

THE NEXUS

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Have a Grand New Year!

By Claire McMahon and Amanda Haering

The new school year has begun, and has brought with it new classes, teachers, students and even a new class record (there will be 9 graduating seniors this year, the largest senior class Schilling has ever had)! A slew of new elective classes are now being offered for the high school and lower school. The new high school classes are Molecular Biology and Genetics, Music Theory and Composition, History of World War II, CAD/ Web Design, History of the 70s, and Greek Civilization. The classes are taught by Dr. Strong, Dr. Bowen, Dr. Clegg, Mrs. Auen, Mr. Sunderman and Mrs. Cooper.

A popular class this year, CAD/ Web Design is taught by Mrs. Auen. Students learn how to program and create websites using CAD, Computer Aided Graphics. These skills are used in engineering, designing architecture and creating graphics online.

Another new class is History of World War II, presented by Dr. Clegg. Student Michael Wriston explains that the class covers “the history surrounding the war to give it a context, the causes of the war, the military engagements they had, the weapons and technologies, politics behind why each country did what they did, and stuff like that”. These topics are taught along with the tear jerking stories that Dr. Clegg relates to his class, stories from his uncle who fought in World War II. Dr. Clegg suggests taking this class to learn tactics, and

also so that students see how to put your heart into a subject, to make the subject of personal interest.

Dr. Clegg enlivens the history of WWII so that it’s not just facts and dates but rather a recounting of our predecessors’ lives.

Dr. Strong is teaching a class called Molecular Biology and Genetics during the first period on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She enjoys this class because she likes the subject matter and her students ask interesting questions. This class caught her eye because she is a researcher and thought she could bring a researcher’s perspective to the students. This class will study classic genetics as well as the molecules that underlie classic genetics.

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Upcoming Events

- October 27 - 1st Quarter Ends
- October 28 - 2nd Quarter Begins
- October 29 - High School
Halloween Costume Contest
- October 30 - Lower School
Halloween Party
- November 9 - School Pictures

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September - October Birthdays!

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| September 8 | Mara Fletcher |
| September 9 | James Colmar |
| September 20 | Dr. Bowen |
| September 21 | Nathan Patchan |
| September 22 | Mr. Sunderman |
| September 24 | Dr. Breidenbach |
| October 1 | Ms. Meehan-Dorr |
| October 9 | Ms. Zhivotkov |
| October 17 | Jackson Bomar |
| October 22 | Jayden Kohus |

New Regime Takes Office in Student Government

By Michael Wriston

On September 4th of this year the Schilling School elected new Student Council officers. James Colmar and Claire McMahon were elected President and Vice-President, with Zach Felder and Shelby Argabrite as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The Upper School students convened in Dr. Clegg's room on a Friday afternoon to elect their new Student Council leader. Students voted from five candidates, and each student was allowed to vote for two candidates. Shelby Argabrite, James Colmar, Adam Gold, Zach Felder, and Claire McMahon aspired to the role of commander-in-chief, and several of the candidates gave short speeches concerning why they felt they should be elected.

On October 2nd, Schilling students once again voted for their government leaders, but this time for representatives. For the Senior class, Jeff Honadle and I were voted in. For the Juniors, Alex Fine and Eric Guilford were chosen to represent their class. All of the Sophomores ran, but only two came out on top, Nathan Boyce and Jackson Bomar. For the Freshmen Dan McMahon was the only representative chosen. The eighth graders will also be represented in student government, with Taylor Jones as their class representative.

Students seem to agree that James is a great guy, and the fact that he's been running every year, which showed his dedication, factored into people voting for him. Of his election, Mr. Colmar said "In the land of the blind, the one eyed man shall be king." Does he plan to institute a monarchy? Is our vision under threat? only time will tell. Those interviewed also think that Claire received so many votes due to her ability to work well with James, with one student saying "They are a perfect dynamic duo."

When asked about their plans for Student Government this year, James and Claire seemed to agree that they would focus on letting the class representatives and students play a large role in deciding what to do with Student Government, though James mentioned that he'd definitely make sure we got more beverages to sell in the fridge, through his "shady vending contacts". Interviews with the students reveal that they want the Student Government to support local charities through fundraising events, and our beloved Jos Baque asked

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New Teacher: born in Russia, immigrated to USA!

By Joy Ficke

Did you know Ms. Zhivotkov (Shi-vot-cove) was the only new teacher to be hired at Schilling this year? Russian was originally the only class she was going to teach here, but then Dr. Schilling hired her to teach the 5-6th grade reading, language arts and social studies classes as well. Ms. Zhivotkov says she likes teaching 5th and 6th graders because they are very inquisitive, but she also likes teaching high school Russian because it's of personal interest to her.

Ms. Zhivotkov graduated from Ohio State in June of 2009. She majored in teaching Russian. That covered the language, history, art, and the religion of Russia. Ms. Zhivotkov was very exasperated by the job market the day she got a call from a family acquaintance. The caller told her there was a job opening at Schilling. Ms. Zhivotkov called Mrs. Mink and left a voicemail, not expecting to hear anything back. Then (as you probably guessed) Mrs. Mink called her back. She scheduled an interview and then several days later Ms. Zhivotkov was hired.



Ms. Zhivotkov

Ms. Zhivotkov was born in Southern Siberia in the 1980s. Around that time Russia started letting people out for religious freedom, so her family decided to emigrate. In 1990, she and her family, seven of them at the time, including 5 small children and two adults, immigrated to New York. When they arrived, they had nothing, the family hadn't eaten or slept for three days. Ms. Zhivotkov lived in a small town called Ithaca until she was eighteen years old. Then she and her family moved to the Cincinnati area, and she had to drop out of the college she was going to in Connecticut. That was when she transferred to Ohio State.

Ms. Zhivotkov's full name is Nataliya Evgeniyuna Zhivotkov. Her family calls her Natasha. When she was little if anyone called her Nataliya, her real name, she would beat them up.

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Senior Named National Merit Semifinalist

By Michael Wriston

James Colmar, our respected Student Council President, and the Editor in Chief of the Nexus, has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

James said his key to success was a little bit of studying each night, an optimistic attitude and a good night's sleep. Juniors who did exceptionally well on the PSAT are named as Semifinalists in the National Merit Qualifying test. Young Mr. Colmar did quite well, and as part of being a semifinalist, he then had to complete an application to gain National Merit Scholar Status.



James Colmar

Dr. Schilling commented on James' achievement, "I'm extremely proud of James, and look forward to hearing of many distinctions and awards he will receive in the years ahead", while Mr. Heflin said of James: "He's witty, he's wise, and a sharp dresser."

Senior Commended by National Merit Committee

By Michael Wriston

Senior Adam Gold, who has been enrolled in the Schilling School for 9 years, was recently presented with a certificate of commendation from Dr. Schilling, who stated (in Adam's words), "Congratulations, this certificate of commendation says you've been commended for being meritorious." The students who scored in the top 50,000 on the PSAT/NMSQT are given the commendation letter, and the students in the top 16,000 are chosen to go on to be National Merit Semifinalists. This means Adam, who scored in the top 50,000, scored higher than about 97 percent of juniors taking the test. Congratulations, Adam!

Schilling Alumni: Where Are They Now?

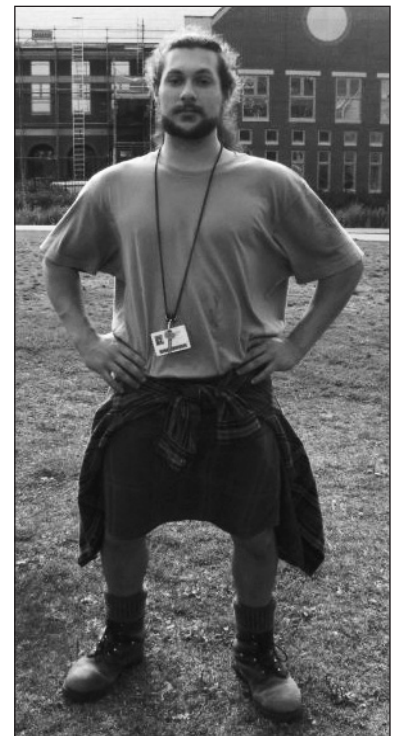
Part 1 of a Series

By James Colmar

Students of Dr. Clegg's 7th period Wilderness and Pioneering class may have recognized a familiar (or perhaps not so familiar) face over the first two weeks. That face belongs to a former student of Schilling School, Rob Palatchi. Since graduating in 2005, he has been studying at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, majoring in Outdoor Education.

When asked about his goal in life, Rob gave me a simple answer that spoke volumes of his personality.

He said he simply "Wanted to grow his own food, to hunt his own meat and to teach others how to rely less on modern conveniences." The reason swiftly becomes clear why he decided to help teach the Wilderness and Pioneering class. In fact, his determination for returning to the old ways is so strong that when asked what his most exciting project was in his opinion, he mentioned that he was making a stone headed



Schilling Alumnus Rob Palatchi club from scratch.

According to Rob, the thing he misses most about Schilling is "The sharp, occasionally deep conversations." On the same note, he related his fondest memory as being the class campout of a previous year of Wilderness Pioneering at Hocking Hills. In the way of advice for the current students of Schilling, he said: "Develop discipline; when you can't figure out a quick and easy solution, you will have to put in a lot of effort and not even think about giving up." He also pleads: "Never stop yourself from finding humor, and try to keep goals long, yet fluid."

Check out Local College Fairs!

By Claire McMahon

The yearly tradition for all high school juniors and seniors has begun: the college fairs. Seen with anticipation, or perhaps apprehension, the fairs signal the start of the most hectic time of the year. Seniors have to find the right college, remember the college due dates, craft the perfect acceptance essay, suffer through the SAT, ACT (and the lucky students who will take the SAT II), and on top of that complete the daily homework given out by the enthusiastic teachers at our dearly beloved school. The burden that your family, neighbors, teachers, all have borne has now been loaded off onto you.

Seniors, no twiddling your thumbs, no cheeks in your chair, it's time to get up and start on this aggravating adventure our elders call "taking initiative" for our future. But then again, when is the better time to plan for our future than now?

College fairs are a good way of exploring your options as you begin this intimidating process. The following are a few in your local area:

2009 fall National College Fair Cincinnati
Sunday, October 11, 2009

2009 Cincinnati Performing and Visual Arts Fair
Tuesday, October 13, 2009

15th Annual Clermont County College Night
Thursday, October 15, 2009

Greater Dayton Area College Night
Wednesday, November 4, 2009

University of Cincinnati Open House
Saturday, November 21, 2009

You can also find tips for attending a college fair at:
<http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/ncf/Pages/NCFTips.aspx>

Some Colleges Drop SAT Requirement

By Claire McMahon

To the wonder of high school juniors and seniors, the SAT requirement has been dropped by many colleges. A total of 730 American colleges now have an open policy about the test (30 % of all accredited four-year colleges and universities in the US).

According to the FairTest SAT Fact Sheet, the test is a "a direct descendant of the racist anti-immigrant Army Mental tests of the 1920s". Sarah Lawrence, a prominent college in New York, totally disregards the SAT scores. "We are a writing intensive school, and the information produced by SAT scores added little to our ability to predict how a student would do at our college; it did, however, do much to bias admission in favor of those who could afford expensive coaching sessions," announced Sarah Lawrence's former president, Dr. Michela Myers. But many others say that the test measures the potential for success in college and was created to give lower-class students a chance. Whom should we believe?

The fact that underprivileged students are doing poorly on this test may be due to the opportunistic, capi-

talizing test-prep companies that create reviews, summaries, short cuts, handy hints and test taking courses. All of which comes with a price that may leave the disadvantaged less prepared for the test. Although the main founder of the SATs, Carl Brigham, had honorable intentions of creating a balance between the social classes, the test seems to have become more of a hindrance than a help.

Other colleges that have opted for the SAT option policy include:

Agnes Scott College
Middlebury College
Bard College
Wheaton College
Dickinson College
Bowdoin College

A full list of the test-optional colleges may be found here: <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

Schilling Students Surrounded by Siblings

By Joy Ficke

At the Schilling School this year, 43% percent of the students have siblings or family relations who also come to the school. This is very rare for a school. Schilling even has a pair of host siblings, who are Josep and Matthew (Jos, our exchange student from Spain, is living with Matthew's family). Also coming here are 1st grader Jayden, and senior Danielle, who is Jayden's aunt. They all have opinions about coming here; some are even in the same classes! The siblings here had some very interesting things to say.

Claire McMahon (who is a senior) hates coming to the same school as Dan (who's in 9th grade), especially since they're in four of the same classes. Dan also thinks it's annoying, but sometimes he likes it because he doesn't have to write down his own homework!



Sibling rivalry? Schilling siblings Dan and Claire McMahon (photo by Amanda Haering).

They both like going out for lunch, but Dan asks for "donations" from Claire instead of using his own money. Dan claims that Claire beats him up when he wants a donation, but Claire claims she doesn't, and that Dan never pays back the full amount.

Brendan and Taylor Jones are brothers coming to Schilling, who are in 6th and 8th grade. Neither of them care that they come here together, unlike Claire and Dan, probably because they are not in any of the same classes. Brendan thinks the reason there are so many siblings here is that the younger siblings want to be like their older siblings. Taylor thinks it's because their siblings are smart too.

Madeleine Gold (8th grade) has two siblings at Schilling, who are Adam (12th grade) and Lizzie (4th grade). She believes the reason for so many siblings has to do with a "wonderful, wonderful disease". Alex Fine (11th grade) thinks it's because of all the "radiation in Ohio."

This is what our students think about siblings at Schilling. Whether it is a good thing or bad thing is unknown, but the number of siblings enrolled certainly brings a feeling of family to the Schilling School.

New Year (continued from page 1)

They will also learn about some of the newer developments in the field. Dr. Strong tries to give her students some understanding of the experimental basis of the textbook knowledge and not just the facts.

Mr. Sunderman teaches another class that the high schoolers enjoy. History of the Seventies is an elective. On Thursdays they listen to music that was popular in that era. They may also watch movies and videos from that time era as well. They recently watched a movie called All the President's Men, which is about the Washington Post reporters who revealed the Watergate scandal in 1976.

However, the high-schoolers are not the only ones to have new classes this year. Mr. Sunderman is also teaching another class called Current Events, which is for the middle schoolers. Dr. Schilling had the idea of someone teaching a current events class and Mr. Sunderman was interested in teaching this class.

They have six categories in which they break up current events, these categories are: world events, national events, political events, government, science/technology, sports and entertainment. This class basically informs you about things you might see on a nightly news cast. They try to stay away from talking about crimes such as murders and burglaries, though.

The younger students may also enjoy Mr. Heflin's new class, Geography Bee. This is a program run by National Geographic, where students at schools across America compete in "bees", like spelling bees, only the topic is geography rather than spelling. According to Mr. Heflin, the idea of a contest gives added incentive to students to "learn as much as you can when you can because you never know what will come up next. It was a tragedy when I gave a map of the USA to my high school students last year and realized that students need more grounding about geography." That experience contributed to the inspiration for the lower-school Geography Bee.

Minot Parker Enthralls School with Microgravity and Acetylene Torch!

By James Colmar

On the last day of August, the Schilling School encountered a new face in the school library. Mr. Minot Parker, an aerospace education specialist for NASA, gave a two-hour presentation to the entire school about the national space station, the motives and actions of NASA and his own personal experiences in microgravity. Mr Parker, who is the grandfather of Schilling student Shelby Argabrite, showed a particularly humorous video of his experiences on NASA's microgravity jet, affectionately dubbed the "Vomit Comet".

Throughout this presentation, his exuberance and audience participation captivated the attention of the group. The students watched in a combination of horror and amazement when Mr. Parker pointed a high-powered blowtorch at the hand of our own Joy Ficke, with only a single silicon-based space shuttle tile between them. Luckily, although the tile began to glow a bright red, Joy came out of it fine, to the applause of the other students. When the presentation was complete, everyone had a smile on their face for some reason or another, whether it was the sheer entertainment value or that they had learned so much.

Student Government (continued from page 2)

James specifically for snow and support for the ski club, along with "free lemonades." Other interesting ideas from students were to petition to re-allow BattleBall, and to organize a School Talent Show. James' advice for those with ideas is to attend the Student Council meeting in the Synagogue library (aka the computer room or lunchroom) on Wednesdays during lunch. Students should come with a written proposal, consisting of clear and reasonable plans on how to implement their course of action. Any student can submit a proposal to the class representatives or one of the Officers to bring up during Student Council meetings.

Our beloved Dr. Schilling on the Role of Student Government and our officers this year: "It gives a lot of students the opportunity to experience situations in which they can demonstrate leadership and come up with ideas for the betterment of the school. We have a

New Schilling Student Studied in Belgium

By Michael Wriston

This school year, the Schilling school has gained many new students, and throughout the next few issues of the Nexus, we'll be interviewing them and introducing them to the school. One of our new seniors, Claire McMahan, has recently returned home from a year in Belgium, where she studied as an exchange student at l'Institute Saint-Marie in Brussels. She was there speaking French for eleven months, and really enjoyed the time she spent and the friends she made. This summer, when she came back to the United States she biked a lot with her family in the Finger Lakes region of New York State.

When it came time for Claire to choose somewhere to attend for her last year of high school, she decided to come to Schilling because her little brother, Dan McMahan, had a great time at the school. She didn't really enjoy her time at Walnut Hills, and though she liked the School for Creative and Performing Arts, it didn't focus as much on academics as she would like.

Claire's favorite classes are Anthropology, History of the 1970s, Spanish and European History and Literature, and she thinks it's great to brag about all of the interesting courses she takes to her friends in Belgium, whom she plans to keep in contact with. When not in school, Claire likes to spend her time studying for the SAT/ACT tests, so she can attend one of the colleges she wants.

After Claire graduates at the end of this school year, she wants to go to Tufts University, which is her first choice, Brandeis University, or Tulane University, where her sister teaches. She's hoping to major in Business, French or Social Work.

wonderful lineup of officers, and I'm looking forward to having the officers meet as a whole and present the administration with ideas and suggestions about what they'd like to see the student government like to do for this coming semester." She loves her students getting involved in the community, and is delighted when students can find ways to improve the school and leave a lasting impact. Some of Dr. Schilling's favorite student council projects over the years have been the Annual Kosher Delicious Sale and other such fundraisers that provide means for the school to improve itself and help the people in need in our city.

Ski Club Created! Season Passes on Sale!

By Michael Wriston

This year, due to popular demand by the students, Jos Baque and I have started the Schilling School Ski Club. When the season begins this year, we'll be willing to drive anyone who can make it to the west side of town to Perfect North Slopes almost every weekend this skiing season.

The season normally starts in mid-December and lasts until the beginning of March, though it might begin earlier or end later, the exact dates will vary based on the weather. A lift ticket is 45 dollars for eight hours, and rentals are twenty three dollars. However, since we'll be going so often, it would be cheaper, depending on how often you plan to go, to get a season pass.

There are five different classes of season passes, ranging in price and how often you're able to get into the park. Since, as a club, we'll only be going about once a week on weekends, the Silver card is recommended, which is \$246 dollars for students thirteen and older, and it's slightly cheaper for students less than thirteen years of age. A rental add-on is another hundred dollars. This allows the bearer access to the park for eight consecutive hours once a week, without having to pay for rentals. All passes are 15% off until November 8th, so it's recommended you buy early. For more information, check perfectnorth.com. Please speak with Jos or me to let us know you're interested, so we can start figuring out how many people we need to drive, and other transportation issues.

Dehydration Danger

By Amanda Haering

Have you ever gotten a headache or had lower back pains or just felt weak after flying on an airplane? You may have been suffering from dehydration. High altitudes are drier places because they have less of an atmosphere, and at high altitudes you lose more than a quart of water a day just from breathing. Last year the high school students went to Arizona, and I kept getting really bad headaches and felt like I was about to pass out. I was dehydrated and didn't know it. So if you are going to be flying in a plane make sure to ask for the water instead of the pop.

Dehydration, mild or severe, is more common than people realize. These are some of the first symptoms you may experience when being mildly dehydrated that you may not realize:

Thirst	Loss of appetite
Dry skin	Skin flushing
Dark colored urine	Fatigue
Chills	Head rushes

To prevent dehydration you should try to keep water with you at all times, and if you are going on a trip you should make sure you bring enough water with you. The average person should drink about 2 liters of water a day. If you are already dehydrated you should take small sips of water every couple minutes. Drinking water quickly or chugging water will not help your body get hydrated any quicker and is actually worse for you.

How Bad is Over the Rhine?

By Amanda Haering

Walletpop.com ranked Over the Rhine, Cincinnati as the most dangerous neighborhood in the country. They used FBI data from 2005 through 2007. They say that if you live in over the Rhine there is a 25% chance of a violent crime happening to you, which means that there is a 75% chance a violent crime won't happen to you, although you could still be the victim of another type of crime.

Business owners and people who are living in Over the Rhine say it should not be voted the most

dangerous neighborhood in the country. They say these people wanting to vote it the most dangerous neighborhood just took a small amount of information and analyzed old data.

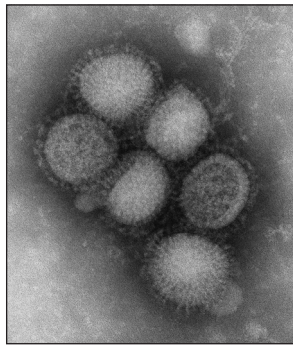
In my opinion, both of these groups are partially right, because Over the Rhine is certainly not one of the safer neighborhoods in the country but on the other hand, I don't believe that it is the most dangerous. It's just one of those places where you should watch your back and be aware of your surroundings.

Virus Update: Swine Flu

By James Colmar

The media and the populace in general have been paranoid about the H1N1 influenza virus, or Swine Flu, ever since it was first identified in April. Whether or not this paranoia is justified is another story entirely. Perhaps President Obama said it best in his late April response, where he remarked: "This is obviously a cause for concern... but it is not a cause for alarm." This simple sentence begins to seem a lot more reasonable when one compares H1N1 to the typical flu that strikes yearly.

Swine Flu has similar symptoms to yearly seasonal flu, including coughing, runny nose, sore throat, aches, fever, chills, headache and fatigue, and in especially serious cases, pneumonia.. However, the pneumonia associated with Swine Flu differs because it tends to afflict healthy young adults with re-



The H1N1 Virus

spiratory illnesses, rather than just posing the typical risk to children, the elderly, and those with underlying conditions. This effect is generated by a so-called "cytokine storm", an aggressive immune system reaction to the illness.

Frightening facts notwithstanding, it is important to remain calm in the face of this pandemic. While the disease itself can be a scary thing, one must remember that so far the number of people who have gotten the disease is still outweighed by the number of people who die every year of standard seasonal flu. And while influenza strains like this generally enjoy a resurgence in the winter following outbreak, we are not necessarily doomed. Most suffer no complications, those who do can be treated, and on average the mortality rate is only 1%. That said, it would still be beneficial to start certain routines to lower the risk even further. For example, frequent hand washing goes a long way, and making it a point to avoid obviously sick people is healthier in general. Also, if you are sick with flu-like symptoms, it would be prudent to stay at home to avoid infecting others.

Toxoplasma Parasite Creates Zombie Epidemic!!!

By Claire McMahon

The parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* has quickly strengthened into a category 2 epidemic early Wednesday, after initially reaching epidemic status six hours earlier, the Center for Disease Control has reported. *Toxoplasma gondii* is reported to be in Great Britain, where the parasite has acclimatized to the warm beer and haggis bits. The parasite is found in 50 percent of the population, and has steadily been feasting on brains since the week before, turning unknown towns people into walking zombies.

"Some additional strengthening is predicted and *gondii* could become a major pandemic later today" scientists said. "Weakening is expected when the Scots stop eating sheep and the Brits start using improper English such as extracting U from color." *Gondii* is the second brain-eating epidemic of the autumn season, which runs through November 30.

[This article is a hoax based on fact.]

Zhivotkov (continued from page 2)

In her free time Ms. Zhivotkov likes to run, read, draw and paint. She says it helps remove her stress. She has a big family of eleven people. The oldest child has two kids, and the youngest is only eight years old, so there is a big difference.

If you see Ms. Zhivotkov in the hall, or if you are in any of her classes, be sure to welcome her to Schilling.

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