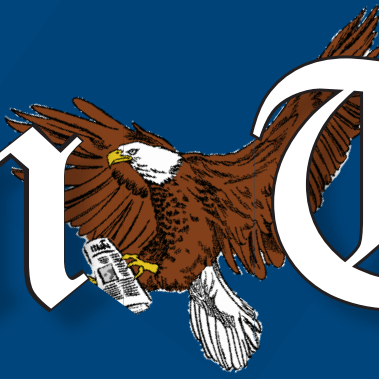


# Talon Times



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## Forum answers seniors' college questions

By Ryan Silvola  
A&E Editor

Former students of Lakes returned to their high school to be a part of an alumni forum, in which seniors had the opportunity to ask questions about college life.

During this event, which took place on Jan. 6 during the lunch periods, seniors asked questions such as "How do you deal with a roommate?" and "What's the hardest part about college?"

"It's good for the alumni to come back and share where they went wrong so the seniors don't make the same mistakes," said Justin Cooper, Junior Class sponsor and organizer of the forum. "[The advice] means a lot more coming from their peers."

This forum has been done the past two years, and there was an increase in students that attended the forum this year.

"Students who wanted real answers got them," Cooper said.

Although Cooper was happy with the amount of



Photo by Erin Kelly

**Bridget Hebbard answers a question at the alumni forum. Seniors had the opportunity to ask the alumni questions about life at college and different experiences they have gone through.**

students in attendance, he would like to see more students take advantage of the event. He is even considering talking to the administration about making the event mandatory.

"Those kids [that did not come] didn't realize what they what they would get out of it," Cooper said.

Senior Bethany Breum attended the forum and thought that it went great.

She thinks that it is

important for students to hear how successful former students can be.

"I heard from several other seniors that [the forum] eased the stress they had about college," Breum said. "At most colleges, during their college visits they give you the opportunity to attend a student panel. This was nice having it at Lakes because it was a more familiar environment, and I think that made it easier

for seniors to ask questions."

Evan Vandermeer, 2010 graduate and panel member, thought that the forum provided the seniors an opportunity to meet with an "experienced group of people."

"I feel like a few students who attended asked some pretty important questions that I remember wondering when I was a senior..." Vandermeer said.

## Alumni set down their college books to reconnect with teachers

By Ryan Silvola  
A&E Editor

Alumni from as far back as the first graduating Class of 2007 returned to Lakes for an alumni celebration in early January, marking a new initiative to create a community of the approximately 1,500 students - so far - who call themselves former Eagles.

The Booster Club is working with Lakes to create more opportunities for the alumni to be involved with the school and for them to have more chances to possibly give back to the community that has helped them.

"...I believe that it is vital to purposefully build bridges in [relationships between the alumni, the community, and the school]. In many ways, our alumni become the future of our community," Principal Steven Plank said.

In order to help jumpstart more alumni involvement, on Jan. 5, the Booster Club put together an alumni luncheon in the Commons, in which 43 former students came back during the lunch periods to meet with teachers as well as other alumni.

"I didn't know what to expect. If

we had 20 kids there I would have been thrilled. The fact that we had 43 was really great," said Tracy McGrath, alumni committee chairperson.

The Booster Club spread the word about this event through their Facebook group "Lakes Community High School Alumni" and through their official web site. They worked with the administration to establish a location and the date of the event.

"As [the alumni] move forward, it is important for them to not forget their roots so that they can network with teachers and students for help," McGrath said.

Kenny Kliesner, a member of the Class of 2011, found out about the luncheon through Kate Kiefer, English Department chair, after visiting her over Thanksgiving break.

"I came back because I loved all my teachers and I wanted to see them again and talk to them about my college classes," said Kliesner, who added that he would attend another event like this "in a heartbeat."

Kliesner thinks that alumni should stay in contact with the school and the community "so [that] they could help strengthen the school and stay involved so people could look up to them and

eventually follow in their footsteps."

German teacher Melissa Haines also attended the event to see what her former students were doing after high school.

"It is always interesting to see [the alumni] as "adults" and [to] hear about their adventures in college. I was amazed to find out students from the first graduating class were done with college and some were pursuing their Masters certificates already! I also enjoyed feeling really old," Haines said.

Overall, McGrath was really impressed by all of the alumni's attitudes, but she does wish that more teachers would have poked their head in to see who was there. She would like the alumni to "stay in touch," and to keep checking the web page as well as the Facebook page to see what is happening at Lakes.

Since this year will mark the five-year anniversary of the first graduating class, it is possible that a few more traditions might be added, like a five-year reunion? Keeping that in mind, the Booster Club is willing to help out in whatever way they can, but so far no one from the Class of 2007 has come forward.



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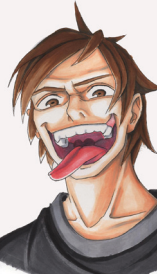
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