

# From The Newsroom

Rockbridge Reporter Student Edition

January 2011

Quill graphic drawn by Liz Cawley, Class of 2010

## Intern-al Life



by Emma Kate Marmen

While many high school students are happy to land a summer job working at a restaurant or mowing lawns, this year three seniors, Jennifer Golden, Raphael Hill, and Kevin Saxman, participated in internships. This past summer, Jennifer Golden gave tours at the National Aquarium in Baltimore and Raphael Hill experimented at a lab in Japan. During this school year, Kevin Saxman has been interning at NSA. All three agreed that Rockbridge Academy prepared them well for applying and getting the job.

Jennifer Golden's internship included learning about all the different exhibits at the aquarium, giving tours, and answering questions posed by visitors. Jen said, "Rockbridge has prepared me for this by providing me with many opportunities to better my eloquence and precision in my speaking as well as strengthening my ability to respond to a wide range of questions. I would not have had the confidence I had in talking to the many strangers I encountered without these opportunities."

In Japan, Raphael Hill observed and conducted experiments of the highest quality and most up-to-date research. Among these experiments Raphael learned how to make buffers, isolate DNA and RNA, and analyze DNA sequences. Raphael said that Rockbridge prepared him for this experience because "There wasn't anything I hadn't seen before. There was nothing that I wasn't prepared to witness."

Kevin Saxman's internship consists mainly of office work such as answering phones, making appointments, and creating Power Point projects, as well as taking part in some classified business. Kevin's internship required a security clearance in addition to an interview, not unlike the mid-term oral exams. "Rockbridge helped me have the credentials I needed to get in, like SAT scores and other academic achievements."

While some internships might be fantastic opportunities, they are not suited for everyone. Upper-school principal, Mr. Ralph Janikowsky, said "Internships can be a wonderful thing, but they can be a dangerous thing. There is an opportunity cost involved." An internship during the school year may be a fantastic experience, but it can mean missing out on classes such as apologetics and literature.

It definitely depends on the opportunity and circumstance.

Students can decide whether the internship is worth missing some classes by weighing the costs and benefits. Kevin's internship allowed him to realize that he would like to have a future at NSA and that his internship will play a major role in that.

"My internship has begun the process of becoming a full-time employee at NSA. I plan to seek employment after college or enroll in some of their scholarship/intern programs for college students. I want to pursue a degree in computer science, which is perfect for NSA," he says.

On the other hand, Raphael's internship affected his career plans in a different way:

"At first, I was planning on heading to medical school after high school, both to get a[n] MD and PhD. After this experience, however, I felt myself stimulated, but not fascinated with the everyday life of the researcher. Many of the experiments were monotonous --- important and interesting -- but still monotonous. I learned that I am much more interested in, and better at, relating to culture and language than [to] science," said Raphael.

For Jen, the experience of working at the aquarium did not necessarily determine a future career, but it did give her an excellent chance to make an impact on all the visitors this summer. "I attempted to reflect Christ in everything I said as well as did, and as a result I had many people come up to me and say I brightened their day, or simply had a radiant smile, and I had many people continue to ask me questions or talk with me."

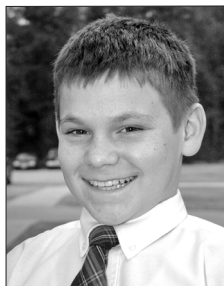
Rockbridge Academy students who wish to take on an internship should have no doubt of being well equipped. Those who have been involved in internships are a great source for information.

Kevin has this advice for those who apply for an internship: "Put your best foot forward. Brag about Rockbridge Academy. And be proactive by being involved in extra-curricular activities."

And do not forget that internships are a great opportunity for evangelism. As Jen said, "My advice for those who might interact with others is to have fun and smile a lot. And above all else, glorify God in everything you do."

## Rockbridge Academy's First Cross Country Team: "Pain is Good"

Rockbridge Academy's Cross Country Club competed as a team for the first time on October 11 at Severn School and a second time on October 21 at Annapolis Area Christian School. Athletic Director Mr. John Cavallaro decided that due to growing student interest and the arrival of a willing coach on staff, Athletic Director Assistant Mrs. Mandy Ball, last year's Running Club could now become a Cross Country Team.



by Andrew Burkhardt

"These students were very excited; they ran very strong; two of our runners finished in the top ten. They represented Rockbridge very well," said Mr. Cavallaro.

At a middle school cross country meet, roughly 80-90 boys and girls gather at the beginning of the course. At the sound of the air horn, they take off for a two-mile run. The course may be a paved or unpaved trail of varying degrees of difficulty, such as hills and uneven footing. Although at the middle-school level some may approach the run lackadaisically, Rockbridge competitors looked for opportunities to achieve their personal best.

Team coach Mrs. Ball said, "All of our runners ran well and have improved their times dramatically. Even though the course for the second meet was more difficult, many runners ran a personal best."

Eighth-grader Mary "Mamie" August came in second place out of all the women at Severn School, with a time of

15:20, and first place for women at AACS with a time of 14:26.

"I like to run; it's fun and it gives you a sense of accomplishment. It feels good to run; it helps me clear my mind when I am stressed out and it is being a good steward of my body," said Mary.

Sixth-grader Nathan Ault came in sixteenth place out of about eighty runners at Severn School and tenth place at AACS. "I like running because you get to know people, and you feel like you're a part of something" said Nathan.

Aptly named eighth-grader Alex "Bloody" Baldrige appreciates the challenge running offers him: "It hurts to run. That's how you produce good character, when you push through pain in running it makes you push through in other areas of life too. Pain is good." said Alex. Alex earned the name "Bloody" after he got a bloody nose at one of the meets. Blood got all over his shirt, but he still finished the race. He said, "It looked like I had been shot."

The Running Club was started last year by alumna Caroline Kerr. This year the club completed its season with two meets. Next year the club is going to transition from still being technically a club that competed as a team to being a full-fledged, full-time team and run more races.

"This was a great start to the Cross Country program, and I am looking forward to watching this program grow," said Mrs. Ball. ♦

## Student Ambassador: A First for Rockbridge Academy

Rockbridge freshman Daniel Meiser will be travelling to Australia this summer with the People to People Student Ambassadors Program. This program was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to promote understanding between cultures and gives students the chance to travel to another country. Daniel was interviewed and collected references from both peers and teachers in order to be accepted.



by Ethan Wilmot

"I was very excited that I was going to get a chance to go to another country and learn about another culture, meet new people, and see new things. I have been preparing by studying the geography, and just looking up interesting places that I'll see."

This trip is rather like a combination of Rockbridge

Academy's Grand Tour and an exchange student program, since the students will be staying with host families at some of their stops. Daniel is the first Rockbridge student to be accepted into this program.

"My Rockbridge education has given me a broader perspective and a lot of knowledge to apply to the different worldviews I will encounter."

Daniel and a group of fellow students will see various famous sights, such as Sydney and its famous opera house, and Cairns, which is a city near the Great Barrier Reef.

"I look forward to traveling to a part of the world I've never been to before and meeting new people along the way and having great experiences." ♦

## Annual Fund Update

Thank you for all those participating in the Rockbridge Academy Annual Fund in 2010! The Annual Fund runs until June, and there are still many opportunities to make an impact through an investment in the Rockbridge Academy Annual Fund. We desire 100% participation, and currently we've achieved a 34% parent participation rate, which is a great start!

Since the Annual Fund benefits the entire community, we ask for all Rockbridge families to participate in giving that provides a margin of excellence in the delivery of classical and Christian education. Whether your gift is \$25 or \$25,000 or more, please join the Board, the Rockbridge staff, and many other parents in taking part in this giving opportunity.

Your gift, no matter how large or small, can be given to areas of greatest need or designated to the following areas:

Staff Professional Development • Tuition Assistance • Athletic Program • Campus Building Program • Science and Technology • Performing and Visual Arts Program • School Marketing and Advancement • Other specific programs

So please consider joining us in this community-wide effort, and thank you for your generosity. ♦