



The Argo

Vol. 231, Issue 1

The Newspaper of Rutgers Preparatory School

June 1996

The Spring Choral Concert: A Moving Success

by Isaac Chialal and Frank Cesario

On Tuesday, May 21, 1996, the Upper School Choral Department held another successful Spring Concert. As the music filled the depths of the charming Voorhees Chapel, the audience listened in delight as they became enveloped in the rich tapestry of sound. Following each performance, they expressed their appreciation through prolonged applause and accolades.

The Upper School portion of the concert was initiated with the Madrigal Singers. This ensemble, under the excellent direction of Mrs. Szeles, began their program with "The Silver Swan" by Orlando Gibbons and "Il est bel et bon" by Passeran, which enveloped the audience into the great history of madrigal singing. Then, the moving lyrics and skilled solo performance of Senior Melissa Stass made the piece "All I Ask of You" by Webber a truly emotional moment. To conclude their performance, the Madrigal Singers performed the song "Lonesome Road" by James Taylor. With the exquisite solo of Senior Rob Szeles, this piece was a fitting farewell to all the seniors in the Madrigal group.

Following the Madrigal Singers,

the Upper School Women's Choir then took the stage, under the direction of Mrs. Hunt. This group immediately demonstrated their resolute and artful voices in the their first piece, "Fog" by Sandburg. This ensemble continued their artistic performance with the song "Fire" by Mary Goetze. When the Women's Choir finally descended from the stage, the entire audience applauded for the insightful performance that they had just heard.

Upon the conclusion of the Women's program, the Upper School Men's Choir sang their way into the hearts of the audience. Following the emotional rendition of "The Pasture" by Randall Thompson, "sunglass-wearing" Scott Buchanan and the rest of the Men's Choir tantalized and amused the audience with the piece "For the Longest Time" by Billy Joel. In a drastic, yet artistic, change of emotion, they then performed the African-American spiritual "Steal Away", which combined strident emotion with the endless rays of hope. Finally, the Men's Choir broke the entire audience into hysterical laughter with the song "Coney Is-

land Baby". Following their performance, everyone present at Voorhees Chapel was amazed at the many different emotions procured by this very talented group.

The most emotional portion of the program came when both the Men's and Women's Choir combined to sing two pieces. The first piece, "Song for the Mira" by Allister MacGillivray, was a song that some of the members in both choirs had sung in fifth grade. Through the superb efforts of multiple soloists, this piece enthralled the entire. Then, the combined choirs included the entire audience in a rendition of "God Bless America" by Irving Berlin, in memory of its fifty year anniversary.

As noted by Headmaster Dr. Loy, this night provided an opportunity for many Upper School students to express their talent in the art of singing. This opportunity was provided through the gracious efforts of Mrs. Szeles and Mrs. Hunt, who "open doors" for all of these students. As the large congregation filed out of the chapel, this memorable night was the continued topic of conversation.

Sports Awards Dinner A Success

by Susan Slim

On May 23, nearly half of the Upper School students congregated in the Pines Manor in Edison for the annual Sports Awards Dinner. Any athlete from any season or any sport was invited to the dinner, which honors all athletic achievements in the year.

The dinner started off later than scheduled, but that was not a problem as it allowed students to talk with friends, parents, and coaches. Students were recognized by grade and by the number of sports they participated in. The freshmen were the first group to be recognized, followed by the sophomores, then juniors, then finally the seniors. In between each grade, a "season" was recognized. Coaches talked about their teams in the order that the sports were played during the school year. Coaches discussed their team's record, most valuable players, next

year's captains, and graduating seniors. They also paid special recognition to any players from their team to be elected to the All-State team. When all of the names were called and the coaches finished talking, the team captains went to the podium to thank their coaches and gave them gifts as tokens of their appreciation.

Headmaster Dr. Loy gave an eloquent speech as usual. This year's speech focused on junior Sam Hartman and how he officiated a Little League baseball game. Dr. Loy stressed that sports are made to be fun and that sometimes parents and students alike get too involved in the game. That over-involvement often leads to making the sport not as enjoyable for the players involved. He encouraged people to partake in sporting events, but to not get too concerned with how the score board reads at the end of a game.

Students tended to have an enjoyable night getting their varsity letters and certificates. The Sports Awards Dinner is a tradition that students look forward to and have fun at.

Inside...

Team pictures that didn't make the yearbook

Page 2

Freshmen visit the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania

Page 2

Spring Sports Wrap-up

Pages 3 and 4

The Argo

Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Maureen Benitz

News Editor
Frank Cesario

Editorials Editor
Jay Golon

Features Editors
Justin Auciello, Scott Vafai

Sports Editor
Mark Markowski

Layout
Suhas Radhakrishna

Faculty Advisor
Mr. Peter Richardson

Writers
Maureen Benitz
Frank Cesario
Eric Danzeisen
Craig Feinberg
Nicole Fiumefreddo
Debbie Gray
Jeremy Wang-Iverson
Sara Preschel
Susan Slim
David Weitz

The Argo welcomes submissions and responses to editorial articles from anyone in the Rutgers Prep Community. Letters should be addressed to the Editor, and may be dropped off in *The Argo* mailbox in the upper school office, or mailed to:

The Argo
Rutgers Preparatory School
1345 Easton Ave
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Opinions expressed in the Editorial Page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Rutgers Preparatory School or *The Argo*. *The Argo* reserves the right to edit letters to the editor and opinions. In the interest of journalistic integrity, *The Argo* refuses to print any pieces which it deems below common journalistic standards.



The Men's Tennis Team

from left to right:
Nikki Rao, Dan Lane, Paul Sosman, Eric Danzeisen, Suhas Radhakrishna, Damon Wong, Ian Liggett

Freshmen Class Trip to Antiquity

by Sara Preschel

The freshmen class went to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania on May 2nd in order to obtain further knowledge about the Mesopotamian and Classical Greek artifacts. Specially trained guides, knowledgeable on the aforementioned subjects, escorted the class through numerous exhibits.

One such exhibit was of the tomb of Lady Pu-Abi, a Mesopotamian queen. During this part of the tour, Miss Seeger guided the students. Jewelry comprised a large portion of this exhibit. Most of the jewelry was a blue stone called lapis lazuli, which was very valuable at the time of Lady Pu-Abi's existence. Another unique object the freshmen viewed was a drinking

vessel formed from a single block of gold.

The class then viewed an exhibit based on Classical Greek artifacts found from the powerful Greek city states; which was led by Mr. Dannenbaum. Mr. Dannenbaum added to the knowledge students had about the art they saw, the civilization, and society that was the basis of the art. Unlike the Mesopotamians, the Greeks used irony in the art work. The Mesopotamians were unable to utilize the ivory because they lacked the technology to do so.

Students learned a lot about the differences in Mesopotamian and Greek cultures by studying the art and artifacts of the period.



The Softball Team

sitting: Anu Subramanian, Kris Farley, Erica Becker, Amanda Cruz
standing: Kerry Smith, Liz Alexander, Kandace Clarke (on Liz's shoulders), Sue Slim, Maureen Benitz, Coach Bob Dougherty, Debbie Gray, Denya ChinQuee, Nicole Smith, Mishana Prophete, Heather Driver, Kim Brown, Erin Leeder, Coach Sue Tidd



The ARGO

Graduation Supplement

Rutgers Preparatory School

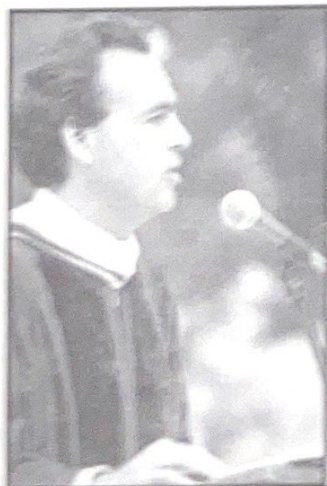
June 8, 1996

RPS CELEBRATES 230th COMMENCEMENT

Forty-one students received their diplomas this afternoon as Rutgers Preparatory School celebrated its 230th commencement.

The ceremony opened with "Lonesome Road" sung by the RPS Madrigal Singers. Then, after an invocation by the Reverend Dr. Norman Kansfield and welcoming remarks by the President of the Board of Trustees, Richard Moskowitz, the graduates and their families heard words of inspiration and advice from fellow Senior, Ria Rasalan and Headmaster Dr. Steven Loy.

Headmaster Dr. Steven Loy addresses the graduates



Dr. Loy reminded graduates that the road need not be lonely as long as one searches for balance. This balance, he continued, allows one to choose to be alone or with friends and family. In order to achieve this balance, one must be honest with oneself, one must be fair with oneself, one must hold oneself up to high, yet realistic, standards and one must value oneself.

As part of commencement exercises, 21 awards were presented to members of the graduating class. The Headmaster closed the celebration by sharing part of a traditional Irish blessing, "May the road rise up to meet you and may the wind be always at your back." With that the seniors came forward to take flowers from the stage which they then presented to their families as the ceremony concluded.

The forty-one graduates will be attending 28 different colleges and universities. The Staff of The ARGO offers its congratulations to each member of the Class of 1996.

Manak Ahluwalia
David Bilenker
Rebecca Caldwell
Caroline Chang
Anita Choubey
Amanda Cruz
Eric Danzeisen
Anthony-James Edison
Marisol Febles
Corrie Graham
Jessica Hedges
Barry Hirsch
Gerard Joe
Kartik Joshi
John Kansfield
Matt Needleman
David Papa
Akta Patel
Ashish Patel
Neil Patel
Eric Peterkin
Christopher Pink
Ria Rasalan
Joyce Reyes
Hana Jee-Un Rhee
Meredith Riley
Julie Rockoff
Jayjit Roy
Lisa Russo
Abigail Santamaria
Matthew Scherb
Meredith Shirley
Alison Siegel
Sidharth Singh
Melissa Stass
Robert Szeles
Jonathan Vafai
Stephanie Verb
Damon Wong
Bhanu Yerramilli
Khaliq Zackria

Rutgers College of Engineering
Bates College
Rutgers College
Lehigh University
Rutgers College
George Washington University
Quinnipiac College
Parsons School Of Design
Trenton State College
Rollins College
George Washington University
Tulane University
Pennsylvania, University of
New York University
Washington University
Bowdoin College
Pennsylvania, University of
Pennsylvania, University of
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Trenton State College
Rutgers-Newark
Colorado College
Barnard College
New York University
Syracuse University
New York University
Wisconsin, University of
Rutgers College
George Washington University
Elon College
Yale University
Rutgers College
Brookdale Community College
New York University
Westminster Choir College
William & Mary, College of
New York University
Lafayette College
Texas, University of
Rider University
Rutgers College

PRIZES AND AWARDS

THE THEODORE STRONG MEMORIAL PRIZE..... for the senior with the highest scholarship throughout the Upper School years	Matthew Scherb
THE CORNELIA LIVINGSTON VAN RENSSELAER STRONG MEMORIAL PRIZE..... for excellence in the Humanities	Matthew Scherb
THE ALEXANDER JOHNSTON HISTORY PRIZE.....	Neil Patel
THE LOUISA J. CHASEN MEMORIAL PRIZE..... for Creative Writing	Meredith Riley
THE JOYCE KILMER PRIZE..... for excellence in English	Neil Patel
THE JOSEPH BRADSHAW '48 MEMORIAL SCIENCE PRIZE.....	Matthew Scherb
THE CLASS OF 1961 PRIZE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES.....	Akta Patel
THE CLASS OF 1876 PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS.....	Matthew Scherb
THE COMPUTER PRIZE.....	Jonathan Vafai
THE LATIN PRIZE.....	Neil Patel
THE JANE H. HERBERT FRENCH PRIZE.....	Meredith Shirley
THE DALRENE Y. HAGIN MEMORIAL SPANISH PRIZE.....	Lisa Russo
THE DRAMA PRIZE.....	Melissa Stass
THE MUSIC PRIZE.....	Robert Szeles
THE RAYMOND HAYES McGOVERN PRIZE.....	Matthew Needleman
THE DR. FRANK SPERDUTO MEMORIAL AWARD..... for valuable contributions to the life of the school	Jonathan Vafai
THE GOLDBLATT AWARD..... for unselfish dedication to the senior class	Caroline Chang
THE KAUFELT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD..... for extraordinary service to the community outside the school	Jonathan Vafai
THE JULIA M. RATYCH '77 MEMORIAL ALUMNI AWARD..... for outstanding school spirit	Robert Szeles
THE 1942 SCHOOL PRIZE..... for the senior who best exemplifies the ideals of the School	Matthew Scherb
THE HEADMASTER'S PRIZE..... for valuable contributions to the life of the school	Jayjit Roy

Men's Tennis' First Winning Season in Recent Memory

by Eric Danzeisen

Contrary to the beliefs of many doubters, the men's tennis team managed to have an extraordinary season this year. This year's record of 6-5 was an amazing improvement from last year's disastrous record of 2-11, and the best the team has seen in recent years. Fourteen total matches were on the schedule this year, but three of them were rained out and never rescheduled; these were also potential wins for the team.

This year's team was lead by co-captains Eric Danzeisen and Suhas

Radhakrishna. Their booming ground strokes and stellar all-around play earned them the first and second singles spots respectively: the two most challenging positions on the team. Paul Sosman's very consistent playing style allowed him to retain his third singles spot.

The team was originally concerned about who would fill the doubles spots, since all four of last year's doubles players were departing seniors. Sophomore Ian Liggett,

and rookie senior Damon "the assassin" Wong held the first doubles responsibility. Their effective serves, and nearly flawless net play made them a perfect combination. The line-up was rounded off by two freshmen: Dan Lane and Nakul "Nikki" Rao. These two diaper-dandies played beautifully together, ending up with a regular season record of (7-3): the best record on the team. Coach Ackerman is depending on Dan and Nikki's young talent to lead the team in future years.

Men's Lacrosse Fights for Survival

by Craig Feinberg

This season the men's lacrosse team fought for survival both on and off the field. After coming off a dismal season of 0-13 last year, the lacrosse team had to prove that they had the desire to play and win. In the off-season, players Henri Renard, Craig Feinberg, Ricki Alcidi, Ian Japinga and Tom Bonanni took it upon themselves to improve their games to help the team.

Since the team had no wins last year they wanted to show the school that they had the skills to win. The lacrosse team won two games this season against East Brunswick and Newark Academy. After those two victories the team was proud of themselves that they doubled their winning percentage and saw how their hard work at practices paid off.

The team will miss both co-captain John Kansfield and team mate Dave Blinker as they graduate this summer. The defense must rebuild itself after losing these two key players. The defense looks for new arrivals Jim Russo and Justin Stavitsky to aid Deepesh Patel and Goalie Craig Feinberg.

Mid-fielders and attack players are exploring camps this summer to sharpen their ball movement and shots. Co-captains Henri Renard and Craig Feinberg are looking toward next season since talented freshmen will arrive with the fire to win and take charge on the field. Because of all the progress the team made, Coaches Tyree and Szeles are expecting a big improvement after coming off this season.

Girls' Lax: A Successful Season

by Nicole Fiumefreddo

The definition of success is within the eyes of the beholder, and that is exactly what was shined through the eyes of the girls' lacrosse team this season. These girls worked diligently trying to develop their physical and mental strength while never forgetting to have fun. Seniors Becca Caldwell, Joyce Reyes, and Julie Rockoff made a huge contribution to this season and will definitely be missed next season.

The team successfully made it to the Prep B semifinal round of states, but was unfortunately defeated by Stuart Country Day School. Although the score board showed 13-6 at the end of regulation, Prep never gave up. Too many spectators who only saw the game may have jumped to the wrong conclusions. The team scored all of their six goals in the second half. The girls kept their heads up and gave their all until the final whistle. If Prep would have played both halves as strong as the second, it would have definitely been a different game. The girls have high hopes for next year's lacrosse season.

Besides this one state game, the girl's lacrosse season cannot be considered anything less than a success. With a team this strong, it's going to take a lot more than one score board to make them to surrender their pride.

Softball's Successes

by Debbie Gray and Maureen Benitz

Although the girls' softball team didn't have a stellar record, their team improved much in all aspects from last year. One huge improvement was the number of players this year. This year's team of 18 doubled the number of girls who played last year. The two key losses of Sara Papa (catcher) and Tara Auciello (pitcher) were compensated by sophomore Kris Farley and junior Sue Slim catching and junior captain Liz Alexander taking the mound. Liz never pitched seriously before March of 1996, as she was comfortable at short stop. Liz had a record of 4 and 8 in her first season.

The team was comprised of many veterans this year. First base was held down, for the third year, by junior Heather Driver. Second base alternated between newcomer Erica Becker and veteran Debbie Gray. Debbie also alternated at the vacant short stop with senior Amanda Cruz. Amanda is the only player the team is losing this for next season. Third base was covered, for the third year, by junior Maureen Benitz.

The outfield was played by a slew of people. Sophomore Anu Subramanian saw a lot of time in left field. Amanda Cruz, if not playing short stop, anchored the team in center field, making key catches in many games. Freshman Kandace Clarke helped the team out in center also. Sophomore Nicole Smith played right field. Misha Prophete, Kerry Smith, and Erin Leeder also saw time in the outfield.

On the offensive end of the game, Liz Alexander and Maureen Benitz led the team with batting averages of .444 and .472, respectively. Sophomores Debbie Gray and Kerry Smith aided the team with strong batting averages of .371 and .421 each. Many of the freshmen, such as Kandace Clarke, showed promise when they were up at the plate.

The team had to readjust itself this year in order to compensate for Liz's switch to pitching. Next year should prove to be a rebuilding year because of the loss of only one senior, Amanda Cruz. The team also had two new coaches, one of whom never coached softball before. Mr.

Bob Dougherty is a veteran at coaching and was pleased with the success of his first year as head coach. Assistant coach Sue Tidd also learned a lot about the game this season. The coaches tried to expose the girls to many positions this year in order for the girls to become familiar with them for next year. As most of the girls are returning, a strong core will be built up.

The team hopes to improve both offensively and defensively for the 1997 season.

Golf Prevails by Taking First at Prep Conferences

by Dave Weitz

The 1996 co-ed golf team proved to be successful with a record of 8-6. Junior captain Mark Markowski led the team with the lowest average, along with low scorers Dave Weitz (junior), Josh Rosen (junior), Dan Chelel (sophomore), Jeremy Hollander (sophomore) and Lee Demaree (junior).

The high point of the team's season was placing first in Prep Conferences on May 20 at the Jumping Brook Golf course. This was a first in the team's history. Dave Weitz shot a 43, which earned him a fourth

place spot overall. Teammate Jeremy Hollander took fifth place.

On May 23, the men on the team took part in the men's portion of the state tournament at the Peddie Golf course in Peddie. Jeremy Hollander also shot well in this tournament, tying for the fifth place spot. Mark Markowski tied for seventh place and the team placed fourth. On May 22, the girls on the team were in their state tournament.

The team played on many tough courses this season. Courses such as

the Blair Academy Golf course and Bedens Brook (PDS's course) proved to be difficult courses to score low on. Coaches Nes Forney and Walt Nichols have an advantage this year that many coaches do not. They are not losing any seniors. The entire team will return in hopes of bringing home the state cup next year.

The team did have a very large turnout this year, with 20 members. The team hopes to make improvements over the summer to improve on their record for next season.

Baseball Ends Coach Marotto's Last Season on a High Note: Winning Record, Five Players All-State

by Jeremy Wang-Iverson

At the beginning of the season the Junior-led Varsity Baseball team knew it had potential to fulfill high school goals and expectations. With Coach Marotto announcing before the season this would be his last season, this added more incentive to produce a winning season for a coach who just wanted to have fun.

With a winning season capped off Thursday, May 23, with a 15-5 win over Wardlaw-Hartridge, the team ended Coach Marotto's first stint at a manager on a high note. Throughout his years, Coach demonstrated his backing of the players, instilling confidence, and questioning calls when he thought ill of them. Assistant Larry "Santo" Santawasso (Class of '91) will take the reins next year. His experience with the team this year will surely help him in his debut as Prep's manager, the team he played successfully for in his Prep days, under Coach Marotto.

This was a very successful team for the team and individuals. Joe Fuoco and Sam Hartman shared "Most Outstanding Player" honors given at the awards dinner Thursday, May 23. Sam Hartman hit above .500 the entire year at leadoff, and was reliable in the pitching (3 wins) as well as playing center field and infield. Joe Fuoco hit a solid .390 on the year but was also very successful for the mound notching 5 victories out of the team's 10. He also was strong defensively, covering shortstop and center when not on the hill. As far as all-state, more than half of the starters were given the honors: Fuoco, Hartman, along with Jordan Rickards and Jason Maikos who made first team all-state for the Prep conference. Scott Yelity made all state second team.

The team was led by Captains Jason Maikos, Sam Hartman, and Joe Fuoco who were also the team's three pitchers. Joe Fuoco showed the

work he put in over the summer, proving himself as capable a pitcher as an infielder. Jason Maikos and Sam Hartman built on their starting

success from last year to improve to help the team. When the competition was truly fierce, Coach called on none other than Ed "the Rocket" Chandler.

The other half of the battery was Jordan Rickards. Without a true backup, Jordan stayed strong through an arm injury to handle Prep's pitchers in every game. He had nailed 11 runners on the year.

Early on it seemed that the team would suffer due to injuries. Keith Forney missed the middle of the season with an injured foot, but came back for the Saddle River game and hit three home runs in batting practice, a game later rained out in the 3rd inning. Jordan Rickards had a bad arm early but pulled through it to start every game. Jason Maikos also had arm trouble and missed a few starts, but Prep's other starters stepped up to take his spot. The team faced injuries, but did not succumb to them.

The offense started out somewhat slow, but kicked into high gear after a few games. The change came when Coach juggled the line up and put Sam Hartman at leadoff and Jason Maikos at cleanup. Hartman seemed to be constantly getting on base at leadoff, grabbing a hit in every game, while Maikos and Forney produced power, and Fuoco and Rickards gave the timely hit. Freshmen infielders Brian Benitz and Jeff Lowich also proved very capable of putting the bat on the ball, as they did at the team's turning point at the

Gill St. Bernards game.

While warming up at Gill, Jason who was slated to start, had a sore arm, forcing Joe Fuoco into action.

Joe "Satch" Fuoco, never to deny the call of duty, pitched a rocky first inning, giving up three runs, but then settled down to not allow another, pitching a complete 7 innings. Prep's offense was never held stagnant in the game, as the team picked up 3 runs over the first four innings. The turning point was the 6th inning, when

When the competition was truly fierce, Coach called on none other than Ed "the Rocket" Chandler.

Prep broke through with 6 runs, as 9 men came to the plate. Forney, Yelity, Benitz, and Lowich all had two RBIs in that game. After this victory team was ranked 9th in the Prep Division.

The team was not all juniors though; senior Gerard Joe took Keith Forney's spot in the outfield when Forney had a foot injury mid-season. Scott Yelity was the only mainstay in the outfield, keeping left field in control with good defense. Sophomores Tom Filipkowski, Dave Pung, Jeremy Wang-Iverson, and freshmen Vic Salygan and Rob Spitzer rounded out the team.

This is a team with great potential for next year, as the Juniors have one last chance to bring home a state championship. With Freshmen finds Brian Benitz and Jeff Lowich looking to hold down the infield, certain to improve, and the potential of new freshmen talent to come in next year, nothing should stop this baseball club. Unfortunately, the team will have to do it with Coach Marotto watching from the sidelines, who has managed the team up to this point. The team wishes him the best of luck.