

# Education

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## School Notes

■ The Downingtown band is going to the big time, again. Downingtown's Blue and Gold Marching Band, made up of about 300 students from the bands at **Downingtown East and Downingtown West High Schools**, will be performing in Florida at the Orlando Citrus Parade on Dec. 30.

The 2½-mile parade in downtown Orlando, which features 25 top high school and university bands, takes place between two bowl games. It's the day after the Champs Sports Bowl (Purdue versus Maryland) and the day before the Capital One Bowl (Wisconsin versus Arkansas).

The Blue and Gold band will be under the command of Brent Lewis and Doug Bennett, band directors at Downingtown East and Downingtown West, respectively.

Performing at bowl season is getting to be a habit for the Blue and Gold. The band is making a return visit to the Citrus Parade and in recent years has also taken part in the Orange Bowl and Indy 500 parades, the 2001 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, and many events in the Downingtown area and elsewhere in Chester County. For more on the Blue and Gold Band's trip, see Sunday's Chester County section.

■ Two seniors at **Great Valley High School** earned scholarships thanks to their summer jobs in the hospitality industry.

Cara Mulqueen and Margaux Blau are both students in Great Valley High's Desmond Project, a hands-on business class that requires the students to gain real-world working experience, and both plan to pursue careers in the hospitality industry after college. They both worked at related jobs this past summer, Mulqueen as a busser at KipperZ restaurant in Avalon, N.J., and Blau as a hostess at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern.

When the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association approached Henry McCloskey, their teacher in the Desmond Project, this fall about students eligible for the Michael M. Boyle scholarships the group makes available to students, McCloskey recommended both girls.

Mulqueen and Blau each won a \$1,200 scholarship based on



**Downingtown's Blue and Gold Marching Band** participates in a recent parade. The band's roughly 300 members come from both Downingtown East and West High Schools, and they will perform in Florida on Dec. 30.

the strength of their essays, which explained what they had learned from their working experiences in the hospitality industry.

■ Students at **Villa Maria Academy** in Malvern have donated more than 200 worn-out athletic shoes to be reused as sneakers, or in athletic surfaces, through Nike's reuse-a-shoe program, also known as the Nike Grind.

Large boxes were set up outside a campus building in late November and early December. Girls at Villa Maria brought in old and worn-out sneakers to donate, which were collected by Anka Delone, mother of a Villa Maria student.

Delone took the shoes to Rittenhouse Sports Specialties in Philadelphia, which acts as a drop-off for sneakers intended for Nike. The drive collected 230 pairs of sneakers.

The sneakers are sliced and ground up into material, referred to as "Nike Grind," that can be used to make new sneakers or as a composite for playing surfaces, such as synthetic turf.

■ Lauren MacIntyre, a senior at

the **Academy of Notre Dame** in Villanova, won best composition at the senior level in the Pennsylvania Student Composition Competition, sponsored by the Music Teachers National Association. MacIntyre, of Malvern, won with her composition "Samirian Sonata," a sonata with three movements for the piano, which will be forwarded to the division level for consideration.

Ann Bader, MacIntyre's piano teacher, is a member of the association and suggested that her student enter the contest in September. Last year, MacIntyre was a finalist in the Pennsylvania Junior Composers contest, and she has been selected for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's All-Catholic Band all four years of her high school career.

■ Will Hobson and Inquirer staff

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## Students get a chance to pitch business plans

By Will Hobson  
FOR THE INQUIRER

The scene at Pennsylvania State University's Great Valley campus the night of Dec. 11 was typical of a graduate business class. Nervous professionals looked over their notes one last time, shuffling their papers as they waited for the time to near.

This was the final meeting of the Social Entrepreneurship and Community class, and groups that had worked for seven weeks on their consulting projects were scheduled to submit their final presentations, not just to Barrie Litzky, their professor, but to their clients, the actual companies themselves.

Sprinkled among the 30- and 40-something graduate students were six fresh faces, teenagers working within the groups. But they weren't passing out pamphlets or getting coffee for the grad students. The teenagers were participating in group discussions, going over their final presentations one last time.

The six students, two from Great Valley High School, three from Conestoga, and one from Malvern Prep, were beneficiaries of a partnership between Penn State Great Valley and their high schools. Instead of learning about economics in a book, or on a chalkboard, they've spent three hours a night, two nights a week working with professionals on consulting projects, gaining valuable real-world experience.

"These students blow our minds with their maturity and professionalism," said Litzky, who was tapped by fellow professor Veronica Godshalk to create the curriculum for the course and teach it. Godshalk and David Rosenberg, a donor to the school, had brainstormed the idea of a class that brought grad students and area high school students together. Godshalk came to Litzky for her background in managing social issues.

Litzky established contacts at the three high schools, and the class was made available to any students who felt they could handle the workload of a grad class on top of their normal

high school classes. In addition to the six hours of weekly class time, students had to meet with their groups to work on their projects, all for a class that didn't count toward their grade-point average (they were offered the opportunity to earn college credit if they paid the almost \$2,100 for the three-credit course, but none did).

"It was a big time commitment, but it was definitely worth it," said Saketh Bhamidipati, a 15-year-old junior at Conestoga. "We weren't just students in a class, we were partners in a consulting group." Bhamidipati's group was charged with developing a product-development plan for NewAge Industries, a pharmaceutical processing company based in Wynnwood.

Ken Baker, chief executive officer of NewAge, was impressed with the presentation, especially the contribution of the group's youngest member. "They did a great job, and gave me some ideas that I will definitely implement," Baker said. "For a 15-year-old, he [Bhamidipati] is really going somewhere."

"I learned a lot about how businesses can greatly impact society, how they don't have to focus just on making money," said Cara Mulqueen, an 18-year-old senior at Great Valley.

Litzky contacted only nonprofits and companies that have a social component to fit the curriculum, which focuses on organizations that, even if driven by profit, are still bettering society.

Organizations participating included the Chester County SPCA; Infrascan, a start-up in brain-scan technology; and CureDM, a company that has developed a compound that treats type I diabetes.

"I'm much more confident in my abilities," said Caroline Wisler, a 17-year-old senior at Conestoga who is interested in international business. "I realized how much I really enjoyed business, and that I can really be an asset for a company."

Anyone interested in sending students to next year's class can e-mail Barrie Litzky at [barrielitzky@psu.edu](mailto:barrielitzky@psu.edu).