Admissions nixes essay supplement for ’18 class

Kenyon’s application will no longer feature College-specific questions.

The Office of Admissions has eliminated its supplemental application essays for the 2013-2014 academic year.

“The goal was to remove a barrier for students who found the writing component a barrier to applying,” said Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer Delahunty. She added that recent changes to the Common Application, including the expansion of its essay word limit from 500 to 650 and the introduction of new essay prompts, also contributed to Admissions’ decision to cut its supplement.

Previously, Admissions posed three supplemental questions for applicants to answer. One of them was Kenyon-specific and asked what students thought made them a good match for the College. “That was such a vanity question, you know. Tell us about ourselves,” Delahunty said. “They had to go do some false research.”

Students, administrators turn wary eyes to Syria

Kenyon approved OCS programs (red markers) near Syria include those in Israel, Jordan and Turkey.

The first years and transfers, who gathered on the steps of Rosse Hall on Aug. 28 for off-key singing, make up Kenyon’s largest incoming class ever.

The Class of 2017, according to Dean of Admissions Jennifer Delahunty, holds the distinction of being unusually “sticky” and disinclined to “melt.”

In admissions lingo, “sticky” means that fewer students deferred for a year. Last year, 16 students deferred. This year, nine did. On top of that, fewer students “melted,” meaning that fewer students chose another school after being accepted off of that school’s waitlist. Delahunty said that Admissions will aim for a smaller Class of 2018, meaning today’s high school seniors can expect a slightly more selective Kenyon.

Students, administrators turn wary eyes to Syria

Rarely does the possibility of armed conflict weigh into study-abroad decisions.

But last week, President Barack Obama suggested the U.S. punish Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s alleged use of chemical weapons, a decision that could directly affect Kenyon students with aspirations to study in the Middle East. While Obama waits on congressional approval for a limited military engagement, the College is monitoring the situation in case violence spills over into one of Syria’s neighbors.

In a conference call on Labor Day reported by The New York Times, Secretary of State John Kerry expressed concern to House Democrats about the threat Syria posed to Israel, Jordan and Turkey, all countries that the Center for Global Engagement (CGE) has approved for off-campus study.

“When any international incident happens, we trust our providers,” CGE Director Marne Ausec said.

The CGE says its approach to crisis management reflects the vetting each program undergoes before receiving College approval. “There is no way we can know the exact details of what’s going on in every country at any time,” Ausec said.

“The folks who are on the ground, they know better than we do what’s going on. So we trust them.”
**Rugby team mourns Andrew Pochter ’15**

Andrew Pochter ’15 died during mob violence in Egypt this past June. Two months later, 60 of his close friends and teammates walked down the hill to the Brown Envi-

roment Center (BFEC) to celebrate his life.

The men’s rugby team, of which Pochter was a member, hosted the memorial.

Finnegan remembered meeting Pochter during his sophomore year at Kenyon. Finnegan

mentioned meeting Pochter at the ice cream social during Freshman Year Orientation. “I felt like I just talked to him about [rugby] for a while and I’m thinking, you don’t have to flatten me; I met a ton of people today and I’m sure I’ll never talk to you again,” Finnegan said. At the memorial, attendees sat around the bonfire and one by one stood and shared their favorite memo-

ries of Pochter. “Talking about Andrew and thinking about Andrew, it was emotional, but it was a happy time. It was something that we all enjoyed din-

ning,” Finnegan said.

For those who missed the rugby team’s memorial, there will be a camp-

us-wide event remembering Pochter in the Church of the Holy Spirit on Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. Finnegan hopes these memorials will provide some closure for students. “Everyone needs to move on in their own way. I know Andrew would have wanted that.”

**Faulty sprinkler floods NCA**

In early August, an accidental sprinkler detachment caused signif-

icant water damage in North Campus Apartment (NCA) unit 10A, post-

poning student arrival and forcing new construction on several parts of the apartment.

On Aug. 7, Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman heard something outside the unit, according to Director of Campus Planning and Con-

struction Steve Arnett. On the third floor of one of the bedrooms, the head of a water sprink-

ler had separated from the sprinkler pipe. “Those lines have flow detec-

tion meter set up in Campus Safety in order to immediately signal officers of any sprinkler activity and allow for prompt response. However, “in this particular case,” Arnett said “because we were finishing up the buildings, that wasn’t all hooked up yet.”

Still, the entirety of the water damage likely occurred in less than an

hour, according to Arnett, who had, coincidentally, visited the unit about 45 minutes before receiving Kohl-

man’s call.

After shutting off the water, Kohl-

man and Arnett hired SERVPRO, a fire and flood damage restoration company. Workers arrived that eve-

ning with dehumidifiers and fans and conducted several moisture tests to determine what could be saved and what needed to be replaced. Like-

wise, workers also tested the attached apartment units and the contractor checked the tightness of all the NCA units’ water head sprinklers the next day. Arnett characterized the incident as a fluke and is confident it will not occur again.

Fortunately, the living room furni-

ture did not get wet, and the bedroom furniture had not yet arrived, accord-

ing to Assistant Director for Housing and Residential Life Lisa Train. All, of the outlets and emergency de-

vices needed to be replaced, as well as the sound insulation above the ceil-

ings, the damaged ductwork, some drywall, the interior trim, the carpet and the third-floor heat pump.

At press time, Arnett was unsure of the monetary cost of the damage, explaining it was difficult to esti-

mate. “If that was a new room, we’d be hanging full sheets of drywall,” he said. “[In this case], in some in-

stances it’s patching drywall, some in full sheets. So we’ll know when it’s all done what the cost is. I just don’t know yet.”

The four seniors expected to live in the unit — Bobby Sellens, Cur-

ter Walker, Perry Minnella and Ben Kress — were all notified of the water damage promptly, according to Sel-

lens. Since then, “he’s been happy with the communication between Re-

life and his housemates, who have all been placed in temporary housing throughout North Campus. “I was really happy with the way we were in-

formed and it was totally clear that it wasn’t anyone’s fault, and that they were doing their best to work through the situation that was given,” Sellers said.

According to Arnett, his team hopes to finish the unit in early Octo-

ber, ideally before October break. At press time, they still need to paint the drywall, replace the trim, install the carpet and replace the heat pump. Additionally, the unit will undergo another series of inspections before opening to students.

Overall, Arnett is happy with his team’s response to the unprecedented situation. “When events like this hap-

pen, you’re not measured by the event because you had no control over it,” Arnett said. “You’re measured by how you respond. And they responded quickly.”

**Dean of Admissions Jennifer Delahunty on admissions trends**

Jennifer Delahunty, dean of admissions and financial aid, this week discussed trends in Kenyon admissions, such as a rise in interview appointments. “More people have visited, more people we’re talking to in the background,” she said.

“The Class of 2007 was amazing; it was close to 4,500 applications and everyone everything worked in the Class of 2007. Then we suffered a slight downturn in applications and we’ve been trying to rebuild interest in Kenyon since then.”

**Religious studies major Andrew Pochter ’15 passed away in June.**

**Village Record**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aug. 28 – Sept. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28, 10:40 a.m. — Non-student reported vehicle glass broken in McIlvaine Lot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28, 10:45 a.m. — Student(s) admitted to using illegal substance. Substance and paraphernalia confiscated and turned over to Safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29, 4:36 p.m. — Student injured leg in Hanna Residence Hall. Squad contacted and student transported to Knot Community Hospital (KCH).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30, 12:28 p.m. — Vehicle accident outside Leonard Residence Hall. Vehicle struck fire hydrant, hydrant rendered hydrant unusable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30, 3:45 p.m. — Student found with false ID, which Safety confiscated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30, 11:14 a.m. — Intoxicated student hit head in Mather Residence Hall. Squad contacted and student transported to KCH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31, 12:57 p.m. — Intoxicated student found in Old Kenyon Residence Hall. Squad contacted and student transported to KCH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31, 1:02 a.m. — Intoxicated student found in Norton Residence Hall. Safety escorted student to residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31, 1:05 a.m. — Intoxicated student found in Norton Residence Hall. Safety escorted student to residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31, 1:17 a.m. — Intoxicated student found in McBride Residence Hall. Safety escorted student to residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31, 10:02 p.m. — Student’s wallet with false ID turned in to lost and found. Safety confiscated ID.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31, 11:27 p.m. — False fire alarm sounded in McBride Residence Hall. Alarm reset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31, 11:52 p.m. — Student’s registered gathering in North Campus Apartment shut down by Safety due to over-capacity at two different times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1, 12:19 a.m. — Intoxicated student found in Old Kenyon Residence Hall. Safety escorted student to residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1, 2:33 a.m. — Intoxicated student found on ground outside Church of the Holy Spirit. Safety escorted student to residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1, 5:11 a.m. — Student found with fake ID, which Safety confiscated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1, 4:29 a.m. — Intoxicated student found on bench outside Marther Residence Hall. Safety escorted student to residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1, 10:30 p.m. — Visitor injured after tripping on Middke Path. Individual transported to KCH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3, 5:39 p.m. — Student experienced seizure at rugby field. Safety and squad responded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3, 5:56 p.m. — Gate post snapped at rugby field. Safety officer injured when pulled to ground by fallen gate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HENRI GENDREAU | OPINIONS EDITOR

A recent string of car break-ins and burglaries in the Gambier area has residents on their toes and locking their doors. On Aug. 27 and 28, one vehicle was stolen, two car windows were smashed in and several personal items disappeared. On Saturday, Aug. 29, two laptops and some cash were stolen from rooms in Norton Hall, with a third laptop taken from that hall the following Monday.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 3, Knox County Sheriff David Shaffer said there were no suspects in the Gambier cases, and that a resident’s missing 2009 gray Toyota Matrix was still reported as stolen.

As they left, Tobin, graduate student and pre-professional advisor, had a rude awakening Wednesday morning when she found a side window of her daughter’s cross country car, which was locked, had been broken, and some of her daughter’s cross country gear missing.

“It’s pretty bold,” Tobin said of the theft. “That car was not far from our house. I’m surprised we didn’t hear it, to be honest.”

Two doors down from Tobin, Assistant Athletic Director Amy Williams also had her car broken into. In an email, Williams said nothing appeared to have been taken.

“I think everybody feels, you know, you feel violated, you’re upset, you’re frustrated,” Tobin said.

Just outside the Village on Kenyon Road, Beth Hillier, who works in the Health and Counseling Center, said her husband’s expensive leaf blower had been stolen from their garage. She also said a neighbor’s family’s weed and lawn mower had been taken out of their car, but that the wallet dropped was intact.

“I have lived here all my life and we have never had to lock anything, but the world is changing and it’s time to realize these things can happen anywhere,” Hillier said in an email.

“We’ve had a string of auto thefts and burglaries within the county all summer,” Campus Safety Director Bob Hooper said. But Hooper said those thefts are not related to the stolen laptops and cash that occurred during first-year move-in day.

When Emma Welsh-Huggins ’17 returned to her room around 10 p.m. from a mandatory hall meeting Saturday, she noticed nothing amiss. She then left, making sure to lock the door behind her, and returned about an hour later. That was when she noticed her laptop was gone.

“I just did not have the possibility to me that someone would have actually walked in and just taken it,” she said.

She later discovered another laptop and cash had been missing from a hallmate’s room. That student was later missing from a hallmate’s room.

“The campus was put on heightened alert last December when three laptops were stolen from the library. Hooper said did not know of any new policies the College had put in place to prevent future thefts. Hooper said the cases were unrelated, and that the thief is “familiar with the schedule” surrounding move-in day.

“We have not had this issue happen before during move-in weekend,” Assistant Dean of Students for Housing and Residential Life Alicia Dagas said in an email. “We will have to continue to balance student safety and ease of move-in.”

Meet the Class of 2017

SPENCER KAYE | DESIGN EDITOR

At Convocation, administrators trumpeted the diversity of the Class of 2017. Some of that diversity can’t be quantified, but numbers do tell part of the story. The incoming class stands at 47% male and 53% female. 19% are domestic students of color and just under 1% qualify as international students. “We’ve seen a slight decline in domestic applications, but we’ve seen an increase in international applications,” Dean of Admissions Jennifer Delahunty said.

Gambier on alert after break-ins, thefts

HENRI GENDREAU | COLLEGIAN

The campus was put on heightened alert last December when three laptops were stolen from the library.

Emma Welsh-Huggins ’17 had to replace her laptop after it was stolen from her dorm room.

Some upset over supplement cut

continued from page 1 and then they had to sort of spit back to us what we put on our website, which we saw a lot of,” she added.

Associate Professor of English Ivonne Garcia wrote in an email that “writing is essential to the Kenyon curriculum and to the lives of students beyond Kenyon.” She added, though, that she favors the change because she felt the Kenyon. “She added, though, that she saw a lot of,” she added.

“You learn a lot about what are you interested in subject-wise. Legitimately my impression of that school was, okay, it’s a small liberal arts place. They really didn’t care. Am I really going to matter here, you know?”

As with Goodwin, the news elicited a strong negative response from Daniel Cebul ’17. “I feel like I’d be really sad and really disappointed if I went to a school that didn’t require supplemental essays,” he said. “I’d feel like they didn’t care about who I was.”

Weedley University, one of Kenyon’s top overlap schools, provides an optional supplement on its application. Delahunty opted against doing the same, saying, “We decided just to make it the same level playing field for everyone.”

She also denied that Admissions’ main aim was to increase application numbers. “Of course we want to have a strong market position and applications are an indication of market position in some way. But I have to say, none of the Trustees say, get more applications,” she said, adding that the move was meant primarily to make the application process easier and simpler for students.

The fact that Kenyon had supplemental essays did not affect Aaron Katzeman ’17 and Haley Eliigo ’17’s decisions to apply to the College. They also both said they could not think of an advantage to eliminating the supplement.

An interaction with another student, however, solidified Delahunty’s desire to lose the supplement. “I was talking to a young man who was applying to Kenyon who was a really top student,” Delahunty said. “[The student said,] ‘Toward the end of my application process, I was just looking for any school that didn’t have a supplement,’ And I thought, oh man, we almost didn’t get you. We almost didn’t enrol you because we had a supplement; there’s something wrong with that.”

“We are a school that is intensive in the writing arena, but not everybody loves it, and I think we, in some ways, we’re over-branded as a writing place, especially with our supplement.”

“For this is a challenge to us to be more incite with less information,” Delahunty said. “And you might ask, why would you want less information rather than more information? We’ll find out. This is an experimental year.”

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President Sean Decatur spoke to the Class of 2017 at opening Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 25.

Nugent avoids DOJ investigation into aid

Over the summer, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) considered opening an investigation into whether presidents of several private colleges — including former Kenyon President S. Georgia Nugent — violated federal antitrust laws when they discussed how to reform their institutions’ financial aid practices at a conference earlier this year. The agency told the presidents and the colleges last month that they would not open a formal investigation.

While a panel at a conference of college presidents held last month was mentioned by the DOJ when they notified schools and presidents of their inquiries, that session was part of a larger conversation in the higher education community, discussing how to address the issue of financial aid.

The DOJ interest in Nugent and others is centered on merit aid policies, an area of concern for many in the higher education community. While the DOJ has not made any formal statement about its investigation, the agency has signaled its interest in the matter in recent letters to colleges.

The DOJ began examining the issue in May and obtained by the Collegian through a Freedom of Information Act request, the DOJ asked them to preserve any materials related to the discussion.

Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer Delahunty indicated this week that he did not expect the inquiry to be a big deal, because he knew the college had already addressed the issue.

The DOJ’s interest in Nugent centered on merit aid policies. In a letter to the college, a DOJ official wrote that the agency was “interested in any conversations that took place at the conference, including any discussions related to the merit aid policies.”

The DOJ’s letter also stated that it was “interested in any communications among colleges that discuss ways to coordinate or cooperate on matters related to merit aid policies.”

Zingarelli acquitted

A Knox County judge found former student Stephen Zingarelli not guilty of sexual assault.

“It is our job to then take the evidence that we have and prove Mr. Zingarelli guilty of every element of each charge beyond a reasonable doubt, which is the highest burden of proof that must be met,” Springer wrote.

“We were unable to do this at the bench trial of this matter,” Springer noted. “Instead, the grand jury found probable cause to indict Zingarelli.”

“I were walking down, we were like, this is like Hogwarts, all the professors, I got kind of emotional, ‘cause I was like, ‘Wow, this is such a community,’” Glazer said.

Renee Romano quipped that her son, Owen, was “theoretically” on hand to witness the ceremony. He and some children of faculty members were playing soccer nearby. While some students listened with rapt attention to Decatur, Romano said that Owen “had very little interest in seeing his dad wear a purple hat or give a speech, I’m afraid.”

The magnitude of the ceremony was such a big event.”

“I was going to die,” he joked in reply.

Some students listened with rapt attention to Decatur, while some others argued, had grown wildly out of control. Colleges backing away from formal graduation ceremonies.

The DOJ’s actions had ruled out any partnership between schools on merit aid. She said that schools will need to find ways to change the fundamental system for determining need-based aid, which she said sometimes leaves parents desperate for merit aid in order to pay for the cost of college.

“We certainly think the College should come up with a plan for getting this young man a Kenyon diploma,” Giles said when interviewed in July.

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The Gambier Head Start program was phased out due to federal budget cuts this year. Officials hope to reopen it.

"I have personally seen these teachers, over the course of a school year, change the lives of these children for the better. These centers are a necessity," he wrote.

Tazewell said Knox County Head Start had to cut $125,111 of its $23.7 million budget, resulting in the termination of three employ- ees countywide and the elimination of door-to-door bus services, which puts a burden on children whose parents have spotty access to a vehicle or no bus stop close by.

"It is very shortsighted to make a cut like that," Tazewell said. "I'm appalled. I'm appalled at our Congress." The single Head Start classroom at the College Community Center, which provides a half-day program for preschool-aged children, is continuing to be rented out by Head Start for parent and teacher training.

But possible state funding to ex- pand preschool slots would allow the center to once again serve children, Tazewell said. "If it would be our hope that we would be able to reopen it at some point," Tazewell said.

At the nearby Gambier Child Care Center, which serves children to professors, the children funded through Head Start and Early Head Start will not be affected by the cuts. Still, Tazewell and other ad- ministrators are gearing up for an- other, potentially more harmful, round of cuts.

"There's another potential se- questration that could happen in October if they don't get their act together in Washington," Tazewell said. "And it would be devastating." The future of Gambier Head Start is largely contingent on the results of impending budget cuts, the out- come of which Tazewell says she's through guessing.

"I've been doing this for almost 15 years and I've stopped attempting to predict politics," she said. "It's a crapshoot."

The news coming out of Syria. Halberstadt supports a limited engagement. "I think it's more dangerous to do nothing than to do something," Halberstadt said. "I wouldn't support an all- out invasion, because no one wants another Iraq, but I think that inaction will show that we condone the blatant human rights violations and will en- courage Assad to continue gas- ing citizens."

Some students have devel- oped nuanced opinions since Syria's civil war began two years ago. "There are sound ar-guments for the proposed air strikes and there are sound ar- guments against further esca- lation," said Jon Green '14, an editor-in-chief of The Kenyon Observer. "There are even sound arguments that we should have put boots on the ground 18 months ago."

Regardless of what the Obama administration and Congress decide, Ausec says the CGE will need to monitor the situation in the Middle East for the foreseeable future. "Things change on a daily ba- sis," Ausec said. "So the plan you had yesterday might not be the plan you have today based on new information."
Admissions: Don’t dumb it down

“What does it say at the edge of your map, and why does it say that?” asks Kenyon’s supplemental essay on the Common Application. Apparently, Kenyon no longer cares.

The College has decided to eliminate supplemental Common App essays — questions that individualize Kenyon’s application and let students voice their taste for particular schools. The supplemental essays provide a critical opportunity for students to further express themselves and better articulate why Kenyon is the best fit for them. If we eliminate that space for prospective students, we not only stifle the voices of applicants but also fundamentally change the character of the student community that makes Kenyon, Kenyon.

By striking the supplement, Admissions is denying students the prime mechanism for conveying their enthusiasm for the College. Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer Delahunty said on Tuesday that an “emphasis on the personal is really part of our stock and trade.” Removing the supplement will curb the commendable level of personal attention Admissions deploys and harm Kenyon’s reputation for fairly and fully evaluating its applicants.

“You’re given a block of stone, a hammer and a chisel. What would you carve and why?” A purple thumbtack down to this new policy.

Congress: Don’t dumb kids down

The Head Start program at the Gambier Community Center, which served 18 students, officially shut down this year due to sequestration — the mandatory, across-the-board cuts to the federal budget that went into effect after Congress and President Obama failed to reach a deal on spending. The closure probably went unnoticed by most members of the student body. Each of us went about our day-to-day activities — unaffected by the elimination of an important resource for those families who need it.

Although administrators have managed to shuffle affected students into other programs for this year, we should not allow the program to face further, more serious challenges in the future.

Even though most of us are individually unaltered by the Gambier Head Start’s closure, as a community we have suffered a loss that detrimentally affects our neighbors, friends and peers. We hope that our representatives in Washington will work to reverse automatic cuts and restore funding to that our representatives in Washington will work to reverse automatic cuts and restore funding to

May first-year students make their own querencia

Alexandra Bradner
 CONTRIBUTOR

“Home” is one of those cloying words like “mother.” They’re supposed to warm you up, but they preoccupy and sting when you aren’t sure you have a good one.

Kenyon asks first-year students to make a college residence hall into their new home. This is pretty optimistic. Most new students know not a single soul on campus, and their dorm rooms look nothing like the personalized spaces they left behind. Whether home is a community of people or a place, first years no longer have theirs.

I sat in my own residence hall apartment last night, looking at the plain cemetery walls and boarded furniture — fully functional, but not mine — feeling kind of lonely, much like I felt the first few nights of my own college career, as the only student from my high school. I walked the empty halls, reimagining what the first-year students soon would be thinking — only just recently the reigning kings and queens of their hometowns, now here, at Kenyon, fully invisible.

Perhaps there’s more promising sense of “home,” one requiring neither a particular place nor a particular community. I first encountered the untranslatable Spanish-language concept of querencia as a high-school writing prompt, assigned just before I had to leave home for the first time. Querencia identifies home as the source of your courage and strength, the place where you feel safe, where you are most authentically yourself, where you recharge. We can make these places, I believe — construct and reconstruct them, even in the absence of loved ones and childhood bedrooms.

A few doors down from my 1989 college dorm room lived a classmate who kept a detailed scrapbook of the furniture, flatware, and wallpaper that she eventually wanted to own. She would use special scissors to clip pictures and advertisements out of high-end home design magazines like Elle Décor and Architectural Digest, and paste the items into her giant book, which was organized into sections with names like “entryway,” “master,” and “pool house.”

I thought this was completely ridiculous. In fact, I was pretty harsh on her, deriding her premature domesticity to my more feminist friends. What a way to spend the little time you have on this planet: obsessing about the look of your own private space. Aim reasonably for the functional and clean — no bugs, no vermin — but anything more than that is precise and wasteful. Didn’t she have anything better to do?

As it turns out, I was pretty naive. There’s a difference between being smart — knowing lots of theories — and being wise — being able to judge when to let those theories go.

I decorated my Norton apartment with a series of gift photos of my two daughters and partner of more than 20 years, using the same sticky blue clay I had used as a first-year student to hang posters of Chicago and the Beatles in my first college dorm room. Despite the fact that I don’t know anyone here, and despite the fact that my visit will be brief, I began to feel like myself, like I had the strength to start, yet again, meeting new people and making new friends, like I had re-constructed my own artist’s multiple — the last in a long line of homes.

May our first-year students retain their own badness here — la querencia.

Alexandra Bradner is a visiting assistant professor of philosophy who will be leaving among students this year as the faculty-in-residence. She will occasionally be reporting her experiences in this column. She can be reached at bradnera@kenyon.edu.
New year, same rules: consent is crucial

DEREK DASHIELL
COLUMNIST

First, let's look at some important facts: Most rape survivors knew and trusted the perpetrator. Most rape occurs somewhere the survivor thought safe. In the most statistically common scenario, a female survivor was too intoxicated to resist, or a male perpetrator didn't want to go through the physical or mental force. And most upsetting, the mostly male perpetrators don't recognize their actions as rape, but instead as just forceful.

That last part is a problem that keeps getting glossed over. Let's step back for a moment from "don't wear revealing clothing" and really look at this. Our society focuses on the fact that a survivor should say no. But every time someone says that, implicitly said, that's not definitely "yes" either, and that's a huge, somewhat obvious point that gets ignored. Why are there so many situations where, in its most common form, a guy will keep going when a girl says no?

For example: Last year, at a small party I attended, John liked Jane's t-shirt. So he changed seats, or spoke to someone else. John followed her, and continued to come on to her. I doubt he ever thought he would have forced anything, but his actions speak to a much deeper problem. He was clearly and politely giving signs that she wasn't interested, by moving away and conversing with others, but John was either in denial about the signs because he didn't want them to be there, or he didn't even know to look for them. Why is that societally okay? Why do we teach men that it's perfectly fine to search for permission without regard for the person we're gratifying ourselves with? A reality we should look for those signs and, if in doubt, to ask her or slow down.

And if a girl rejects a guy, that reflects on her tastes, not his worth, and he has no right to mad at her or force someone. No one has the right to sexually assault someone else, let alone over a bruised ego.

Our society needs to promote that confidence does not mean intimidation, and that as Kenyon's policy states, consent should be enthusiastic.”

Convocation: a rite of passage for first-year students

SUSANNE UNGER
CONTRIBUTOR

Among the rustling sounds of heavy gowns, professors and administrators sporting official college regalia form two lines along Middle Path. Summer sandals, dress shoes and, yes, even a kilt can be spotted from underneath a sea of dark robes.

A trio of faculty marshals guides participants into their appropriate places in line, based on seniority. Faculty and administrators are awaiting the procession of incoming students on their journey from Wiggins St. toward Samuel Marther Hall, where an important ceremony is about to take place.

These future students are about to undergo an important ritual: a rite of passage that will render them into full-fledged members of the Kenyon community. For here lies the meaning of a spatial and social separation from their families and friends. Through their participation in Convocation, they are becoming incorporated into the larger Kenyon community, and will be recognized by that community as members of the Class of 2017.

While the term “rite of passage” has become common in popular culture, we don’t consider the specific forms and elements of such rituals. They are often more complex and surprising than we might expect at first. The work of the late anthropologist Arnold van Gennep (1873-1957) provides a framework for analyzing the similarities and differences in ceremonies across the world that mark transitional stages in the lives of humans.

Convocation at Kenyon College represents a textbook example of an important ritual in the lives of many young people, a rite of passage. Other examples of rites of passage include rituals as diverse as baptisms (transforming individuals into members of religious communities), weddings or commitment ceremonies (transforming two individuals into a couple) or basic training for military service (transforming recruits into soldiers).

All rites of passage are divided into three distinct phases: separation, transition and reincorporation. During the first phase, participants are spatially separated from the rest of their social group. Their separateness is marked both through their spatial separation prior to the event and by being bordered by flag bearers holding the American and Ohio flags as well as a sign announcing the arrival of the “Class of 2017.”

Some of the incoming students are dressed casually in t-shirts and shorts, while others wear button-down shirts, formal dresses and, in at least one instance, a Kenyon cap. Some avoid eye contact, others smile shyly at acquaintances and onlookers, while a group of young men strides down the path in confident, nonchalant steps. Loudly, perhaps in an attempt to diffuse the intensity of this highly formalized ritual, the students begin spatial separation from the faculty and staff also serves to downplay and level any existing differences among members of the incoming cohort: their diversity as a group (and this class has been hailed as one of Kenyon’s most diverse incoming classes) is momentarily eclipsed by their shared status as newcomers to the community.

Through the separation from the larger group, the incoming students enter a transitional phase. They become members of a liminal group, belonging neither to their groups of origin (families, friends, high school graduates) nor to the group whose membership they were just contemplating. The incoming freshmen literally have to pass through this phase by walking down Middle Path.

The formal and unusual attire of Kenyon’s faculty, administrators and admissions staff members highlights the event as a special occasion and emphasizes the special nature of the community that the incoming class is about to join.

During the course of the next hour, a number of Kenyon representatives, most of whom in college regalia, take turns giving short speeches to welcome the members of the Class of 2017 into their new lives at Kenyon. The 484 freshmen join a group of age mates and become members of the same cohort, the Class of 2017. Once they have completed the ceremony, their passage from one status (a group of individuals who have been introduced to Kenyon) to another status (members of Kenyon’s freshman class) has been symbolically completed.

Members of the entire community celebrate this new status by participating in a picnic on the lawn in front of Cromwell Cottage.

Rites of passage serve as a regulating device to both maintain and reproduce the social order. Every fall, convocation allows all participants, new and old, to experience a shared sense of belonging and to bring into existence a new cohort of Kenyon students. Welcome, members of the Class of 2017.

Susanne Unger is an assistant professor of Anthropology. Her email is susanru@kenyon.edu. Articles in this series feature the views of faculty and staff. Interested parties should contact gencredau@kenyon.edu and damm@kenyon.edu for consideration.

Quick Complaints

“It’s the first week of school and Peirce has already run out of orange juice. And Gatorade. And chocolate milk.”
— Regan Fink ’14

“Why are there so many parking spots open in Peirce Lot and South Lot 2 so full.”
— Jenna Willet ’14

“Why do people keep opening the seminar room doors on first floor Ascension?”
— Gwen Lloyd ’16

“It’s just been too darn fun.”
— Noah Winters ’15

“The Farr appartments cost the same as the NCAs. Plus there is no air circulation.”
— Nikhil Idnani ’14

“I’m upset that they never served Bananas Foster. The Market Dog costs too much. The Cove should lower the price of their pizza. I receive too many emails about common hour.”
— Joey Cordle ’14

“There’s nothing to drink in Peirce: no ice, no chocolate milk, no Gatorade, no cranberry juice. So you know what I got: watered down lemonade.”
— Ryan Rosen ’14

Photo Caption
Illustration by Nicholas Anania

Our society needs to promote that confidence does not mean intimidation, and that, as Kenyon’s policy states, consent should be enthusiastic.”
Bennett Stephens ’15 (left) spent his summer working in the Office of Admissions as a tour guide and office assistant.

“Usually, I would go two tours a day, and in between I would be in the office, sending mailings,” he said.

He admitted that at times it felt like “a lot of paper pushing.” In general, however, Stephens enjoyed giving tours and working with the people in Admissions.

As for life in the Hill in the summer, Stephens said, “It was fun.”

Still, he was not a fan of preparing meals. “Living in a New Apt, trying to cook for yourself all summer, was not fun. There’s no kitchen.”

At the end of the summer, the Admissions Office took all six summer workers up Pitzer Tower as a reward for all their hard work. “Campus Safety has to unlock a spiral staircase that goes all the way to the top,” Stephens said.

Seven eager fellows were chosen to participate in the John W. Adams Summer Scholar Program in Socio-Legal Studies. Amongst these seniors was Elizabeth Cheever ’14 (second from left).

“I was a summer legal scholar fellow on the research track. There were some people who were doing internships where they were researching attorneys, but I was doing independent research,” Cheever said.

“My focus, generally, was diversity in education,” she said. “What role does diversity play in education outcomes? How do you create it?”

These thoroughly researched inquiries ultimately lead Cheever to take an in-depth look at the Supreme Court.

“What I was looking at specifically was the legal standard that the Supreme Court applies to any law that treats people differently on the basis of race, which includes affirmative action programs,” Cheever said.

Cheever urged anyone who may consider spending the summer on campus to try it. “I would recommend it. I had a wonderful time.”

Katie Low ’16
Student Worker for the Provost’s Office

Katie Low ’16 spent her summer in Gambier working for the Provost’s Office, a job that involved both typical day-to-day work, as well as involving the offices of professors and administration.

“If a professor retired, I would end up packing up a lot of their things,” Low said.

While the job may appear tedious, Low felt it afforded a certain amount of adventure. “I got to explore Kenyon, in general, because I was working in all these office spaces and I got to go into all the houses here,” she said. Low also had the opportunity to meet many professors and administrative assistants.

Living in Gambier for the summer allowed her to venture off-campus, experiencing scenic trails in the area. “I finally went to the Cave,” she said.

The worst part of summer life in Gambier, according to Low, was the quietness. “In the beginning it was hard to get used to the quiet — nobody was here on the weekend, sometimes it was hard to keep yourself busy.”

Now that everyone is back on campus, she feels a little “claustrophobic,” but assures she is adjusting.

Grant Carney ’15
Alumni Weekend Class Liaison for ‘98

Grant Carney ’15 (second from left) favors part this summer at Kenyon was when one of his apartment mates invited President Decatur over for dessert.

“The night Decatur and his wife, Renée Romano, came over with their dogs, we talked for an hour, hour and a half, at the Acland Apartments about life at Kenyon, hopping to introduce us to some of the students,” Carney said. “President Decatur is a very nice guy and very down-to-earth.”

Carney was on campus at the beginning of summer as a class liaison for the 15th season of the class of 1998. He lived with alumni in Hamlin Hall, serving as a guide for the group. “It was great getting to know all the people from 15 years ago, seeing what their Kenyon experience was like, and seeing what I had to look forward to once I went to [Kenyon] while I still have a chance to,” Carney said.

“At the end of the year, we passed badges from the previous class to us, and it was quite a heartwarming moment,” Carney said.

Mia Barnett ’15
Video Intern with Public Affairs

A lot of seniors were back on campus attending some of the events,” she said. “There was a Chasen reunion; I went to a concert, which was awesome. I definitely wouldn’t have gotten to do that during the year.”

Barnett admitted that though the quietness of campus sometimes surprised her, it was also a nice change of pace. “It was relaxing to be here, of course, campus was gorgeous this summer,” she said.
Swiss and Singaporean students serve their nations

PROEBE LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

Last year, while most members of the class of 2017 were in the throes of senior project and internship completion after high-school graduation, Tristan Biber ’17 was on track to become a sergeant in the Swiss Army.

Born and raised in Geneva, Biber chose the ‘traditional’ route, enlisting promptly in the Swiss army after his high-school graduation. After an initial informational day, and a two-day intensive period of psychological, physical and medical tests, he was stationed in a Swiss-German part of Switzerland.

His unit consisted of 50 French and Italian speakers, and was part of a larger, 400-soldier barrack. Biber underwent boot camp for a month and a half, learning basic things, so I helped wire my house with the skills I learned in the army, it’s still stuff I could bring back into the civilian life. At Under-Officer School, Biber was training to become a sergeant, but an unexpected accident quickly changed his trajectory.

‘I broke my leg coming back from an exercise, not seeing the black ice. It turns out that when you’ve got 90 pounds of gear on your back, when you go, you go,’ he said with a laugh.

With a fractured tibia and destroyed ligaments in his ankle during his deferment, Biber was unable to continue training before coming to Ohio. So with the Swiss Army’s permission, Biber enrolled instead at Kenyon, joining the class of 2017. He will complete his sergeant training — 10 weeks total — next summer.

Eventually, after graduating from Kenyon, Biber plans to continue his service as a lieutenant — a training command of 52 weeks. Biber explained that most people complete their service in one unexpected unit called ‘Cometown’ after graduation.

“For me, I worked parts of the system, but it’s also working with the system. The Swiss Army is the most direct, and one of the cleanest, organisations I know — if you play by their rules. But the second you start making rules up, that’s when you can play the game too, and they have been playing it a lot longer than you have.”

Chris Kwan ’16 (left) and Tristan Biber ’17 (right) both served in their countries’ armies — Kwan in Singapore and Biber in Switzerland — before attending Kenyon. They both plan to continue their service.

ESTEBAN BACHELET
SPORTS ASSISTANT

It has been 10 months and two days since Kenyon students flooded into the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) for the first Lady Michelle Obama’s speech last Nov. 3. “We’ve got three days. This is a weekend, Kenyon,” Obama said, addressing a crowd of students packed into Tomsich Arena.

“If you’ve got dates planned, bring them to the campaign office. Anyone trying to impress anyone, bring them over to the Obama office. …You all could swing an entire pre-election turnout for Obama.”

During the final three campaign days that followed the First Lady’s words, Kenyon students turned out in overwhelming support for the Democratic Party through canvassing and volunteering.

“Our precincts were the best in the district,” said Democratic President Sydney Warrick ’14. While Republican presence is strong [in Knox County], the local Democrats here [at Kenyon] are enthusiastic.’

“Most Kenyon students will not experience the thrill of a presidential election this academic year, the political momentum has not stopped in Gambier. Four seats for the Village Council will be up for the ballot for General Elections that will be held on Nov. 5. Students registered in Ohio can vote at the Gambier Community Center behind the KAC or vote early during the time that the Knox County Board of Elections in Mount Vernon.

“The campus tilts heavily to the left, and this is reflected in the relative size of the Kenyon College Republicans as opposed to the Kenyon College Democrats,” Kenyon Republicans President Andrew Gabel ’15 said. “While there is a gap in the raw numbers, I’d submit there is not a gap in enthusiasm.” Republicans on campus employ an open-door stance to facilitate discussion and integrate idees into the community.

This student participation from both sides of the political spectrum played a large role in the 2012 presidential election. “Kenyon students did an incredible amount of campaigning out in Knox County [and other surrounding areas],” Professor of Political Science John Elliott said.

People were willing to talk to [canvassing students] and that is sort of important about the county as well,” Elliott said. Knox County has voted primarily Republican for the past 70 years and this trend will most likely continue. “The simplest point is that Knox County is a very conservative area,” Elliott said.

The 2012 election was no exception. More than 60 percent of the population voted, with 67.7 percent supporting the president in Knox County. Republican candidate Mitt Romney claimed the rural areas while Obama won the urban centers. In the end, Obama claimed victory in Ohio, edging out Romney by 166,214 votes while holding a slim margin at 50.67 percent to 47.69 percent.

Outside of Gambier, which is generally more Democratic, Knox Coun-
ty is likely to remain in the same political alignment. Since [the political makeup] of Knox County has stayed the same for 70-plus years … the odds are they will stay the same for another 20 or 30. Obama is seen by rural Americans as being urban. He’s a Chicago guy. He is a city person; he has a city style. Romney America resists that.”

As in the 2012 election, energized students helped pass the May 2013 tax levy to fund education projects. “Turnout was very high in the May emergency levy election — Kenyon students came out in droves during finals week to support their community and faculty,” Warrick said.

Student involvement, while overwhelmingly Demo-
cratic, does have some Re-
publican backing. “It’s a bus-
son of liberalism in a sea of con-
servatism,” said Gabel on the political tides in Gambier and the Knox County area. “We tried our best to go out, get people excited… [we got to see a different side of Mount Vernon. It was ul-
timately a defeat for Romney, but not for the Ken-
yon College Republicans.”

Despite differing back-
views, Democrats and Republicans on campus said they agreed on some common and active community members, a staple of the Ken-
yon education. Ultimately, all of these friends will make for a strong political year at Kenyon.
Professors share memories of first-year experiences

NIKI ZIMMERMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Bologn, the world’s oldest continuously operating university, was founded in 1088. Nearly 1,000 years later, the college experience has changed a lot. But the cliché that the more things change, the more they stay the same rings true in the memories of some members of the Kenyon faculty.

While attending Bryn Mawr College, Professor of Biology Joan Slonczewski also took classes at nearby Haverford College, where she met her future husband Michael Barich, now an assistant professor of classics. “Today’s students are more engaged with society because they have the Internet and are more connected with what’s going on,” Slonczewski said.

Professor of Humanities Tim Shutt spent his high school years at the rigorous Hotchkiss School, where students regularly spent six to seven hours per night on homework.

When he attended Yale University as an undergraduate, Shutt said he wanted to “kick his heels up” a bit, but his experience when he left home in New York City to head upstate to St. Lawrence University, a school that calls Montreal, Canada the nearest big city. Rutkoff said he had no idea what he was getting himself into when he began his journey. “I hadn’t visited the college, because people didn’t visit colleges back then,” Rutkoff said. “I had to take a train from Grand Central [Terminal] that left at like 12 o’clock at night... I have two big suitcases... and the college is a mile and a half down the road.”

“When he began his journey, he was getting himself into a world that was the size of a prison cell with a bed on one side and a little teeny sink on the other. And I don’t know a soul. I sat down and I started to cry, thinking, ‘holy shit, what am I doing here?’”

“I didn’t go to college right out of high school,” Mauck said. “I had spent most of the next year teaching scuba diving down in the Virgin Islands. So I’d been living on my own in a little hut on the beach all winter, and I came back and I went to school.”

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Real World: Gambier dramatizes real campus predicaments

Emily Sakamoto, A+E Editor

A mandated stop on the First-Year Orientation journey, Real World: Gambier attempts to provide key insights into handling different campus situations.

The show’s 2013 production consisted of a 16-person cast that collaboratively wrote their script from a base taken from the previous year’s production. The show was staged on Aug. 28.

This year’s topics ranged from drug use to roommate dilemmas, though several themes have remained constant throughout the years.

“We’re required to cover only the sexual misconduct policy and the Good Samaritan policy,” said Greg Culley ’14, student co-coordinator of the event. “I thought it was very funny and they were able to approach some big questions,” Lewis Turley ’17 said. “It was a nice segue for the [hall] meeting we had after.”

Community Advisor (CA) Elizabeth Norman ’16 agreed that her residents understood the severity of the implications that arose with the benefits of the resources listed afterwards. “They thought it was funny … and they did take it seriously,” she said.

First years also said that while at times cheesy and overdramatic, Real World portrayed plausible college events. “I thought the situations were pretty realistic,” Jack Clayton ’17 said.

That being said, some first years voiced concern that certain issues were skipped.

First year Holloway Cushman ’17, for example, expressed disappointment that eating disorders were not covered in the skit.

Since many college students struggle with choosing their own meals day in and day out, at least one student felt this was a necessary topic to be dealt with. “Some first years may have found the experience a little too informative,” Max Pescherine ’16 said. “[It was] definitely a lot of information thrown at you at one time,” Max Pescherine ’17 said. “But I thought it was actually pretty useful.”

“I think they do a very good job of balancing humor and seriousness and showing what can happen,” CA Sterling Nelson ’16 said. “[The first years] got a really good taste of all the resources that are available to them.”

Already, some first years have begun to utilise the advisors mentioned during the production. Hannah Gilman ’17, for instance, has already connected with her Peer Counselor (PC). “I talk to my PC all the time. She’s really cool. I like her a lot,” she said.

Others simply felt confident in the knowledge that they had the contacts necessary for any situation that may occur. “I felt like even if I needed to reach some specific person I could always go through my CA,” Pescherine said. While some thought the production redundant or exploding with information, Real World: Gambier appeared to positively impact the class of 2017 and guide them into the hands of Kenyon’s numerous advisors.

“They were pretty receptive,” Discriminatory Advisor (DA) Jinxia Nunez ’16 said.

Added Clayton. “By the end of it, I had actually warmed up to it.”

MVNU professor to speak on Gothic art, medieval religion

Peter Frost, Staff Writer

For Dr. Rebecca Abbott, adjunct professor at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, what will speak about the Cambridge Movement.

photo courtesy of Dr. Rebecca Abbott

Dr. Rebecca Abbott, adjunct professor at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, will speak about the Cambridge Movement.

“Worship is not just about learning facts about God, but having a particular experience.” Dr. Rebecca Abbott

For her beliefs, Neale remained a steadfast believer. Through copious research and readings of secondary sources as well as Neale’s letters, Abbott also discovered that the scholar’s interests varied as well, uncovering that he also played a major role in translations of Christ’s carols that are still popular today including “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” and “Good King Wenceslas.”

“Dr. Rebecca Abbott, avait be able to make such beautiful translations that people loved them and they endured.”

For Abbott, the lecture serves as an entry point into a dialogue that began hundreds of years ago about the role of beauty and history in modern religion.

“Worship is not just about learning facts about God, but about having a particular experience,” Abbott said.
BBQ, bluegrass and beats: music festival merges NC and OH

PAIGE SHERMIS | A&E EDITOR

Ohio and North Carolina are 485 miles apart, but share a common culture and culinary flavor.

To celebrate this, the Ohiolina (pronunciation is a portmanteau of the two states) Music Festival is bringing the music and food of the Ohio/ North Carolina culture to Mount Vernon next weekend on Sunday, Sept. 14.

The festival was started by Sarah Trafford Koenig and her husband Chris Koenig, a young couple from Ohio who met in North Carolina.

According to Sarah Koenig, Ohio and North Carolina cultures are linked by Interstate 77, a similar history and growth patterns.

"Ohiolina is a folk and bluegrass festival that my husband I, and a group of people who are passionate about music and this type of music, decided to put on," said Koenig.

"My husband has done some bluegrass festivals in his life. He did two when he was in college — he worked for the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, so he has a lot of experience with arts and putting on large-scale events."

The Appalachian-folk-infused musical lineup includes sets by the Rambshackles, Front Porch Revival, Buckles and Boots, the Twin City Buskers and the Mighty Troubadours.

"The different hands are pretty well known — they have great followings in their respective genres," Koenig said.

Buckles and Boots is comprised of Jessi and Brian Maxwell, a husband-and-wife duo who play soft-folk rock music.

"Buckles and Boots is a rugged, primitive, stripped-down exploration of the full range of human emotion carried by the powerful, often haunting vocals, melodic guitar and creative use of two-foot stomping and percussion from Jessi accompanied by the driving rhythm of [my] upright bass, banjo and mandolin," Brian Maxwell said.

Professor of Sociology and Rural Life Center Director Howard Sacks was also involved in the development of the festival.

"I met with the festival organizer early in the planning stage to discuss the concept, the reception it would receive locally, possible artists and to provide some local contacts that might be useful," he said.

"I think the festival promises to enrich life in Knox County, and I hope its success results in an annual event."

"[My husband and I] met in Winston-Salem, N.C., and we have quite a family affection for both North Carolina and Ohio," Sarah Koenig said.

"We were both from Ohio and living in North Carolina at the time. We found that over time, we were running into people with North Carolina and Ohio connections that loved bluegrass and listening to music. They share a ton in terms of their culture and their growth patterns; if you think of economically, they both have a hugely robust and growing economy."

Tickets for the Ohiolina Festival cost $35 for students and $45 for general admission. Admission includes a barbecue dinner provided by the restaurant City Barbeque.

Children under the age of 12 will gain free admission.

Koenig is already excited about the event's future.

"It's our 'beta test' year," she said. "This is obviously being built from the ground up. We are looking forward to seeing how it goes, and expanding it and improving it next year and onward."

The Ohiolina festival is sponsored in part by the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon, Knox Arts Council and Knox County. Doors will open at noon, and musical acts run from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Community Foundation, which supports education in the arts.

Koenig is confident that the festival's combination of food, music and location will make it a success.

This is a passion project for us. We are really excited about it. We think it's going to be a great group of musicians. It's a beautiful location — an 85-acre family farm. That makes for some really scenic things to look at and experience when you're listening to music."

The Ohiolina Music Festival will take place at 19260 Hopecross Road, Mount Vernon. For more information on the festival, please visit ohiolina.com, or facebook.com/ohiolina.

Tickets are available at https://ohiolina.ticketbud.com/ohiolina.

Award-winning authors to read from unconventional works

PAIGE SHERMIS | A&E EDITOR

Ismet Pricic is a Bosnian expatriate whose acclaimed novel Shards rocked the fictional memoir genre. Benjamin Busch, a former Marine and actor on the show The Wire, took 43 years to write his memoir Dust to Dust.

United by their unconventional storytelling means and Great Lakes Gorges Association New Writers Award-winning prose, Pricic and Busch will give readings of their works today at 5:30 p.m. in the Cheever Room in Finn House.

Pricic (pronounced Pur-sick), who now lives in Portland, Ore., won in the fiction category for Shards, which was published in 2011.

"[Shards] is a complicated book," he said. "It was a story that starts off as a memoir. It's about a Bosnian guy who grows up during the war-time. He is 15 when the war starts, and he is supposed to go to war. He figures a way to get out ... and uses a theatre troupe to escape." He walks the line between reality and fiction by giving the protagonist his

"I kind of think all my books are about the nature of what is real and what is not. In [Shards] you think it's a memoir as a device for people to feel safe, when the fiction part comes in."

Author Ismet Pricic

His portrayal of narcotics officer Tony Colicchio on The Wire and served in Iraq as a Marine, where he earned a Purple Heart in 2005.

"[Dust to Dust] took me 43 years to write," he said. "It is my experiential manifesto on our passage through time and landscape, the life of memory and presence of the terrestrial elements in our collective story. I wrote it not as a celebration of myself, but to serve as a way for the reader to see their own journey through my eyes."

"It is a visual book delivered by the single messenger of beat poetry. The book is about the reader and lays down a defiance of mortality despite the inevitability of death."

Both writers are working on their second books. Pricic’s next work, like his first, involves the concept of reality versus fiction.

"I kind of think all my books are about the nature of what is real and what is not. In [Shards] you think it's a memoir as a device for people to feel safe, when the fiction part comes in."

Ismet Pricic, left, escaped war-torn Bosnia as a teenager, which he relates in his work Shards. Benjamin Busch is a writer, former Marine and actor.

PHOTO BY MELISSA PRICIC; PHOTO COURTESY OF BENJAMIN BUSCH

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH KOENIG

PHOTO BY KAY NIELSON
Last fall, the Lords and Ladies saw triumphs and failures, wins and losses, and record-setting finishes. This year, they are back with high hopes and strong team bonds. Here’s what to expect.

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**MEN’S SOCCER**

**2012 RECORD:** 9W 6L 3T 4TH IN NCAC

**HEAD COACH:** Chris Brown

**CAPTAINS:** Andrew Parmelee and Lewis Williams-Gray

After a 9-6-3 season that saw Kenyon men’s soccer place fourth in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), Head Coach Chris Brown hopes to cement a place in the top four once again.

“We’ve finished top four since 2007,” he said in an interview with Kenyon Sports Connection. “Top four for us is the minimum.”

In the NCAC 2013 preseason coaches’ poll, Kenyon ranks third out of 10 teams. For the Lords, a successful season will depend largely on midfielder Andrew Parmelee ’14, who recently earned an All-Ohio first-team selection for his contributions as a box-to-box player last season. “He’s a force in the midfield,” Assistant Coach Darren Moore said. “When he forces forward, it’s hard for the opposing teams to match that [intensity].”

The Lords return a successful back four from last season but expect some first-years to fill in gaps up top and in the midfield. They continue their quest against Spalding University in Danville, Ky., on Friday, Sept. 6.

**HEAD COACH:**

**CAPTAINS:**

Andrew Parmelee and Lewis Williams-Gray

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**

**2012 RECORD:** 7W 8L 2T 6TH IN NCAC

**HEAD COACH:** Kelly Bryan

**CAPTAINS:** Lauren Wolfe, Becca Romaine and Anna Walley

Lauren Wolfe ’14 will save the shots and Becca Romaine ’15 will score the goals.

This was the theme of the 2012 season for the women’s soccer team and was of their first two games in 2013. Last season, Romaine scored 13 of the Ladies’ 25 goals, while Wolfe had 57 saves and saw time in the net in all but one of the Ladies’ 17 games.

The Ladies went 7-8-2 and finished sixth in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) last year. The 2013 campaign started with 2-1 losses to both Wilmington College and Hope College on Aug. 30 and 31, respectively. Romaine scored the only goal against Wilmington and Maggie Smith ’17 scored against Hope. Head Coach Kelly Bryan emphasized, however, that the team is already showing signs of improvement toward the team’s goal of an NCAC championship.

“At the end of it all, we want to compete for the conference championship,” Bryan said. “We want to be competitive in every single game.”

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**HEAD COACH:**

**CAPTAINS:**

Lauren Wolfe, Becca Romaine and Anna Walley

**FIELD HOCKEY**

**2012 RECORD:** 8W 10L 5TH IN NCAC

**HEAD COACH:** Jacque DeMarco

**CAPTAINS:** Susie Gurzenda, Sammy Johnston and Maddie Breschi

After a 2012 season in which Kenyon’s field hockey squad went 8-10 overall and 7-7 in conference in Head Coach Jacque DeMarco’s first season, the Ladies look to improve with their added experience.

“On-and-off the field, Coach DeMarco in her second year has taken the team to a new level with her emphasis on hard work and camaraderie,” co-captain Susie Gurzenda ’14 wrote in an email.

While the team is young — first years and sophomores comprise the majority of the team — the Ladies are excited about the fresh vivacity they’ve shown thus far. “The dynamic class of 2013 has added great energy and talent to this team, taking us to an exciting competitive level,” Gurzenda wrote. “We have super-talented players all over the field, and it is exciting to see the team working together so well this early in the season.”

Gurzenda’s comments ring true, as the Ladies’ most recent defeat was a 1-0 loss to No. 18-ranked University of Rochester.

“We played the best field hockey Kenyon has played since I’ve been here on Sunday [against Rochester]. We fought hard and were in the game the entire time,” DeMarco wrote. “I expect to see that play the rest of the season. We have a very dynamic and versatile group, and I have great expectations for this year.”

The Ladies hope their strong play will translate into some victories when they play next at the Frostburg State University tournament in Maryland on Sept. 7.
CROSS COUNTRY

HEAD COACH: DUANE GOMEZ
CAPTAINS: JORY BRUCH, JENNA WILLETT, KERRY STRADER, BRYCE RAZ AND BEN TANOFF

As summer turns to fall, the Kenyon men’s and women’s cross country teams look to build off their successful 2012 season and carry that into 2013.

Head Coach Duane Gomez, who begins his 31st season as head coach of the program, said he expects great things from his teams this year. Both teams return the bulk of last year’s key runners, and in 2012 the current sophomore class featured some of the best first-year runners in the program’s history. Many seniors will also play important leadership roles.

The two teams opened the season Aug. 30 in a home tri-meet against Mount Vernon Nazarene University and Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU). Although the meet went unscored, Sam Lagasse ’16 finished first in the men’s division with a time of 16:22.4, and Natalie Plick ’16 placed first overall in the women’s field with her time of 14:32.4. Plick’s top time set both a meet record and a course record, and earned her this week’s North Coast Athletic Conference Women’s Cross Country Runner of the Week award.

Both teams are scheduled to compete next on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Great Lakes Colleges Association Championship hosted by OWU in Delaware, Ohio.

5TH AT 2012 NCAC CHAMPIONSHIP

HEAD COACH: GRANT WALLACE
CAPTAINS: ALEX BLICKLE

Heading into a new season, the Kenyon golf team hopes to continue to build off of the experience its young members gained last year. The Lords played well last fall, finishing third in a field of 10 teams and fifth in a field of nine teams. Building upon the early success, the Lords continued their strong play during the spring season, putting themselves in the position to finish in second place at the Miskingam University Invitational, but were disqualified because of illegal scorecards. The Lords later completed their season by finishing in fifth place in the North Coast Athletic Conference tournament.

The Lords only lost two members from last year’s squad and added three first years to the roster. While their roster includes newcomers, the Lords still enter the season with more experience.

“We expect our leaders from last year to improve their performance, show our freshmen what it takes to win, and ultimately keep improving on the program,” Head Coach Grant Wallace said. “I expect to see us at the top of the conference, like last year.”

Alex Blickle ’15 and Jake Fait ’16 are two of the returning leaders for Wallace. Both played well down the stretch last season and competed in tournaments throughout the summer.

The quest towards a conference championship begins this weekend in Lexington, Ky., where the Lords will compete in the Transylvania University Fall Invitational.

FOOTBALL

HEAD COACH: CHRIS MONFILETTO
CAPTAINS: REED FRANKLIN, DAVID BRACKETT AND SAM MQUISTON

After a tough 2012 season, the Kenyon College volleyball team began their fall season this past weekend at a tournament in Columbus hosted by Capital University and Otterbein University. The Ladies were not able to find the winning way, dropping all four matches during the two-day tournament. Despite the rough start, the Ladies showed some strength on the court last weekend, especially in their final match against Defiance College.

“We played really well, possibly the best we’ve had at Kenyon since I’ve been here,” Head Coach Katie Charles said.

This season, returning co-captains Sierra DeLeon ’14 and Maryjo Scott ’14 look to keep up their stellar play as the core of the Ladies’ offensive capabilities, while fellow co-captain Hannah Shank ’15 looks to remain the anchor of the Ladies’ defense.

The Ladies also return Ana Marcic ’14, the former North Coast Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year, and Sandhya Bhasker ’14, who was abroad last season. On Sept. 7, the Ladies will play next at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology tournament in Terre Haute, Ind.
As soon as the clock strikes four, she heads down the hill from her classroom to the Kenyon Athletic Center where coaches and players alike notice her energy as she dives for volleyballs far out of her reach. No, she’s not one of the players, but rather one of the coaches.

Elly Smith cannot compute the impact that Assistant Professor of Mathematics Elly Smith has made since she began assisting the Kenyon volleyball team a year over a year and a half ago.

Smith initially joined the Ladies in 2011 to serve as an extra player during scrimmages. This season she became an official coach, cementing her already powerful presence with the team. Smith’s role on the team has transformed from passionate volunteer to official coach. She fills a role that Bruce and Charles believe in that kind of community that a few years ago, he branched out from coaching swimming and volleyball to model after. The daughter of a high school volleyball coach, Smith played both volleyball and tennis while earning her degree in Mathematics at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. After relocating to Fort Collins, Colo., for graduate school at Colorado State University, Smith resumed playing volleyball in adult leagues while simultaneously playing on Colorado State’s club tennis team.

After joining the Kenyon math department in 2010, Smith confronted the challenge of finding a place to play the sport she grew up with. “Mount Vernon is a small town, so there’s not a lot of volleyball going on, and so really I just came to the [Kenyon] team looking for some volleyball,” Smith said.

Shortly after arriving in Gambier, Smith jumped at the chance to introduce herself to Head Coach Katie Charles and offer to help out with practices. Smith began helping the Ladies scrimmage during spring practices, when the team is usually understaffed because seniors no longer play and juniors are just beginning. The two entities, professor and team, clicked in motion like a powerful serve. Smith said when she returned to the court with the Ladies, it really hit her how much she had missed volleyball. "It’s a different perspective to try to model after." While balancing her work schedule around volleyball practice, Smith felt the simultaneous enrichment of her own experience as a faculty member at Kenyon, which prides itself on cultivating the experience of its students. "The interaction with them is definitely much more personal, and I think that definitely is one of the biggest pieces of why Elly is good for our program," Charles said. "Elly has that ability to kind of bridge the gap."

Co-captain Sierra DeLeon ’14, a four-year starter who has watched Smith since she began playing with the Ladies, called Smith’s presence in the gym “a breath of fresh air” in the midst of a rough patch for the team. “When she would come and play with us, we would dive for balls and roll all over the floor and be really into it,” DeLeon said. “And she’d be like, ‘Guys, let’s go.’ She would go for everything and it was just like, wow, we haven’t seen this in a while, like, this is something we need to model after.”

“Likely most faculty here, I find it a challenge to balance my professional life with my hobbies,” Smith said. “And so it was really exciting to come back to something that I love that I hadn’t seen in a long time.”

While balancing her work schedule around volleyball practice, Smith felt the simultaneous enrichment of her own experience as a faculty member at Kenyon, which prides itself in its close-knit community devoted to cultivating the experience of its students.

Direct community involvement in athletics is not something that typically characterizes college athletics, even in Division III. Rather, it is a result of small liberal arts colleges like Kenyon, which emphasize the all-around development of students.

Smith said her involvement in the Kenyon volleyball program is one example of faculty support for the on-field efforts of students. A group of professors, including Smith, occasionally scrimmage against the men’s and women’s tennis teams. Professor of Humanities Tim Shurt’s involvement in the swimming program spans decades.

Shurt and Smith are just two examples of Kenyon community members who prove they aren’t afraid to devote their time and energy. After swimming at Kenyon for four years, Associate Director of Admissions Adrienne Amador ’09 joined the College’s admissions team and spent some time volunteering with the Mount Vernon High School swim team before turning as an extra hand on deck for her alma mater.

“I think faculty and staff members are contributing to the greater community above and beyond clearly which emphasize the all-around development of students. "The professors who choose to work here, they choose it because they believe in that kind of community," Book said. "And so when they have opportunities to give back in other ways, they’re typically quick to jump at them. It’s just nice to connect with people in different environments and share a different side of yourself.”

Charles said that she sees the same spirit in Smith. “I think her energy and how much she cares about the students and how much she cares about the success of everything here from academics to athletics is really nice,” Charles said. “It’s been fantastic to have somebody who believes in the overall mission of academics and athletics, understands where it fits.”