

# Features

## Entrepreneurial Program Great Sell for Sophomore

By Beau Brockett, Jr.  
Features Co-Editor

Eric Donato found the letter in the mail one morning, its appearance mysterious and its sender unknown. But looking back, Donato was thrilled to have received it.

Within was an invitation to the National Youth Leaders Conference at Babson College in Boston, Massachusetts. Its focus: entrepreneurship.

The opportunity was offered by Envision, an organization that gives middle school, high school and college students the leadership, scholarship and career skills needed for successful futures through hands-on experiences and teamwork, pinpointing and strengthening interests along the way.

"I would definitely recommend it to people," said the sophomore, "but I think I would not necessarily go to the same one."

It's with good reason. Envision offers a plethora of program pickings for anyone, from sports and entertainment to medicine.

"Just at that one college, they had three different programs going at the same time," Donato said.

The setting for the conference could not have been better. The *U.S. News and World Report*, one of the most respected college ranking guides, has considered Babson the best entrepreneurial school for 18 years in a row. It was what caught Donato's eye.

In total, the trip lasted a week. Donato packed the usual supplies: a toothbrush, toothpaste, shoes, clothes... and formal attire?

"It was all business, so we had to wear suits," he said.

And all business it was. The nearly 200 participants met with local CEOs and college students, toured companies, discussed colleges and careers, even designed and pitched a product to a company in hopes of striking a deal.

Leisure was almost nonexistent. "We got up at seven in the morning and did not get back until 9:45," said Donato.

Much of the program focused on press conferences and lectures with businessmen and women and Babson students. In the meetings, Donato was exposed to the gears of a company as speakers gave him a run-down of their companies, from goals to systematics to all the considerations an entrepreneur has to make. Leadership skills were also discussed.

He even got to see their words in action. Students toured business headquarters, like Flashnotes, an online store for study tools. There was no manufacturing in the building, just computers. All his knowledge was then put to the test in the

conference's sister event, presenting products to a company.

"The main thing we did was with this company called Green Light Now," Donato said. "We had to create a product or concept that would help the environment in some way."

The assignment was not sold as a contest (although there were four teams of around 50), but rather as a learning experience.

And was it ever.

Despite being surrounded by a large 12<sup>th</sup> grade body, the sophomore's leadership and entrepreneurial attributes earned him the title of Vice President of Operations for his group. Together, he and his team brainstormed a good that would energize the bathroom. "We would put pipes in toilets so they would give a little energy whenever they flushed. Showers, too," Donato said.

Although restroom pipes sound like an odd invention, the sole Richmond representative said there were stranger. "There was a breathalyzer that was supposed to tell if you had cancer," he said. Nevertheless, despite the absurdity, both teams provided well-documented information and design.

The company was very comprehensive in their judging. He said, "[They] judged in financial outlooks, designs that were made, cost of products, how long it would take — every little, tiny aspect."

Donato saw the whole scenario play out like a scene from Shark Tank, a T.V. show where entrepreneurs pitch their products to investors in hopes of forging a partnership. Even many questions were reminiscent of the series to him.

And like the show, if any product genuinely caught the attention of Green Light Now — an eco-conscious company — they would actually go into business, too. However, it has only happened once in all the years the conference has been.

Donato saw the hands-on experience of a small group working as business pitching concepts as one of the most valuable pieces he left with. "It really helped with the quick decision-making," he said. "They didn't actually give you a lot of time."

In the midst of it all, the NYLC hosted college sessions, from perfects fits to the application process. However, the schools mentioned were top-tier and highly selective; he decided it wasn't worth the shot in the dark.

Careers were also highlighted, but Donato's interests were already realized. "Before I went there, I wanted to go into business, so it didn't change much. It just kind of helped it," he said.

In fact, Donato already has an idea of a future occupation: business management, possibly even succeeding his father's company, Donato Enterprises, Incorporated.

The Memphis-based establishment sorts, assemblies, *Continued on page 16*

Some families have a more laid-back night. Jonah detailed his family's Christmas get-together every year.

"On Christmas Eve, we have a big party with my mom's side. It's not formal or anything, just a bunch of us talking and having fun over pizza. It's very easygoing, but we have a ton of fun with it," he said. Christmas morning brings even more celebrations. Some students have younger siblings who start the day off early.

"Christmas morning rolls around and I'm out of bed at 6 or 7 am," Madie Teltow, junior, said. Her little sisters, 7 and 8-years-old, are far from concerned about sleep.

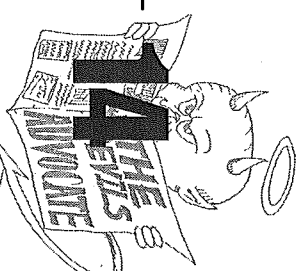
"I can never say no to them after seeing how excited they are," she said. "It's beyond cute. After all, I can just go back to bed."

Being young, Teltow's sisters are always ecstatic while tearing off the paper.

"I love seeing them get whatever they asked for," she said. "They get so happy, they scream."

Madie enjoys giving the girls a bit of this joy as well. She usually gets them a smaller gift that they've been asking for.

VandenBussche, however, being the baby of the family at 17, prefers sleeping in before getting up to see what Santa has delivered. His family, after opening presents, heads to his grandma's house. Jonah *Continued on page 16*



## Lauren's ILLUSHOEtions

By Haley Fortuna  
Staff Writer

Something sketchy is going on with Lauren Maksymiuk. Ever since she was little, she's gone above and behind just coloring inside the lines.

The junior enjoys painting canvas shoes. Creating detailed, colorful designs, these shoes with soul can't be purchased at any store.

"My mom found a picture of shoes with characters from *Monster's Inc.* and told me I could probably paint them. I did and it turned out good so it just stuck," said Lauren.

The *Monster's Inc.* shoes are the first creative kicks she ever composed. They were a present for her little brother's birthday. Gavin, her little brother, was delighted to wear this exclusive pair of sneakers painted by his sister. Wherever he walks, his favorite characters are right on his heel.

This young artist has experimented with many different paintings on sneakers within the two years she's been creating these one-of-a-kind loafers. She painted shoes featuring characters from Disney's animated film, *Frozen*.

Clayton Maksymiuk, Lauren's brother who is a freshman, said, "Lauren made *Frozen* shoes for a cousin of ours and she was ecstatic when she saw what Lauren had created."

She has also replicated SpongeBob characters in the past.

Her latest shoe painting features pictures right off of the pages of the children's book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. Lauren decided to paint herself these kicks because of her love for the children's book and recently released film adaptation.

The shoes include monsters stomping through a green, wet forest. A little boy is sailing through a huge ocean exploring the world around him on the toe box.

Lauren said, "These shoes were the most difficult ones I've painted because I've never really done anything that small before; most of the things I've done have been bigger. They took me so long to do."

After all the time, dedication and talent put in, Lauren ended with a finished product she was very happy with. *Continued on page 15*

## Christmas Celebrations

By Jenna Stafford  
Opinions Editor

Shiny, wrapped presents sitting under the glow of the tree.

Family gathered around the table. The smell of food and pine wafting through the air.

Carols jingling loudly.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, isn't it?

Shopping. Cooking. Decorating.

Singing. Giving. Celebrating.

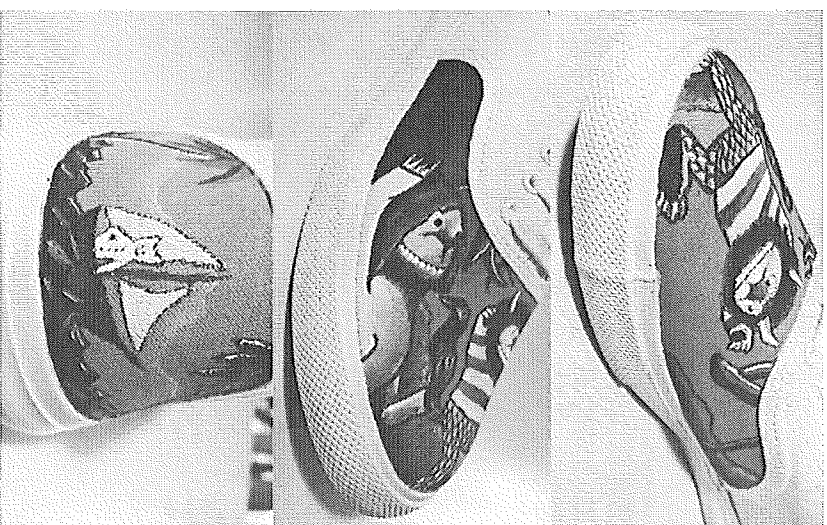
Every family has traditions they celebrate during this joyful time. RHS is no exception.

A recurring theme exists within the answers of students when asked, "What do you do for Christmas?" Family.

"You get to see the people that you don't see every day," said Jonah VandenBussche, senior. "Most of my siblings live far away. My sister flies in from California and my brother from Maine. Besides them, I have two brothers and a sister that come home from Lansing. It's nice to have them all together at home, even if it's only for a few days."

Many Christmas celebrations begin on Christmas Eve.

"On Christmas Eve, we go to church and then out to eat at Texas Roadhouse after," Jaylen Dziegielewski, freshman, said.



Shoe art designed by Lauren Maksymiuk. To see more art or more on Lauren herself, see page 15.

# Features

## Deck the Social Media with Christmas Names

By Jacquelyn Loria  
Staff Writer

As Christmas approached, the Twitter-sphere started to get into the Christmas spirit. Richmond alumnus, Brianna Robertson, who has the Twitter display name “Under the Brislitoe”, started it off. Being the first one to do it, Robertson, who graduated last year, said, “I’m friends with people from bigger districts like Chippewa and Dakota. Last year on Twitter, they were all doing it and I thought it was really cute so I wanted to change my name again this year, but no one from Richmond did it. I didn’t want to be the only one so I kept tweeting about it and then Carolyn Schweiger changed it and basically everyone started doing it.”

At the beginning of December, many students and alumni of Richmond changed their Twitter names to get into the Christmas spirit. Junior Rachel Leach, also known as “Ratchel the Reindeer” on Twitter said, “They’re cool. It gets me excited for Christmas.”

Carolyn Schweiger, a senior, was a big part of everybody changing their names. She came up with different names for people along with Robertson. “Seven swans a swimming and Eynog are my favorite,” Schweiger said about the names belonging to Ally Swantek, junior, and Eyan Kratt, senior.

Getting herself into the spirit, senior, Jill Schrade changed hers to “Joyful Jill”.

She said, “After ‘Christmas Carol’ (Schweiger), I changed mine to ‘Joyful Jill’. We’re just getting into the holiday spirit. Even English teacher Mr. Murphy changed his Twitter name to “Mr. Myrrhpy”.

“I had to think about it for several days. I looked up words associated with Christmas, scrolled down to letter m, and found myrrh and figured it was a perfect fit,” said Mr. Myrrhpy.

Along with Mr. Myrrhpy, senior Ben Koehan and many others, such as, Leslie Ocegvera, myself, and Haleigh Beedon came up with their names with the help of Google.

“I think it’s neat. Kids are using their imagination,” teacher, Mr. Delore said, who has a Twitter account but decided not to change his name.

“Alex Wyatt’s is my favorite because he’s a ginger and his Twitter name is gingerbread :),” wrote Robertson in a text message. Sophomore, Riley Boyd who changed her

Twitter name to “Run Run Roodolph”, came up with hers when listening to the Christmas Pandora radio. “I thought of it when the Christmas song came on and Roo is my childhood nickname,” Boyd said.

The many different Twitter names are spreading around to surrounding cities. Kids from Memphis and St. Clair are also starting to change their names into creative Christmas names.

Junior from Memphis High School, Amanda Heilig, said, “They’re cute and cheerful and put everybody that reads them in the Christmas spirit.” Heilig came up with hers when talking with her friends and deciding which one they should all use, after seeing the Richmond Twitter names.

The Twitter names have given students a chance to be creative, have fun and come up with their own in a creative way. It’s supposed to get others and ourselves into the Christmas spirit and encourage them to change theirs, also.

As junior Haleigh Beedon would say, “Happy Haleighdays”.

Some Christmas Twitter Names for your enjoyment...

Schmiffletoe= Jake Schmidt (senior)  
Saelen Claus= Annie Saelens (senior)  
CHRISTina= Christina Thomas (sophomore)  
Frosty the Dolan= Peyton Dolan (sophomore)  
Jiggle Bells= Hailey Dzegelewski (junior)  
Jack Frost= Jackie Olko (senior)  
Prancer Pat= Patrick McCloskey (sophomore)  
Virgin Mary= Mary Gaffney (sophomore)  
AmBurr= Amber Render (junior)  
Chells on the shelf= Chelsea Kattleman (junior)  
Blizzen Beste= Eddy Beste (junior)  
Hot Coco= Christian Failta (senior)  
The Poppe Express= Matt Poppe (junior)  
Breadbaking Ben= Ben Koehan (senior)  
Perry Christmas= Emma Perry (junior)  
Joy to the Jac= Jacquelyn Loria (junior)  
Grace the Grinch= Grace Daniel (junior)  
Old St. Nick= Nick Thomas (junior)  
Kait Kringle= Kaitlyn Griffith (junior)  
Christmas Gram= Graham Barton (junior)  
Karlee Klaus= Karlee Kaltz (junior)  
JoeHoHoHo= Joe Bergen (senior)  
TDeck the Halls= Tyler Dockery (senior)  
Raednosed Raendeer= Rae McKiernan (sophomore)  
Santa= Samantha Christensen (freshmen)  
Holly Jolly Jemma= Jemma Stafford (sophomore)  
Scrooge= Juj Foster (junior)

## Lauren’s Artwork

Continued from page 14

How long it takes her to paint the pair of sneakers varies on what she’s painting. Some designs include tedious details that are much more time-consuming than less detailed pictures.

The most enjoyable pair of shoes Lauren has ever painted was the SpongeBob shoes she made for her little brother.

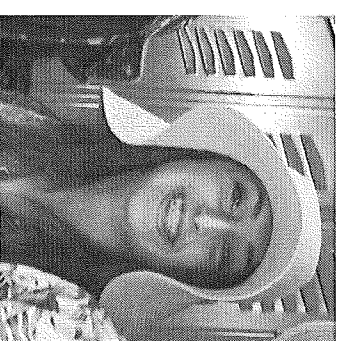
“The SpongeBob shoes were my favorite ones to do because of the yellow and pink. I like the bright, colorful ones,” Lauren said.

She has made eight pairs of shoes so far. Lauren hopes to sell the sneakers she paints online eventually.

The creativity doesn’t stop here. Lauren also shares her talent with the community by painting sets and props for plays at The AUD Regional Youth Initiative. She helped create sets for *Disney’s 101 Dalmatians KIDS*, *Disney’s Alice in Wonderland Jr.* and most recently, *Disney’s Mulan Jr.*

“I enjoy painting the sets. It’s really cool when you’re watching the show to know that I painted the backdrop,” said the artist.

## Star Student of the Month



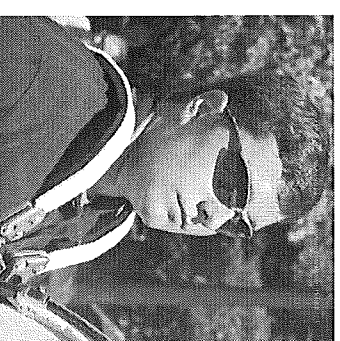
Emma Caperton

**Favorite subject:** History

**Favorite activity outside of school:** Playing softball

**Role model:** Her parents

**Favorite thing about high school:** School dances and spirit weeks



Sam Calderone

**Favorite subject:** History

**Favorite activity outside of school:** Bowling

**Role model:** His parents

**Favorite thing about high school:** Having fun with his friends

Lauren has created props for the Mad Hatter, a home for a Dalmatian family and the Imperial Palace in China.

“It’s really cool to hear people say ‘Wow! The set looks great!’ and knowing that they’re talking about the set I made,” she said.

Her creativity carries over into her art class. Mrs. Belf, Lauren’s Drawing III teacher, said, “Part of why I enjoy having Lauren in class is because she’s very talented. I think a reason why she’s so talented is because she’s really driven and open to criticism. She wants to get better.”

The young artist uses her skills inside and outside of the classroom.

“She has her own vision, and she pushes to see that through,” said Mrs. Belf.

The spark of interest in art began to grow in Lauren at age 3. When she was very young, she enjoyed watching her grandpa color.

Clayton said, “Our grandpa showed her how to take dark colors and outline the picture then color the picture in with lighter colors.”

Lauren enjoyed helping her Grandpa color in pictures. She liked to hand him crayons as she went. Little did she know an artist was being born.

The Maksymuk family has been touring college

art programs lately, including Kendall and College for Creative Studies. Lauren hopes to pursue a career in graphic design after she graduates.



Whether she’s coloring pictures, drawing, creating sets, or painting shoes, Lauren hopes to never stop doing what she loves most: art.