



# TRITON VOICE



TRITON HIGH SCHOOL

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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## Georgetown makes the team

### Six students of neighboring town running for Triton track

By Erin Volpone  
Staff Writer

This year's track and field team welcomed six new members from Georgetown High School with open arms this season. These Royals moonlight as Vikings each afternoon as they all pile into Georgetown senior Cam Durkee's car and set off for practice at Triton.

Because Georgetown does not have its own track, students had previously run for Ipswich. But due to distance and the Ipswich club team itself closing, these few kids made the courageous decision to jump onto the Viking Ship.

"When Ipswich ended (their) club, they grandfathered in the Georgetown kids that already ran there, but \$650 is a lot to pay for a user fee, so I decided to come here," Durkee said, explaining how—like his other teammates—he felt coming to Triton was the right decision.

"It's a lot different from Ipswich," continued Durkee. "Everyone's a lot more open here than at Ipswich. They're all really nice, right from the first day." As the only one who can drive of the six, Durkee manages to get all of them to 3 p.m. practice with plenty of time, and to Coach Colbert's liking as well.

"They're all great," said Colbert. "They get to practice, and you could never even tell they were from another school. Just the same as all the other kids on the team."

Along with Colbert, senior captain Sydney Rybicki has found promise in her fellow Georgetown teammates.

"They're all awesome, and they really contribute to the team. Plus they're just really great people as themselves," Rybicki said, agreeing that they're just as much Vikings as the others on the team. The lingering question is how this will carry through to future teams at Triton, and this depends solely on how many are going to join.

"We didn't get as many kids from Georgetown as we had wanted," Colbert explained, "but if we combine teams, it could move us up a division. But if we don't get enough kids to keep coming from Georgetown, it may not last long."

These students already show great potential and will hopefully only get better and increase in numbers from here.



Georgetown resident and Triton track member Cam Durkee hurdles during practice (Volpone photo).

## Beyond the Classroom

### Students and teachers detail their intense, interesting work and hobbies

By Kelly Herrick  
Staff Writer

It's a Monday. Students are sitting in Mr. Ben Colby's room and engaging in his Pre-calculus lecture. A pencil is behind his ear and as he does equations on the board, some students may think that he is simply a math genius.

What some may not know is that the day before he was stacking hay on an 18-wheel tractor trailer.

Many teachers and students within the school system have hidden lives that are not shown in school, including Colby as well as junior Lexi Penniman, who works as part of a family owned business.

"We own Captain's Corner Mini Golf Course. It's a go cart track, batting cages, and a secret restaurant," said Penniman. "I started by working behind the counter when I was 14, and I would be working with inventory and shipments. I would work there every day after school and try to help out."

Meanwhile, Mr. Colby started farming when he was young. "When I was real little," he says [his duties were] "just driving tractors."

"[I] wake up early and go to bed when the sun goes down," said Colby.

He says his jobs on his family farm are to "take care of chickens, sometimes work on tractors, sometimes get hay." The haying process, he explains is, "cut it, let it dry, bale it, and pick it up."

Like Mr. Colby, Penniman is still involved with her family's business. "Now I work there at the go cart track behind the cash register, and sometimes as a cashier at Lena's restaurant [the secret restaurant]."

"If I work at the go-cart track, I work five hours a day [on the weekend]. At Lena's, I usually work six hours a day on the weekend.

Mr. Colby's family farm is mainly salt marsh haying, though he says, "there is no typical day. There's always something different" such as "a new little puzzle to try to solve."

Several students like Penniman hold interesting secrets. For instance, the plane up above your head may have been flown by senior Jason Plumer.

Plumer said that he flies a "J-3 Piper Cub or a Cessna 172."

"I would take off, fly around, land, cruise around." He doesn't have to be in the sky to fly airplanes. "I also fly radio controlled airplanes," Plumer added.

Mr. Colby's farming career, Penniman's business experience, and Plumer's flying practice benefit each of them in their own way. They live differently from the other students and teachers in the school. Mr. Colby has a passion for his farming life. "You get to be outside everyday and get to work with your hands," he said.

## Triton High says Goodbye

### Secretaries will be missed in athletics, guidance

By Kelly Herrick  
Staff Writer

Two Triton staff members, Mrs. Karen Atherton, Triton's athletic department secretary, and Mrs. Diane Shealy, Triton's guidance secretary, will be retiring this year.

Shealy doesn't need a hectic job to keep her busy. "[My plans are to] get my whole house cleaned. I'll be renovating the house...I need new floors, new paint. [I will] spend more time with my mother and my mother-in-law...I do a lot of scrapbooking....My husband and I like to travel a lot," said Shealy.

Whoever takes over for Shealy will have to have certain qualities to perform the job well, she said. "You need patience. You need to be able to do more than one thing at one time, have a good sense of humor, and good organizational skills," said Shealy.

Whether it's scheduling, or seniors handing in scholarships, Shealy fills a big role at the school. "It's a busy job. There is no downtime...Different times of the year have different needs...There's always something."

Like Shealy, Atherton is looking



From left, Triton High Guidance Secretary Mrs. Diane Shealy and Athletics Secretary Mrs. Karen Atherton will be retiring at the end of the school year (Kelly Herrick photo).

forward to enjoying her retirement. "Come August, I'll still be tuna fishing on my boat...I live on the beach. I'll be relaxing on the beach through September," said Atherton.

According to Atherton, her replacement will have to "be able to adapt to change, adapt very quickly, [and] well organized. Multitasking is huge... [Have] good communication skills. You've got to like sports...Keep a friendly atmosphere...We aim to please!"

Mr. Sean McNinnis, Triton's athletic director, says See **RETIRE** on page 2



Above, Lexi Penniman's family business is where the junior spends much of her working hours (Kelly Herrick photo). Below, math teacher Ben Colby works before and after school at the family farm (courtesy photo).



## The Other Colbert Report, By Cedric Colbert

**Local:** On Wednesday May 14, the Montreal Canadiens ended the Boston Bruins' season by a final score of 3-1. (espn.go.com)

**National:** Since Tuesday May 13, 125,000 evacuations have been ordered in Southern California due to massive brush fires. Drought conditions and high temperatures and foul play are being investigated. (FOXnews.com)

**International:** On Monday May 19, Attorney General Eric Holder accused several Chinese military officials of hacking American military and intelligence resources. (USAToday.com)

# OPINION: Six Years of High School?

Some new American high schools are guaranteeing an associates degree and good paying jobs to graduates, but at a price: Two more years studying in class

Six years of same routine has ups and downs

For many, benefits outweigh drawbacks

By Eric Nintala

Located at 150 Albany Avenue in Brooklyn, NY, P-TECH (Pathways in Technology's Early College High School) has a curriculum that many students in America would find terrible; an extra two more years of high school. As crazy as it sounds, an extra two years of high school is not all that bad. You get to spend more time with your childhood friends, get better preparation for the real world, and perhaps help boost that GPA.

High school can be a dreadful place; six and a half hours a day of learning, seeing the same kids every day, and worst of all, the pressures right after. Sure, adding two more years makes it sound even worse, but what makes P-TECH so special (other than its added years) is that after four years in the school, the students earn their high school diploma and then go through two years of college and earn an Associates degree in applied science in computer systems technology or electromechanical engineering technology. Job opportunities for those students include everything in the IT industry such as Manufacturing engineering technician, software specialist, or quality analyst. The list is endless. Not only are the kids getting better opportunities, but the two years of college is free including tuition and books. For those who want to go beyond an Associate's degree and earn a Bachelor's or better at a different college can do so, as long as they get permission from their guidance counselor and it's after they earn their high school diploma.

Earning that high school diploma can be stressful, and even more so when adding the work of an associates degree. However, with the opportunity for a free college education, it does not sound as bad. In normal high schools, students work hard to earn their diplomas but know that it is not enough to get through the real world. Especially in this tough economy. According to the National Center for Education Sta-

tistics, students with only a high school diploma earn the average of \$29,950 a year, while students with an Associates degree earn the average of \$37,050 a year. As one can see, a good degree makes a huge difference in one's income. Schools like P-TECH offers a free opportunity for any kid who is not interested in four or more years of college or cannot afford it.

There's no doubt that four years of high school is hard work, however is that enough to prepare for the real world? Studies show that 55.5 percent of students graduate college. This means that almost half of students who attend college do not graduate. Obviously there are other factors that contribute to students not graduating, but adding two more years of college education to high school can give students a better idea of what college is all about. On the college view website, the second biggest reason for students drop out of school is because of poor preparation. The transition from high school to college is big. College bound students usually have a hard time understanding their workloads and using their time wisely. No matter how horrible more years of school sounds, the extra two years may be a good way for students to prepare for college.

As bad (or good) as it sounds, the chances of adding two more years of high school to all public schools is extremely slim. The amount of money that would cost the government to pay for the extra two years of college, books and other items might prove too much, meaning taxes would need to be raised. And to students, what first comes to mind when hearing more high school is usually not something positive. However, high school is what you make of it. Sure it can be a pain, but either way you are making memories out of it. Make those memories count, even if it is for two more years.

By Allison MacIsaac

In President Barack Obama's January 2013 State of the Union Address, he praised an up-and-coming school called Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) for being a great model for all American high schools. What some were shocked to learn is that P-TECH is actually a six-year high school, running grades 9-14. This left many people confused, wondering if President Obama believed that all high schools should run for six years.



Pres. Obama meets with students and teachers at P-TECH in Brooklyn, NY (*Washington Post* photo).

While six years of high school may sound appalling to high schoolers at first, a closer look at what such schooling entails shows that it may be a good option for some students.

P-TECH is located in Brooklyn, New York, with students from neighboring boroughs attending as well. The P-TECH school model is one that focuses on computer science and engineering and all students have assigned mentors that work for IBM. Because the school is six years, each student graduates with an associates degree in applied science as well as a preference for a job at IBM. Supporters of six-year high schools such as this one praise

P-TECH for helping Americans get ahead in the fields of computer science and engineering, an area that many feel we are falling behind in.

I personally see this school as a great opportunity for kids. About 80 percent of the students at P-TECH are on the free or reduced lunch program, and going to this school provides them a way to enter the working world with specialized skills and a two-year degree, without ever having to pay a student loan. Also, the school does not use any academic screening when deciding which potential students to admit. This allows kids to really turn their academic careers around through the guidance of the P-TECH staff.

The six-year high school model has gained more support recently, with 16 public-private partnerships currently working to create more early college high schools. Other schools will focus on different aspects of science, such as the Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries Early College High School in Ballston Spa School District, New York. The governor of Connecticut, Dannel Molloy, recently announced that Connecticut's first P-TECH school will be opening in Norwalk this fall.

Of course, not all students have a passion for technology, and therefore the P-TECH model is not one that should be applied to every American high school. However, I do believe more schools like this one should be created across the United States in order to provide students with more options and opportunities, as well as to help more young adults be ready to enter the ever-growing field of computer science.

## Pet of the Week: Oliver

By Christie McLaughlin



Oliver is an 8-month-old maltese/shih-tzu mix. Oliver was socialized earlier this year at Triton High School by his owner, science teacher Mrs. Teresa Riel. He now loves people.

"He now has a whole lot of happy," said Riel. "He's mostly all energy, he loves to go for walks and play with other dogs."

His favorite friend is an old lab named Wiley, and he likes to jump all over him while Wiley patiently waits until he calms down. Mrs. Riel said she couldn't imagine life without him.

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that Atherton has excelled in her role. "[She is] someone who is willing to give 125 percent," said Mccinnis. "She goes above and beyond what anyone will ever do."

Atherton explained further about her job that, "it's not just school hours. It's weekends, it's nights. You go home, but work is still not done."

Every teacher has a special moment during his or her career that they look back on fondly. Atherton's was the year there was no funding for athletics. "Everybody pulled together as a team to keep sports alive at Triton: the coaches, Triton heroes, which were a fundraising committee, the parents, and the athletes themselves," she explained.

One of Shealy's special moments was, "coming in and finding a banner behind my desk, from student council."

Shealy has been involved in her role at Triton for 14 years. "First day of 1999...I started out in the main office for a year."

Before entering Triton, she also had a job "for nearly 20 years in a hospital setting with Medical Records...[These hospitals were] Anna Jacques, Winchester Hospital, and Atlanta," she said

"I started working in September of 1998," said Atherton. "I was involved in volunteering for the school district for about five years."

Atherton added, "I took the job when my youngest daughter was in first grade to be there for her, have the same vacations and snow days, thinking I'd only do it when she was young. Here I am 16 years later."

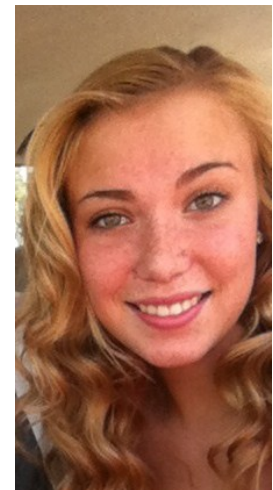
## Senior of the Week: Haley Souther

By Kelly Herrick

Senior Haley Souther has been accepted to her top college choice, and will be attending this fall. "I'm going to be attending Plymouth State University," said Souther.

Following her likes and special talent, she says, "I want to major in social working and minor in art therapy."

"Most of my family went there and said they loved it," she said.



## Heard in the Halls

By Erin Volpone

"That is so cliché, I can't even!" — *English Hallway*

"Do you ever think about the sky? Like really think about it? Like, just wonder why it's there?" — *Science Hallway*

Person A: I've got practice till 4, then work till 9, and then I have all my homework! I just can't do it all!

Person B: See this is why we can't have nice things! — *Cafeteria*

Person A: Sometimes I forget there are other people in the hallway when I'm at my locker

Person B: What do you mean?

Person A: Like I'll make faces in my mirror—completely forgetting I'm in public—and then someone walks by and I feel like dying.

Person B: Yeah, don't do that. — *Gym*