replied, "It is a wonderful environment where the faculty truly strives to do everything to the glory of Christ. What could be better?"