Living in Bigelow Hall
by Andrew J. Brescia, director of communications
When Bigelow Hall was constructed, the Civil War was in full swing. What do we know about the dormitory—its namesake, architect, history, and its inhabitants? Read all about it and see what was buried in the ground near the first building erected as a dormitory.

Sports Town
by Richard Johnson ’74
We thought that the remarks Richard Johnson ’74 made at Reunion 2009 deserved a wider audience, so we are publishing them here. The curator of the New England Sports Museum, Richard knows a thing or two about the Boston sports scene.

Yawkey’s Way
by Andrew Klopfer ’00
A longtime Sox fan, Andrew Klopfer ’00 jumped at the chance to introduce us to a book co-authored by Richard Johnson ’74.

On Crows, Curiosity, and Self-Directed Learning
by Andrew J. Brescia, director of the Independent Immersion Program
Over 35 years old, the Independent Immersion Program (formerly LA II) epitomizes LA’s flexibility and is the ultimate expression of how students can retake responsibility for their own learning.

Lessons From the Long Trail
by Christie Beveridge, English teacher
From Mt. Abraham to Camel’s Hump, Christie and her dog enjoy the simple pleasures of hiking in central Vermont. Her graceful prose may well cause you to seek out the solitude and challenges of the Long Trail yourself.

Beauty in the Beast
by Krista Collins, mathematics department chair
As a high school student, she hated math and expected to major in political science. All that changed when she was introduced to President Garfield’s proof of the Pythagorean Theorem.

Eyes Wide Open
Few will soon forget an exhibit that came to The Grant Rink last spring, inspiring poems by Samuel Feigenbaum ’09 and English teacher Mark Haman, among others, and the accompanying photographs.

Report on Annual Giving

I have lately taken to impressing upon candidates for teaching and administrative positions at LA that I am keenly interested in hiring I-get-to people. I’ll have more to say about this later on in this edition of First Word.

Based upon my conversations with fellow heads of boarding schools around the country, it seems that our increasingly technical and specialized world has, for many schools, changed one of the fundamental dynamics that, in my view, has until now given boarding schools their distinct advantage over other educational organizations. What I am talking about is best described by the phrase “triple threat,” which is how many refer to a faculty member who teaches, coaches, and is actively involved in the residential program of the school.

In days of old, the triple threat was the boarding school standard and with good reason. When students live at a school, they need to have adults to watch over them at all hours of the day and on weekends. When students are required to participate in afternoon activities (as they are at most boarding schools), they need adults to coach them. When students undertake a rigorous course of studies, they need adults to teach and guide them in the classroom. When the adults who teach at a school also coach and run dormitories or evening study halls, and also live on campus with their families and take meals in the same eating space as the students, the frequency of faculty-student contact inevitably leads to adults and students forming long-lasting relationships that are powerful and inspiring beyond all measure. When they have mentors whom they cherish, students willingly push themselves to be the very best that they can be. For most of the best boarding school teachers I have met in my career in independent education, being a triple threat is what they enjoy and find most rewarding about working in boarding schools.

In the opinion of many of my fellow heads of boarding schools, the notion of the triple threat at this moment in history is dying a rapid death. This demise, in my view, is a crisis of expectation, competence, exhaustion, and heart, and I will address each of these forces below. Regardless, I do not agree that the extinction of the triple threat is inevitable, but there is no question that the species is contracting in number.

Let me start with expectation and competence. As tuitions have climbed at alarming rates during the past 10 years, so too have the expectations of parents for excellence in program offerings. Academically, rigorous courses taught by top-notch teachers of unquestionable competence—teachers who know their stuff, are gifted in the classroom, and are attuned to teenagers—are an absolute essential. As the art of teaching has advanced and as the complexity, design, and sophistication of course material and pedagogy needed to power a rich and vibrant student-centered experience have increased exponentially over time, teachers have had to work harder and harder to keep the level of instruction, challenge, and vision in their courses at an all-time high. This takes time, energy, passion, expertise, and commitment to accomplish. Similarly, in the athletic realm, Lawrence Academy
belongs to the highly competitive Independent School League (ISL), in which there are players aplenty at all 16 of our member schools who are in the top tier nationally of their respective sports. In order to meet the needs of such highly skilled athletes who have already spent years training in a particular sport—a sport that, with proper coaching and further development in a secondary school, could become their ticket to colleges—there is an expectation that highly skilled and competent coaches will be in place to work with these students. Even at the junior varsity level in the ISL, excellence in programs and level of competition are extraordinarily high in many sports.

Exhaustion also is a factor driving the triple threat into extinction. Imagine a day that begins when you meet with eight advisees at 8:10 in the morning and then teach three classes, offer some extra help during a free period, return calls from parents during another, have lunch, teach another class, meet with a student in crisis, head to the field to coach a 90-minute soccer practice, shower, go to dinner, and, finally, head to the dorm for a night of duty, when you will steal a little time to prepare for the next day’s classes. Now do some version of that for five days a week for 36 weeks and remember to throw in 10 weekends devoted to the residential program. Need I say more about exhaustion?

And what about heart? In my experience, the best triple threats I have known have been those educators who wanted—no, who insisted—on being triple threats. Despite the pressures that this level of competence in multiple areas may exert on one’s ability to be an effective triple threat these days, a person who does not desire to be a triple threat is likely looking to take on aspects of being a faculty member on which he or she would rather focus. Sometimes this comes naturally as a temporary stage-of-life adjustment to one’s normal full-time load, which is perfectly appropriate on a short-term basis. Regardless, a person who takes on a triple threat regimen without the heart for it becomes the antithesis of what I referred to earlier as the I-get-to people.

So what is an I-get-to person? I tell candidates that we are looking for qualified people to teach, to coach two seasons, and to serve in some capacity in the residential program (either as a dorm head or as a dorm or study hall affiliate). I then tell them to imagine that a month into the school year they get a call from an old friend who asks, “What are you doing working in a boarding school—are you crazy?” Then I tell them what I want their genuine response to be: “Are you kidding me? I get to teach and I get to coach and I get to work and live with kids in a 24-hours-a-day residential program here!” I then emphasize that if they anticipate that any of those get to’s will be have to’s, it would be far better for all of us now if they were to focus their job search on day schools.

As head of school at Lawrence Academy, I acknowledge that it has become a good deal more difficult to be a great boarding school triple threat these days for all of the reasons I have touched upon. Not surprisingly, it is also a good deal more difficult to find triple threats out there in the job market—but they are out there! I know this because over the past few years, we have brought in faculty who, along with our veteran triple threats, are moving the school forward on all fronts. Despite the pessimism shared by many of my fellow heads at boarding schools across the country, I will continue to pursue and to bring to LA those extraordinary educators who are, in fact or potential, excellent triple threats. In my view, having a critical mass of I-get-to folks on our faculty allows us to advance our mission in a way that is otherwise unobtainable.
Art Tsigas ’56 moved into his third-floor room in Bigelow Hall in the fall of 1954, with the Godfrey family on the first floor. Leaving behind Lowell High School to become a boarding student at Lawrence Academy brought him literally into the halls of history. Although Waters House (1783) is the oldest building on campus, Bigelow Hall (1863) is the oldest campus building constructed for the express purpose of serving as a dormitory.

The plan had been for Art to attend Lawrence Academy for only one year, but when Headmaster Fred C. Gray met with his parents, Mr. Gray said that the school could do more for Art over two years. As Art watched, his parents immediately agreed. “I’ll never forget it. It wasn’t even a discussion between the two of them or even with me. They just said, ‘That’s fine with us,’ and that’s how it happened.”

As a boarding student repeating a year of high school, Art fit right in. A majority of the approximately 120 students attending Lawrence Academy in the mid-1950s, he says, needed the structure provided by a boarding school to mature a bit more before attending college. It was an era during which Lawrence Academy, like most boarding schools, welcomed postgraduates into its classrooms and locker rooms (the 1956 football team was undefeated and nearly unscored upon); many such boys were a bit rough around the edges, Art says.

The school wasted no time in educating its charges, however, beginning with family-style dinners every night. “The first week you were there,” Art recalls, “you learned how to set a table. You learned how to serve—from which side you serve and from which side you retrieve. I’m sure that some of the boys came to Lawrence knowing all those rules, but for a lot of us it did take off the rough edges.” Recalling how Arthur Ferguson instructed someone at his table about how to spread butter on his bread, Art noted that Mr. Ferguson and his wife had a knack for doing so without scolding the boys.

Such “finishing,” Art says, was part of the boarding school experience of his day. “For the most part, it was a good experience. It was very much a home-like atmosphere, with a lot of talk about what was going on during the day in sports and academics—and it gave you a chance to get to know the masters and for them to get to know you. They also had families with them most of the time, and the dinners gave you a chance to sit and eat with a family.”

On Tuesday and Friday afternoons, the boys could go into town, perhaps patronizing Bruce’s Drug Store. The same MacNeil Lounge that offered socializing and soda on Saturdays, when there wasn’t a movie in the gym, was the site for Vespers on Sunday evenings. Twice a year or so, Art remembers, girls from an all-girls
reason most of us seniors stayed in Bigelow was that it had a machine and The Caves in the basement, he says: “I think the year with Al. Living in Bigelow was not about having a Coke. Lawrence Academy and to remain in Bigelow Hall for his senior year. Looking back, Art knows it was the right decision to attend. Mr. Whipple, one of their housemasters, took three steps into their room of the Gray Building and dinner, again with assigned seating and a rotation of duties in serving and cleaning up. Study hall lasted two hours, 7 to 9 p.m., followed by an hour to “shoot the breeze” before lights-out at 10. And what was one unforgettable punishment in Bigelow for violating lights-out? Getting dressed, running down to a gravel path by the pond below the football field (there were not many lights down there), and returning with a handful of gravel to prove that you had reached your assigned destination. The rooms—triples on the third floor, doubles on the second and first—were sparsely furnished with dressers, beds, and desks.

Let no one think, however, that boys in such a structured environment didn’t find time or opportunities to be boys. Art recalls the hockey star who, practicing in his bedroom, left more than a few puck-size dents in the wall of the shared study room. He remembers the late Al Schiffer ’56, whose habit at lights-out was to spin, pull the light cord, and dive into bed all in one acrobatic move, skillfully guided his nearly 200-pound frame right through the bed’s slats. Mr. Burckes came to investigate the noise, taking note of Al’s predicament; a bill was mailed home for the repairs. After lights-out, Art was discovered once in bed wearing telegraph-style headphones while searching on his brand-new transistor radio for a Boston station that played rock ’n’ roll. For years, he and Al chuckled over the time when an evening’s repast of oranges and pistachios made them lose track of time. Study hall lasted two hours, 7 to 9 p.m., followed by an hour to “shoot the breeze” before lights-out at 10. And what was one unforgettable punishment in Bigelow for violating lights-out? Getting dressed, running down to a gravel path by the pond below the football field (there were not many lights down there), and returning with a handful of gravel to prove that you had reached your assigned destination. The rooms—triples on the third floor, doubles on the second and first—were sparsely furnished with dressers, beds, and desks.

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Looking back, Art knows it was the right decision to attend Lawrence Academy and to remain in Bigelow Hall for his senior year with Al. Living in Bigelow was not about having a Coke machine and The Caves in the basement, he says: “I think the reason most of us seniors stayed in Bigelow was that it had a charm and a warmth to it, and, obviously, it had lots of history.” With Old Main just a few steps away, he said, living in a dormitory that belonged to the same bygone era had a special allure.

In the spring of 1956, the same weekend during which Art worked the switchboard in Old Main for a couple of hours, that school building burned to the ground. Nearby Bigelow escaped the flames and continues to represent the charm and warmth that Art and so many of its former residents remember from that jacket-and-tie era.

Bigelow Hall Today

Today’s students, who are accustomed to flat-screen TVs and have grown up in a digital age, might give the historic Bigelow little more than a glance as they walk or drive past on their way to more modern facilities. It would be an understatement to say that the campus has changed since Art Tsigas graduated.

The four giants of Quad—Ferguson, Gray, the Schoolhouse, and Ansin—command most of a visitor’s attention. Still standing in the far corner is Spaulding Hall, but Sheedy Hall disappeared to make room for the Ansin Academic Building in 2004, the year after Elm Tree Hall opened its doors to 44 boys. In 2007, renovations improved the Ferguson Building and included the addition of the Richardson-Mees Performing Arts Center.

This September, when students moved into Bigelow following renovations costing $500,000, they could have been excused for not noticing what was different. Much of what has changed—thanks to the skill of craftsmen working to preserve the history of the building—is practically invisible. Sunlight reflects off of the expertly welded copper flashing, gutters, and downspouts, and it passes right though every custom-made replacement window; both outside doors, which were known to admit both light and cold air, were replaced with energy-efficient clones; new roofing ensures that rainwater will now circumvent the building and pool in an underground tank to be released slowly to avoid flooding following storms. Once inside, returning students might have noticed new stretches of carpet and improvements in the bathrooms.
Another change is that its residents no longer wear jackets and ties except, perhaps, for Halloween because today’s residents are girls. What has not changed at all over the years of renovations is how it feels to live in Bigelow.

Yen Kim Le ’08, an American of Vietnamese descent, lived in Loomis House before moving into Bigelow Hall to serve as a proctor with Bermudan classmate Takashii Sweeting. Yen, who proctored in Loomis as a junior, holds nothing back in describing life in Bigelow with 19 other girls.

“I loved living in Bigelow! For me, being a proctor there was really easy since the dorm was mostly upperclassmen. Everyone was mature and respectful. In the beginning of the school year, I thought that it would be a challenge getting everyone in the dorm to bond because Bigelow’s interior architecture is not open, and floors and hallways distance rooms from each other. Also, the girls already had close friends, and, since they were really busy in school with sports, the arts, college applications, and other activities, it did not seem as if they had the time to mingle or get to know others. But I was wrong. Every Sunday night, after our weekly meetings, everyone would linger in the common room to catch up and talk about her weekend. Everyone got along really well. Honestly, as proctors, Kashii and I did not have to do much to keep the dorm running smoothly.”

Yen recalls that once, during the presidential primaries and caucuses, a few girls gathered on the stairs to discuss who should lead the country. “That small group turned into more than half of the dorm,” she says. “It showed how everyone was willing to listen to others and share beliefs and ideas.”

She remembers how dorm parents Ms. Sadler (now Mrs. Makrauer) and Ms. Phillips also drew the girls together, sometimes with little notice. “Everyone had fun at a holiday party that Ms. Sadler threw in her apartment, and Ms. Phillips helped Kashii and me organize a spontaneous dorm barbecue.” It was not unusual, Yen explains, for a dorm parent to get into long conversations with students in the evening. “They connected with everyone really well,” says Yen.

According to Ms. Phillips, living in Bigelow was made more enjoyable by Yen’s unannounced visits: “She would stop by, plop down in my armchair, and proceed to critique my shabby furniture and decorating skills. And then we would talk about whatever was on her mind—school, college, girls in the dorm she was concerned about or who were doing well.”

Maddie Penkoff ’08, like Art Tsigas, remembers episodes of dorm life that are unforgettable for other reasons.

“One night, Sam [Greenberg ’10] and I went to bed right after study hall. We were dead to the world when all of a sudden we heard the loudest ringing noise ever. It was a fire alarm! I jumped out of my bed and ran out into the common area in our dorm room and yelled to Sam, ‘Get up, there’s a fire!’ I yelled as if our own room was on fire.” As it turned out, it was a false alarm. In preparing her clothes for the next day of school, which was a dress-up day, another girl had set off the alarm by steaming the wrinkles out of her clothes in the shower. “Everyone in the dorm was moping around, half asleep, outside, so angry at her for setting off the alarm.”

Students and faculty alike have stories from their time in Bigelow. Ms. Phillips counts among the pleasures of Bigelow, she says, “hearing about all of the teachers who have passed through this dorm before me—hearing stories from teachers who lived here when it was a boys’ dorm and when the room I use as my walk-in closet was actually a bedroom!”

**“We know everything”**

Imagine a faculty member, say, in the 1960s, innocently relaxing in his first-floor apartment at the very moment when a student secretly shares with his third-floor roommate the plans he has for the evening—after curfew. According to Dick Jeffers, who lived in Bigelow from 1961 until 1966, he needed neither a meerschaum pipe nor a sidekick named Watson to get to the bottom of some Bigelow Hall mischief.

“I don’t know if it is still the case, but when I lived in Bigelow Hall, there were air shafts in the building that made it possible, if you were in the first floor rooms on the left-hand side, to hear people who were speaking on the third floor on the right-hand
side. All I had to do was sit in my apartment and listen. Every once in a while, there was something I heard that I had to react to, and, the next day, when I confronted the students, they wouldn’t have a clue how I knew what I knew. In response, I would smile and say, “We know everything.”

Some students prudent enough not to speak of their plans were nevertheless dumbfounded when, in the dark of night, they were suddenly standing face to face with a flashlight-wielding Mr. Jeffers behind Bigelow. Frustrated with poor reception on his television, he had run a wire a few nights earlier from the rabbit ears of his television to the metal fire escape to improve the picture. “I was sitting in my apartment when the picture suddenly started rolling, and then I heard something: Kids were coming down the fire escape! Well, I scooted around the dorm and caught them coming down. A couple of nights later, they tried again and the same thing happened. From then on, the wire from my rabbit ears to the fire escape was a permanent fixture; every time the picture rolled, I ran around and caught kids coming down the fire escape. Not until much later did they understand,” he adds, grinning.

Mr. Jeffers remembers not thinking much of fire drills. He shared every dorm parent’s fear of students not escaping from the dorm—especially a dorm as old as Bigelow Hall—in the event of a fire, but fire drills held when students are waking up or going to bed didn’t make much sense to him. When he held a fire drill at 1:30 in the morning, he watched as a student exited one side of the building and reentered on the other without leaving the fire escape. “It took about 15 minutes to clear the building, and I figured the building would have been gone in five,” he says.

He did what a dorm parent should do: “After the fire drill, I held a dorm meeting and explained how unacceptable the results were and how everyone had to take responsibility for others. By then it was about 2 a.m. and everyone seemed to understand; they all went to bed.” After explaining that students on scholarships needed to rise ahead of others to get to work in the kitchen, he noted that one such student lived in Bigelow. “Well, at 5:30, his alarm went off and the dormitory emptied. One little alarm clock cleaned out the dormitory! A teachable moment paid off!”

Like today’s faculty residents, Mr. Jeffers would visit with students in the dorm, and they were certainly the beneficiaries of Mrs. Jeffers’ oven-baked goodies in addition to Saturday evening trips to Ayer to collect pizzas. And, just as today’s students will long remember the excitement of watching the Obama election results on television, residents of Bigelow in 1964 still talk about the momentous occasion that brought them together.

“The Beatles were making an appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, and the kids, who were not allowed TVs in the dormitories, petitioned me to watch the show; I’m sure the same thing happened in most of the dormitories that night. Bev and I had a 19-inch TV on a trolley, so I wheeled it out into the hall and positioned it inside the front door of the dorm. All the kids sat on the stairs, all the way up; it was like a peanut gallery. Together, we sat and watched the Beatles, and they still talk about that evening as being one of the highlights of their lives at Lawrence Academy. It was fun to be part of that whole thing. A moment in Bigelow history.”

Bigelow Hall—for Art Tsigas, Yen Le, Maddie Penkoff, and Dick Jeffers—has changed little in more than 50 years. It has undergone yet another round of renovations, and, according to Stacey Low, director of residential life, the residents will notice something new come winter: “Now that the work is done, the dorm will be energy efficient, and Bigelow residents, as well as the school’s bottom line, will truly feel the difference as temperatures begin to dip.”

It was built during the Civil War, but Bigelow Hall has the same history as other dormitories, large and small, on Lawrence Academy’s campus: a history of adults offering its residents the vigilant supervision and welcoming warmth that make a house a home.
In April 1863, when Bigelow Hall was commissioned by the Board of Trustees, the Civil War was in full swing, with the Battle of Gettysburg among the bloodiest of battles to be fought in July. Notable births that year included those of Henry Ford, philosopher George Santayana, and Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.

According to the account provided by Douglas Frank in *The History of Lawrence Academy in Groton, 1792–1992*, there were four houses standing along Powderhouse Road, which at the time was named High Street. They are known today as Dr. Green House, built in 1839; Alumni/Development House (1840); the Unitarian Church's parsonage (1844); and the Winthrop L. Sheedy Faculty House (1855).

In an inventory of properties that he conducted in the Town of Groton for the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 2006, Sanford Johnson '83 describes Bigelow Hall as a two-and-one-half-story brick building in the Second Empire style. Among its distinctive features, he lists “the slate-shingled Mansard roof with four dormer windows across the façade, the cornice with paired brackets and modillions, and the central pavilion that projects slightly from the façade and contains the central three bays.” Because it grew in popularity during the presidency of Ulysses Grant (1869–1877), the Second Empire style is sometimes called the General Grant style.

Archival records show that, in its first year of operation, five of the school’s 148 students resided in the dorm with one faculty member: George Homer Ball (Milford); Charles William Bardeen (Fitchburg); Charles Michael Hafey (Cincinnati, Ohio); Everett Frances Shattuck (Pepperell); and Randall Spaulding (Townsend Harbor). Executive Committee minutes recorded in 1865 indicate that the Board set at $2.50 the maximum amount that residents were to be charged for boarding there each week. It was common practice for students not from the immediate area to board with families in the town of Groton or in the homes of LA instructors on campus—including the principal’s.

The mention of a campus building surfaces in committee minutes over the years, typically on the occasion of its being renovated. In the September 14, 1912, issue of *Turner’s Public Spirit*, readers learned in “Lawrence Academy Notes” that the dormitory “had been renovated from top to bottom” during the summer recess.

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Found in the soil near Bigelow Hall, this Napoleonic medal was minted only in 1789. The bust still visible is of Lord Thurlow wearing a Revolutionary War-era hat; on the other side is a draped bust of The Right Honorable William Pitt. Lord Thurlow was appointed attorney general in 1771 and took office under Pitt, who became secretary of state in 1756 and was appointed prime minister of Great Britain in 1776.
An unpublished source in the school’s archives states, “Extensive renovations at the turn of the century included adding plumbing, steam heat, painting, and masonry repair,” and it included this description of the rooms: “The interior was divided into several suites, each consisting of a study-room, two bedrooms, and an adjoining bath.” In 1974, Bigelow became a girls’ dormitory.

In 1977, Bigelow was completely rewired; its staircase was repaired; apartments were remodeled to include kitchens; and “The Caves,” located in the basement of the building and having served briefly as the day student lounge when only boys attended the school, were transformed into dormitory rooms.

In 2003, Steve Janes ’86 and Dotti Mack Janes ’81 donated materials used in renovating the bathrooms. This summer, Bigelow was fitted entirely with energy-efficient windows and outside doors, new roofing, and copper gutters; drainage was installed to ensure that rainwater flowing from the new copper downspouts circumvents the building and pools in an underground tank, allowing the water to be released slowly to avoid flooding following heavy rains.

Bigelow Hall was named after the Honorable John Prescott Bigelow (1797–1872), who was born in Groton. Mr. Bigelow, as recorded in Mr. Frank’s account of the school’s history, “was enchanted over this tribute to his family, and he devised a legacy of $10,000 to be paid to the Academy (wherein my education commenced’).” A member of the Class of 1811, Mr. Bigelow graduated from Harvard College in 1815. In 1829, he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, serving there until becoming secretary of the commonwealth of Massachusetts (1836–1843). He served for three years as the mayor of Boston (1849–1851).

**REGULATIONS**

**BIGELOW HALL.**

1. Rooms will be assigned to Students applying for them by the Principal, or, in his absence, by the Secretary of the Trustees.

2. Except for special reasons, the choice of rooms shall be determined by precedence of application.

3. The occupants of each room will be held responsible for any damage done to it during their occupancy, for which they can reasonably be held responsible.

4. Any Student who shall cut, make or deface any part of the building or shall break any of the windows, or do other injury to the building, shall cause due repairs to be made by a competent mechanic, under the inspection of the Principal or the Committee of Finance; or he may be required to pay the estimated amount of the damage.

5. The use of Tobacco in and about the building is forbidden.

6. Shouting, profanity, whistling and all other noisy, boisterous, disorderly or immoral or unbecomingly conduct in and about the building is prohibited.

7. No Student shall visit another or receive visits from others during study hours, except by permission of the Principal or the Instructor resident in the building.

8. The hall doors will be closed at ten o’clock each night, and any one who may need to be out at a later hour must make special arrangement therefor with the officer in charge of the building.

9. The Instructor resident in the building is authorized and directed to enforce among the students the rules of the building, to preserve and inculcate good manners at the common table and, subject to the direction of the Principal, to exercise a general supervision of the students occupying the building.

10. The Steward is authorized and directed to suppress any disorder which may occur in the rooms or passages in the building, and he is directed to report immediately to the Principal the names of all students, whether occupants of the building or not, who may be present at, or concerned in, any such disorder.

January, 1849.
Mr. Bigelow is credited with having helped to establish the Boston Public Library. The fund used to begin acquiring books for the library was named the Bigelow Fund out of appreciation for his handling of Boston’s 1849 cholera epidemic soon after becoming the city’s mayor. Upon leaving public office, he served on the library’s board, eventually resigning in 1869 as a result of his declining health. Mr. Bigelow is also credited with overseeing a public water works that supplied the 137,000 inhabitants of Boston with clean water. During his tenure as mayor, the railroad connecting Boston with Canada and the Great Lakes was completed. He is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass.

Thomas William Silloway: Architect of Bigelow Hall

When the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees at Lawrence Academy called on architect Thomas W. Silloway (1828–1910) to design Bigelow Hall in 1863, he had already completed the building for which he is best known today, the Vermont State House in Montpelier (1857), when he was 30 years old.

Born in Newburyport, Mass., Mr. Silloway lived and worked as an apprentice to a house carpenter. He moved to Boston in 1847 and worked in the office of Ammi B. Young, the architect of Boston's Customs House and the previous Vermont State House, which had burned in January 1857. Following his work on the Vermont State House, Mr. Silloway studied for the ministry, and, in 1862, was ordained as a Universalist minister. Until he left the pulpit five years later, having served the congregations of three different churches, he worked as both an architect and pastor.

Mr. Silloway is credited over his lifetime with having designed as many as 400 edifices used for religious purposes. According to Dr. William R. Marchione, who specializes in Boston-area history, Mr. Silloway earned high praise for his 1857 commission in Vermont: “The great architect Stanford White later described the 1858 Vermont capitol as the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in the country.” Thomas Silloway also published books, according to Dr. Marchione, most notably Cathedral Towns and Intervening Places of England, Ireland, and Scotland: a description of cities, cathedrals, lakes, mountains, rivers, and watering places (Boston: A. Williams, 1883), in addition to a carpentry textbook. He wrote on topics including theology, sacred music, architecture, and travel. Mr. Silloway, who never married, died in his Allston home at 15 North Beacon Street.

Dr. Marchione identifies the following structures, designed by Mr. Silloway, for the consideration of those interested in viewing the architect’s work: “The Church of the Unity at 91 West Newton Street in the South End (1859); the First Universalist Church in Arlington (1860); the Fourth Baptist Church in South Boston (1864); the Second Methodist Church in East Boston (1865); Dean Academy in Franklin (1867); the North Congregational Church in Newburyport (1867); the South Abington Congregationalist Church (1867); the Milton Congregationalist Church (1867); The Rockport Town Hall (1869); the Winthrop Street Methodist Church in Roxbury Highlands (1869); the Cambridge Soldier’s Monument (1869); the North Congregationalist Church in Lynn (1869); the Pilgrim Congregationalist Church, in Cambridgeport (1871); the Attleboro Town Hall (1871); the Medfield Town Hall (1872); the Wood Memorial Church in Cambridge (1883); and the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South End (1900).”

Mr. Silloway also designed the Goddard Seminary in Barre, Vermont (1866–1870), and the Jenkins Memorial Library in North Conway, New Hampshire.

Note: This note on Thomas Silloway relies on statements attributed to Dr. Marchione at the following Web site: http://www.bahistory.org/HistorySilloway.html.
Thank you for inviting me to your distinguished gathering this morning. I am here today because I was here 37 years ago. I am here today because of teachers like John Curran, Carlton Davis, the late Vincent Skinner and Bob Kullen, among many others. I am also here because of the fun I had playing JV baseball and basketball, 3rds soccer, and especially varsity cross country with an extraordinary collection of gentlemen known to each other to this day as the Goon Squad.

There must be something in the drinking water here because I always remind my friends Peter Gammons and Dan Shaughnessy that Groton must have produced the greatest concentration of baseball writers this side of Havana.

I could speak today of my disdain for the likes of St. Paul’s, Nobles, and Groton [School] but instead will focus on Boston’s preeminence as the world’s best sports town.

Sports are important to Americans because they represent the most conspicuous manifestation of our democratic ideals. In principle America was founded on the notion of a meritocracy. Nowhere in our society has this idea found better expression than in sports. This has been especially true in the era since Jackie Robinson and the advent of Title IX. Although we still cherish the dream that anyone can rise from poverty to become president it is far more likely that a millionaire governor with three names and a trust fund will claim such a prize. In sports, the mantle of greatness is still and will forever be granted to the unconnected among us with enough talent, courage, and perseverance to stake their claim.

Nowhere on Earth are sports a bigger deal, both from a business perspective or interest level, than in America. And nowhere in America are sports a bigger deal than they are in Boston. For nearly two centuries the city has been an unrivaled center of sports on all levels. Nowhere has the American Dream had better expression through the games we play.

Boston is the Hollywood of sports. No city has a greater or more diverse sports history or embraces the sweaty endeavors of its teams and athletes with such unbridled passion. If you want to start a conversation in Boston, just mention the name Bill Buckner or even the names of more obscure sports figures such as Smead Jolley, Katherine Switzer, Hambone Williams, or Billy Speer and it is guaranteed that at least one Bostonian on, say, the outbound Green Line train from Park to Kenmore or seated next to you at The Fours will gladly share a personal memory or two.

Greater Boston is blessed with a climate and geography that allow for the playing of as wide a variety of sports as is possible anywhere on the planet. Within a two-hour drive of the city, one could hypothetically ski in the White Mountains and surf the Atlantic on a day in which one could also attend a game at Fenway Park and get home in time to watch a Celtics or Bruins playoff game. It has been said that the one aspect of life that unites all Bostonians, apart from a rabid interest in politics, is sports.

Unlike New York, which is the capital of everything, Boston has remained a sports mecca since renegade Puritans first raced horses south of the Shawmut Peninsula nearly four centuries ago. No less a historic figure than Ben Franklin was recognized as one of the best athletes on the Shawmut Peninsula in the early 18th century as he challenged all comers to swimming races in Boston harbor. The same British naval officers who would come to curse his name in later years gladly bet their shillings and crowns on the young apprentice boy. Today, the L Street Brownies ply the same waters as Franklin and the bets are more likely to be placed on another tribe of Patriots.
Boston is the home of countless sports firsts, such as the first baseball dynasty (the Red Stockings of the National Association, 1871–1875), the first American NHL franchise (Bruins in 1924–25), and the first World Series champions (Boston Americans in 1903), among others. It is still home to the oldest indoor ice arena in the world, the Matthews (Boston) Arena, c. 1910, and the oldest concrete stadium in America (Harvard Stadium, c. 1903).

For all of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th, the only pro team sport that mattered was baseball; from 1871 to 1918, Boston teams in five major leagues won 22 championships in 48 years—a better ratio of pennants-to-seasons than a certain pinstriped brigade from the Bronx.

Boston's sporting heroes include the likes of the nation's first true sports superstar, John L. Sullivan (the famed “Boston Strongboy”); Eleonora Sears (a dead ringer for Katherine Hepburn in "Pat and Mike"); Cy Young; Bill Russell; Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman; Bobby Orr; and the late, great Johnny Kelley, among countless others.

Boston is also a city that loves the role players, mockers, and working-class heroes such as Eddie Westfall, the quintessential Boston Bruin; any of the Celtics’ sixth, seventh, or eighth men; Jim Lee Hunt and most any Boston Patriot; Bernie Carbo; and every last runner in the Boston Marathon. Heaven help the prima donna or highly remunerated superstar unwilling to get down and dirty for the paying customer.

Where else but Boston could a remarkable athlete named Gene Conley have played for three franchises (the Braves, Celtics and Red Sox)? Only organist John Kiley played for more teams. Conley remains the only athlete to have ever won a world champion’s ring in both baseball and basketball.

Bostonians are the kind of fans whose knowledge and respect for the game didn’t allow them to boo future Hall of Famer Luis Aparicio when he went 0-for-40 after arriving via a trade from the White Sox in 1971. Their parents and grandparents tossed candy bars to Boston Braves right fielder Tommy Holmes from the Braves Field Jury Box and also comprised the ranks of the Gallery Gods whose cheers inspired the Bruins from the heavens of the Boston Garden’s second balcony. Bostonians also opened their hearts to Boston University hockey player Travis Roy after he was paralyzed during his first-ever shift for the Terriers. Likewise, over 50,000 attended the funeral of Harry Agganis, the finest local athlete of his or any generation, who died in 1955 at age 26.

Has Boston ever seen a day like that of the funeral of Celtic star Reggie Lewis? Over 7,000 gathered at Northeastern’s Matthews Arena as part of Boston’s largest multiracial gathering in modern memory. Sports had once again unified a city in mourning on a day when color seemed irrelevant in a city that had seen more than its share of racial strife.

Bostonians know their games the way Londoners know the theater. So much of the experience of attending a game involves that intangible quality called atmosphere. The Boston Garden had tremendous atmosphere as does Fenway Park, Matthews Arena, Harvard Stadium for the Yale game, the Back Bay for marathon crowds and Fleet Center for the unmatched March carnival of school championships.

The most unforgettable crowd experiences come when least expected, such as when Jim “Catfish” Hunter received a standing ovation at Fenway Park on the night of his last Boston appearance on September 13, 1979, which also happened to be the night of Carl Yastrzemski’s 3,000th hit. Homage was also paid to the essence of the game when Celtics fans, aware of the team’s impending defeat by Philadelphia in the 1982 conference finals, exhorted the hated 76ers to “beat LA!” In fact, any big game at Boston Garden could’ve been graded on two very quantifiable
scales, namely heat and noise. Never has there been an indoor arena where the emotional barometer of a crowd has fluctuated as wildly with as great an impact on events. More than one grateful Boston athlete has noted the contribution of the crowd as the proverbial “extra player.”

An oft-recalled anecdote that I love to tell has then Laker coach Pat Riley complaining to the NBA brass during the 1984 NBA finals that their locker room in Boston Garden had no air conditioning. Red Auerbach saw to it that the problem was corrected, at least partially, as the Lakers’ visiting locker room soon had two air conditioners. The only problem was that when Riley and company arrived for a sweltering Sunday noon matinee, the air conditioners were still in their boxes on the floor. Ah, Boston, where a genius like Red Auerbach shared the same partisan passion as the most ardent fan in the cheap seats!

Not only are Bostonians blessed with great teams and a plethora of historic events, but we are also graced with the two best sports pages in the land. In the days when Boston boasted eight dailies, each paper would include at least one sports story on either their back or front page. The Red Sox still possess the largest traveling cadre of beat reporters in the majors, and every team, even a newcomer like the Revolution, receives comprehensive coverage. It is hardly surprising that the staffs of many national print and electronic outlets, such as ESPN and Sports Illustrated, are liberally staffed with former Boston writers and editors.

Sports talk radio has been with us for generations, having started with the Voice of Sports and the erudite presence of Eli Schliefer, Tim Horgan, Jake Liston, and George Sullivan; the acerbic cackling of Cliff and Claff; the understated wit of Guy Mainella; and the unforgettable antics of Eddie Andelman, Mark Witkin, and Jim McCarthy of The Sports Huddle. These pioneers begat an industry that has spread nationwide and now resides at several stations, most prominently at WEEI, where fans have nearly limitless access to the airwaves and where some, such as the late “Butch from the Cape,” became radio personalities in their own right.

Boston has been and always will be defined to a great extent by the games we play and the teams we support. In a city where tradition is everything, we are willing to pay the highest ticket prices and endure the worst traffic for the genuine article. After having seen an Impossible Dream; the Possible Red Sox Dreams of ’04 and ’07; 17 Celtic world championships; history’s only undefeated heavyweight champ, Rocky Marciano; three Super Bowl championships; the Big, Bad Bruins; and a host of other events like the Marathon, the men’s and women’s World Cups, and a most unforgettable Ryder Cup, there is always the expectation that some measure of magic resides in almost any game. For most of the past century, sports in Boston have delivered nothing less.

For the past 28 years, it has been my distinct privilege to serve as curator of The Sports Museum, which is now located in the newly christened TD Garden. Over that time, with the help of our trustees and staff, we’ve assembled a comprehensive collection of artifacts housed both at the Garden and in our archive/library on Soldiers Field Road. I urge all of you to visit us and consider supporting us with your gifts of artifacts or memorabilia or through the purchase of tickets to museum fundraisers such as our annual Tradition evening or celebrity golf tournament. As with Lawrence Academy, our success is based solely on the generosity of our friends.
I don’t remember which night was colder, and neither does my good friend, Andrew Caraganis ’00. When I asked him about the nights of October 17 and 18, 2004, he complained, “Oh, boy, I have no idea which night was worse, because I couldn’t feel a thing even with my full winter clothing.” Caraganis, Aaron Swan ’01, and I were in Fenway inning after inning watching the magical baseball of games 4 and 5 against the New York Yankees in the 2004 American League Championship Series.

The events that took place on those nights and in the weeks to follow will forever be engraved in our minds: Dave Roberts stealing second, Billy Mueller’s hit, and of course the infamous bats of Manny Ramírez and David Ortíz. Ortíz’s moments belong right up there in sports history with shots made by the likes of Michael Jordan, and Williams (“The Kid”), and why everything the Red Sox encountered throughout the last century can be traced to racism that existed in the team’s front office. 

To understand the real trials and history of the Red Sox and Fenway, I sat down with Johnson for lunch at one of Boston’s top sports pubs, The Four’s, where as I devoured my club sandwich, Johnson proposed mind-boggling question after question that had my head spinning. “What if this team had actually been purchased and run by the Kennedys? What if Willie Mays had been allowed to patrol the same Fenway warning track as Ted Williams? What if the Sox had signed Jackie Robinson, who many argue is one of the greatest athletes in the history of sport?” Johnson’s Hall of Fame questions could keep baseball’s greatest historians in heated discussion deep into the night, but since I don’t fall into that category, I thanked him for lunch and went back to his pages to read more of his stories.

The lasting impressions from Johnson’s book squash the fictitious assumptions that Red Sox fans have used as an excuse for decades. In 1990, Dan Shaughnessy coined the phrase when he wrote, “The Curse of the Bambino,” and for years, fans walked around Boston from October to March mumbling those words. “The Curse” of having traded away Babe Ruth to the Yankees became weak justification for heartbreaking losses and even an HBO documentary, but according to Johnson “the Curse” is not real—not that one anyway.

Johnson points to a much bigger choice than that trade that hurt the franchise practically beyond repair: racism. “In the end, that characteristic has proven to be as much an impediment to the franchise’s ability to win a championship as any other factor,” he wrote. He details the years and specific incidents where the Red Sox voluntarily designated themselves the bigots of baseball.

While the Red Sox were not alone in refusing to allow players from the Negro Leagues to join their roster, they certainly had opportunity knocking at their door. Interestingly enough, writes Johnson, the breakthrough resulted from political pressure by a “Jewish city councilman, Isadore Muchnick. ... In the Spring of 1945, he threatened to block the annual renewal of the license that allowed [the Red Sox] to play baseball on Sunday. In a letter, he wrote, ‘I cannot understand how baseball, which claims to be the national sport and which in my opinion received special favors and dispensations from the federal government because of alleged moral value, can continue a pre–Civil War attitude toward American citizens because of the color of their skin.’”

The Red Sox ungraciously agreed to please Muchnick by offering a tryout to three stars of the Negro Leagues, including the great Jackie Robinson. Not only did the Red Sox not sign the multisport star, but Johnson describes the horrible tale of how
The three also were horrifically ousted from the Fenway lawn that day, and how that event would be one of the main determinants that would haunt the organization for half a century. “[Not signing Robinson] is the single greatest error in the history of the franchise, far more significant and consequential than the sale of Ruth to the Yankees. For Boston’s failure to sign Robinson left no imaginary curse upon the franchise, but a real one, with genuine and lasting consequences.”

It was not so much the actions as it was inactions and attitudes that kept the Red Sox closer to par rather than allowing them to once again claim great success and sit on top of the baseball world as they had in the days of Ruth. This attitude came straight from ownership, which certainly had the capability to step in and make changes along the way.

“When [team owner Tom Yawkey] bought the Red Sox, he was likely one of the wealthiest twenty-five or thirty individuals in the country [with a net worth equivalent to having approximately four to seven billion dollars today],” wrote Johnson, who argues that as the years went on, Yawkey did not keep his team competitive: “The Red Sox had become a ‘country club,’ a cushy organization where average players earned All-Star wages.” And when leadership did not hold the right attitude, the players certainly did not either. For example, “Yastrzemski, despite winning the Triple Crown in 1967, didn’t work out in the off-season. When, years later, Carlton Fisk asked him why, Yaz said simply that it was ‘too hard.’”

Ski accidents off the field and errors on the field would continue to haunt the Sox, but ultimately it was the narrow-minded view of the ownership that navigated the team down its path. While other organizations reformed and adapted, the Red Sox continued sailing in the same course even after the passing of Yawkey and his late wife, and he was determined to keep it that way, “I’ll own the team till the day I die. Then I’ll decide what I want to do,” said the owner.

Managing the team and its finances from his grave would not work, and the Yawkey Trust, run by John Harrington and which held the majority stake in the club, could not continue to operate in Fenway without making significant changes. The team was battling for wins on the field each day, and the organization was trying to build a new ballpark for the future, but according to Johnson, the Sox could not walk and chew gum at the same time: “Put it this way. In the artist’s rendering of the park that the Red Sox put in their brochure and on their website, there were five Red Sox infielders scattered across the diamond. The Red Sox had about as much of a chance getting their ballpark as getting away with playing five infielders.”

Harrington finally decided to sell the Yawkey Trust’s majority interest in the ballclub and as the team began what would become a grueling and dramatic sale involving many of the most renowned New England business heavyweights, Johnson illustrates a story that businessmen and sports fans alike will drool over. After a lot of drama, finger pointing by several parties, and a ton of capitalizing, New England Sports Ventures, headed by John Henry, Tom Werner, and Larry Lucchino, presented an offer to the Red Sox that was approved by Major League Baseball in the winter of 2002.

As spring training began that year, the Red Sox belonged to Henry, Werner, and Lucchino, but they had to do some minor housekeeping over the next few years before they could guide the organization to the World Championship in 2004. According to Johnson, their superstar player felt that “no one wants to [expletive] play here,” and they came to the conclusion he had to go. They also had a general manager who only two months before the new ownership closed on their purchase wrote a letter to season ticket holders claiming that the previous year was a great success by “crowing that the 2001 Red Sox ‘spent more time in first place than the Yankees.’”

The Sox brass decided that they were not satisfied to pay close to three quarters of a billion dollars just to spend time in first place, so after having traveled from Baltimore to San Diego and then back to his hometown of Boston with Lucchino, in stepped 28-year-old Theo Epstein as the youngest general manager in the history of baseball.

It was hard each time I had to stop reading these pages. I continuously wanted to know about what had happened behind the scenes of the chronicles of Fenway that we have all heard before regarding our beloved team. I felt a connection between this book and Don Hewitt, the creator and producer of 60 Minutes, who passed away this summer. CBS dedicated an episode of 60 Minutes to him that showed him explaining how he created that show—one of the most popular ever to be broadcast—by entertaining viewers who simply asked him to “tell me a story.”

Hewitt told the best stories, and Red Sox Century is very similar entertainment. Richard Johnson paints the best pictures of Red Sox history, and he narrates you through twisted tales you have never heard. He brings you inside the clubhouse, into the ownership box, and even right onto the field. When you’re finished, you will want more, and I’m sure that he will be happy to bring you over to The Four’s. Just ask him to tell you a story.

Andrew Klopfer ’00 is director of acquisitions and development at Property Resources, Inc., a Boston-based owner of multi-family and commercial real estate in New England, and he is a member of River Valley Investors, an early stage Private Equity-Angel Investing Firm. He is involved with several Boston nonprofits, including Heading Home and Building Impact.
On Crows, Curiosity, and Self-Directed Learning

by Andrew J. Brescia, director of the Independent Immersion Program

According to a report on National Public Radio, a university professor found himself increasingly harassed by the campus crows. After each time he banded some of the neighborhood crows as part of his research, crows—banded or not—would single him out for a relentless scolding.

Although he grew self-conscious on daylight walks, he was even more intrigued. After all, he is a researcher of crows. Over time, graduate students were enlisted to band a few crows while wearing a frightening caveman mask; soon enough, the campus crows had it out for the caveman. Astonishingly, when the cavemen walked around campus wearing their masks upside-down, the crows were observed actually turning their heads upside-down in flight before unleashing their invective.

While the findings may surprise us, there is nothing remarkable about a scientist acting like a scientist. What is remarkable, however, is how rarely schools permit students the freedom to be led by their own curiosity—free to make their own direct observations, formulate hypotheses, and draw conclusions based upon their own findings; and free to choose for themselves the next steps to take. You and I would likely need to reach back to our days in a sandbox to remember such curiosity-driven, self-directed learning.

Fortunately, beginning in the Ninth Grade Program (NGP), students at Lawrence Academy are encouraged to explore and make discoveries on their own once again. Instead of calling on students to bend to the authority of a teacher, the NGP, now in its 16th year, compels students into action. After years of being asked only to pay attention and listen, they are coached throughout their time at LA in the ways of active, student-centered learning. In addition, they learn in this skills-based, integrated curriculum how to organize their thoughts, support an argument with evidence, understand the difference between inferences and conclusions, and speak and listen to each other. By year’s end, having designed and completed a Mastery Project on a topic of their own choosing, they must demonstrate a “mastery” of each skill and share the findings of their self-directed research as part of the NGP Museum.

As the scaffolding falls slowly away for students at Lawrence Academy, they learn to prepare for and participate in simulations such as the E3 Summit, part of Lawrence Academy’s Ninth Grade Program; the annual Constitutional Convention, for which some U.S. history students don colonial garb; and the most recent addition to the history department’s repertoire, the Mideast Peace Conference. As the word “simulation” makes clear, these activities call on students to “become” delegates whose positions on controversial topics they must research sufficiently to defend in a public forum. Photographs of these events reveal students who are animated, engaged, and clearly enjoying themselves while learning from each other and their teachers how to take responsibility for their own learning and how to think for themselves.

Students with a growing appetite for learning that more closely approximates the work of a research scientist are encouraged to embark on independent study, and typically 25 to 30 in each term take that less-traveled road. Their exploration is guided by a faculty member who advises and oversees but does not necessarily direct the students’ activity or single-handedly craft assignments.

As a junior at Lawrence Academy, I liked languages, geography, and world cultures. In applying to the Independent Immersion Program for my senior year, I knew I wanted to shape my passion for all things international into a curriculum, but I had no idea how my self-directed studies would shape my future. It is now clear to me that five years of living abroad, working for government and foreign agencies, and researching global issues all find their roots in a program that I created when I was only 18 years old!

Ildi Rozembersky ’04

Ildi Rozembersky ’04, standing at Fisherman’s Bastion in Budapest, Hungary, across the river from Parliament. This picture was taken when Ildi first moved to Budapest to begin her master’s in international relations at Central European University. As a senior in the IIP, Ildi focused her studies on international relations.

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As a junior at Lawrence Academy, I liked languages, geography, and world cultures. In applying to the Independent Immersion Program for my senior year, I knew I wanted to shape my passion for all things international into a curriculum, but I had no idea how my self-directed studies would shape my future. It is now clear to me that five years of living abroad, working for government and foreign agencies, and researching global issues all find their roots in a program that I created when I was only 18 years old!

Ildi Rozembersky ’04
Rather, student and teacher collaborate to determine the activities of a term- or yearlong course of study that earns the student credits equivalent to those of a teacher-taught class (and can be taken on a pass/fail/honors basis).

What distinguishes Lawrence Academy from other independent schools is its truly extraordinary offer to qualified juniors or seniors to craft their own curriculum and schedule their own self-directed learning for an entire year—or, in rare cases, even two—in the Independent Immersion Program (IIP).

Established in 1972 as Lawrence II and renamed in 2006, the IIP epitomizes the kind of self-directed learning modeled by the university researchers banding crows and doing original thinking. Students accepted into the IIP must write a learning “contract” to be reviewed with a faculty advisor and the program director. In the meantime, they are free to explore fields of study in which they are most interested. In the IIP, Lawrence Academy fosters true partnerships between adults and teenagers who are ready to leave their schooling behind and chart the course of their own learning.

To be sure, despite the encouragement they receive to personalize learning at each grade level, IIP students are few in number. Many are the demands of working independently to so great an extent (they are allowed to enroll in no more than two “regular” courses at our school). Those who are ready, however, learn lessons in self-directed learning and time-management so well that they often bristle in college at having to submit once again to a schedule of classes; one recent graduate, anticipating as much, even petitioned to postpone college and return for another year in the IIP. For all students in the program, beginning with drafts of their contract and ending with their oral defense, the opportunity to direct their own learning proves both exhausting and exhilarating—and no less liberating for the educators involved in ongoing conversations about the students’ growing body of work. (In lieu of grades, teachers and advisors submit comprehensive comments; in response to oral or written feedback, students are free to adjust the scope of work as outlined in the contract.)

A close look at what happens in Lawrence Academy classrooms, beginning with the Ninth Grade Program, will reveal that our students are invited repeatedly to experience the exciting consequences of making their own choices in ways that show them what self-directed learning feels like.

When you consider that so many schools purport to foster the skills and curiosity of lifelong learners, the following excerpt from an article by Maurice Gibbons* should make clear why one previous director of studies at Lawrence Academy referred to the IIP as “the upper reaches of our curriculum”:

“In self-directed education, the individual masters all the activities usually conducted by the teacher: selecting goals, selecting content, selecting and organizing learning experiences, managing one’s time and effort, evaluating progress[,] and redesigning one’s strategies for greater effect. In addition, the student of self-directed learning must have the initiative to launch these processes as well as the personal motivation to continue learning, even when there is no pressure, guidance, or extrinsic reward. In self-directed education[,] the student has the major responsibility for the purposes and methods of learning as well as the achievement of learning involved.” (pp. 51–52)

To cite at the same time the curiosity of a scientist and the curriculum that culminates in the IIP serves to point out that they both teach us the importance of the pursuit of real learning, an outcome not only of which we can be proud at Lawrence Academy, but also about which we should never hesitate to crow.


Andrew Brescia began his career in independent schools in 1981, earning accolades as an innovative classroom teacher at more than one school. In 1998, he was attracted to Lawrence Academy because of its educational philosophy, which he believes is epitomized in the Independent Immersion Program. In 2000, he joined the faculty to serve as LA’s director of communications.

While working on her thesis in Bulgaria, Ildi visited Дяволски мост (Dyavolski most) or in English, Devil’s Bridge. It is located in the Rhodope Mountains, about six miles from a small Muslim-majority Bulgarian village called Ardino, which is near the Turkish border. The bridge is part of the ancient road connecting the lowlands with the Aegean Sea coast.
I am hiking in central Vermont, on a ridge just north of Appalachian Gap, when my cell phone rings. On a typical excursion outside, I would not have had it with me; the technology seems so out of place and unnecessary amidst rocks, trees, and sky. But I am on a multiday backpacking trip on the Long Trail and have been convinced by family members and friends to carry my phone in case of an emergency and to keep them posted on my progress. I also have plans to meet up with a friend for the last days of my hike and want to coordinate our timing.

The phone, sitting in my shorts pocket, rings on, because I am engaged in a difficult task: coaxing my dog toward me so that I can carry him down one of the trail’s wooden ladders. These ladders are immensely helpful for human hikers but prove to make a canine descent problematic. As I hold a treat out in front of Bo, his raised ears and cocked head convey skepticism. He wants the biscuit, but my positioning below him, my awkwardly outstretched arm, and, mostly, the six-foot drop from where he stands stop him in his tracks.

Before I climbed down the ladder myself, I had removed my backpack as well as his, a red Ruffwear “Palisades” pack that has built-in water bladders, external gear loops, and a “compression system” that makes it more streamlined, a useful characteristic when Bo weaves his way through close-standing trees. (As I was buying gear for my hike, I realized that my dog would be carrying a better backpack than I would.)

The steep descents often make it necessary to unclip the saddlebags from the pack so that Bo—unlike me, more times than I want to recount—doesn’t topple down a slippery rock face because of the extra weight on his back. The frequent removal and replacement of both of our packs is becoming tiresome, and I wish for the trail to take the form of switchbacks.

Now, as he stands above me, I can see that Bo is once again pleased to have the 15 pounds of food, treats, and rolled-up leash removed but is uncertain as to what I mean by luring him towards a precipice. My phone keeps on ringing as he takes the treat in his mouth, and I finally get a grip on his handled harness—another feature of the Palisades—and pull hard. Bo scrambles backward, but I keep at it, and with all of my strength, I am able to get him off the slab. He pinwheels his legs as the ground disappears beneath him, and I can feel each of his 58 pounds as I lower him to the rock below the ladder, my left hand clinging to its side.

Once he is down, he keeps going, running down the trail with what I can only imagine is relief and exuberance about his returned lightness. Meanwhile, my phone has stopped ringing, and the voice message indicator sounds, oddly interrupting the teacher-teacher-teacher call of a nearby ovenbird, the soft clicking of the wind in the trees, and the sound of a stream rushing beside the trail. Another ladder down, and who knows how many more to go I stop to catch my breath, slap at mosquitoes, push my sweat-soaked hair behind my ears, and take stock.

I am not trying to finish the entire 272-mile hike this summer. The relentless rain has succeeded in deterring not only me but many others—or at least it seems so from the emptiness of the trail. I am exploring a rugged section of it, from Mt. Abraham to Camel’s Hump, in a five-day outing. Earlier in July, I hiked a southern portion, from Stratton Mountain to the village of Peru.
Though I have scaled back my ambitions and will not be completing the walk from Williamstown, Massachusetts, to Canada, the trail is still providing the solitude and challenges that I imagined when I first had the idea, back in February, of hiking its entire length. There are many days when I see few, if any, people and have to be content with my one-sided conversations with Bo. There are many evenings when I curl up in my sleeping bag at five o’clock, hours before dark, thoroughly exhausted before dark; staying warm, dry, well-hydrated, and fed. In addition, I need to preserve the health and well-being of my dog. These simple (but not always easy-to-accomplish) goals are on my mind, but it took some time for them to replace the endless words that usually parade through there.

Backpacking provides a kind of simplicity that is rare. Priorities are reduced to essentials: walking a set number of miles to the next campsite or shelter; making it there before dark; staying warm, dry, well-hydrated, and fed. In addition, I need to preserve the health and well-being of my dog. These simple (but not always easy-to-accomplish) goals are on my mind, but it took some time for them to replace the endless words that usually parade through there.

In his introduction to a new edition of Henry David Thoreau’s Walden, writer and environmental activist Bill McKibben notes how it takes a few days to quell the buzzing that we carry with us from our information-, entertainment-, and consumption-obsessed society, even when we are miles away from its reach. He describes a backpacking trip he took into the Adirondacks in 2008:

“Backpacking provides a kind of simplicity that is rare. Priorities are reduced to essentials: walking a set number of miles to the next campsite or shelter; making it there before dark; staying warm, dry, well-hydrated, and fed.”

“The first few days out, I might as well have been back in my room—I strode purposefully along the trail, eyes fixed on that focusless middle distance that you stare at when you drive. My mind chattered happily away—my own little CNN delivering an around-the-clock broadcast of ideas, plans, opinions: What was I going to work on next? Who would win the presidential election? What were some neat things I could buy?”

What I observe are Vermont’s similarities, this summer, to a temperate rain forest. Mud is ubiquitous, and I slog directly through it, rather than widen the trail in a fruitless attempt to keep my boots clean. By the end of the day, they are covered in a layer of mud a quarter-inch thick, and I have to clap them on the sides of a shelter to uncase them.

The Trail’s unofficial title is the “Long Green Tunnel,” and this summer, the name is even more appropriate. Spruce trees that line the ridges in higher elevations are tipped in a bright, young green; the weeks of rain have contributed to new growth extending from their mature, darker-colored branches, and in narrower sections they nearly envelop the trail. Mushrooms sprout underfoot; with their spots and vibrant colors, they look as if they belong in a cartoon.

Fat toads clear the way for my dog and me as we splash through puddles (Bo follows them with mercifully restrained curiosity), and bright orange Eastern newts pause in midstride as I crouch down to watch them. Most of the wooden bog bridges put in place by Green Mountain Club volunteers are entirely submerged; many have begun to rot. In descending, I often use nearby pines for aid in balance and am rewarded by showers, rainwater pouring onto my head and down the back of my t-shirt.

Besides the rain and mud, the trail offers other sensations and experiences to my gradually clearing mind: the sounds of coyotes, loons, and an owl in the early morning hours near Stratton Pond. The view of the sunrise from the top of Sugarbush over the Northfield and Granite ranges, and, in the distance, the White Mountains. The soreness of my feet as I lie on my sleeping pad at night. The feelings of gratitude for dry wool socks, and a bowl of macaroni and cheese after a tiring day. Humility, when I run into those brave backpackers tackling the whole Long Trail, or those completing the Appalachian Trail, who have been out here since March. Happiness, when I summit Mt. Abraham or make it to the sign letting me know that...
Spruce Peak, the shelter I am trying to reach, is just a third of a mile down a spur trail. Apprehension (just a twinge), when I realize that Bo and I will be spending a night in a shelter by ourselves. Excitement, when I view Camel’s Hump from Molly Stark’s Balcony on one of the few clear days. Anticipation, of meeting my friend for the last days of my hike, and, along with it, the knowledge that I will have miles of good conversation and companionship ahead of me.

As I whistle for Bo so that I can clip his pack on once more, I think about who might have called and what they might have wanted. I think about the upcoming fall, when, for the eighth year of my life, I will be consumed by the responsibilities of an English teacher. My hours will soon be filled with lesson planning, teaching, discussing, grading, commenting, advising, encouraging, explaining. They will be filled, as Hamlet remarks, with “words, words, words”: my own, my students’, and those of the playwrights, poets, and novelists whose works we read.

While I love the busy and dynamic nature of my job, the unexpectedness of what occurs in a high school classroom, and the singular community that starts to emerge among my students after months spent studying texts together, I know that I will look back on my days and nights on the Trail with longing.

“What nature provides,” McKibben writes later on in his introduction, “is scale and context, ways to figure out who and how big we are and what we want.” I will miss learning about myself in this setting. I will miss the simple purposefulness and pared-down needs; I will miss how I have come to appreciate the smallest of gifts, like the sun emerging during an otherwise socked-in afternoon, hot tea made with boiled stream water, or Bo, turning his head as he stops along the trail, waiting for me.

I will miss feeling removed from the endlessly distracting aspects of our modern world: Internet, radio, magazines, television, and, above all, advertisements, which urge us to consume beyond any rational point of necessity or comfort.

I will miss saying out loud to the dripping trees, “Sorry, I can’t come to the phone right now. I’m in the woods, helping my dog down a mountain.”

Christie Beveridge, in her third year as a member of the English department, teaches juniors and seniors. Ms. Beveridge has worked as an intern at The Atlantic Monthly and in various publishing and editing roles, including jobs at Houghton Mifflin in Boston and at a small family-oriented newspaper in Vermont. As you might have guessed, this is not the first time her work has been published. In addition to hiking, she enjoys participating in long-distance running events, including a 100-mile, 6-person relay race on Route 100 in Vermont.
by Krista Collins, chair of mathematics

I hated math. As a student in middle and high school, I found that the only numbers that interested me were those on the clock, and the only operation I eagerly performed was subtraction: How many minutes are left in this awful class? I had learned early on that my mistakes would result in my being sent alone to the board at the front of the room and that my questions about “why” could unleash an embarrassing rebuke about how I was trying to divert attention from my weak algebra skills.

Finally, in my senior year, I had a teacher who answered my question about right triangles, in an algebra class, no less. She devoted an entire class to different proofs of the Pythagorean Theorem—one with pictures, some with variables, and even one originally done by President Garfield. For a student like me, planning to major in political science, the story of Garfield was a revelation. Math was not just for a select group of math nerds; anyone could participate. I fell in love with math!

Today, as a math teacher, rarely do I find a math topic that fails to inspire a story, a real-world connection or a monologue about how beautiful a concept is just because it is mathematical.

While I love to work with talented honors-level kids, I have found that my greatest successes come when I help those who have been completely paralyzed by math discover its relevance and beauty.

Joe was one of the most traumatized math students I have ever encountered. He was a very good math student, but he was completely intimidated by his brusque, my-way-or-the-highway algebra teacher. By the end of eighth grade, Joe had dropped two letter grades and been humiliated out of the honors track. When he entered my classroom the following September, he was no longer interested in math. He would come in, quickly sit in the back corner of the room and avoid eye contact. He would not volunteer an answer and would stammer with embarrassment whenever he was called upon.

However, as the weeks went on, I noticed that Joe was beginning to listen a little more closely. One day, I shared the story of Fermat’s Last Theorem \((z^n = x^n + y^n)\). He claimed to have found a proof for it in the late 1600s and that the margin of his book was too small for him to write it out. The theorem was finally proved in 1993 by Andrew Wiles—and it took him over 200 pages!

Joe was getting hooked. He began to realize that even great mathematicians struggle with problems. He was learning that it was OK not to know the answer immediately, that wrestling with a problem was normal.

Joe watched closely as I encouraged other students to try to solve problems at the board. Early in the term, I could see him wince as they made mistakes, as if waiting for the verbal lashing that he expected them to receive. During our study of exponent rules, a student incorrectly evaluated \(x^0 = 1\). Her confusion about how to work the problem led to a 35-minute group discussion about why exponent rules work and how to prove that \(x^0 = 1\). Joe began to learn that mistakes lead to interesting discussions. And he learned that it isn’t just students who make mistakes. I make them all the time. When I do, I admit it and ask students to help analyze where I went wrong. Not only do they love to “out-math” the teacher, but they also learn what every great mathematician learns at some point: Mistakes will happen, but you can learn so much from them.

Joe saw how other students in the class were getting excited about math, too. During a discussion of Pascal’s Triangle, an ordered arrangement of the counting numbers, Meg began to see the many connections between this grouping of counting numbers and higher level math, as well as to simple problems. She was truly awed by the simplicity and the elegance of math that has been around for centuries. She begged me to stop teaching for a moment so that she could sit and look at the triangle and appreciate it—and she was not kidding. Mary, a less able student, became willing to give math a chance when she saw how it could be applied to “real life.” During a unit of graph theory, she saw how these “complicated” math algorithms could be applied to simple problems like delivering mail or plowing snow from streets. While she could not completely understand the entire math involved, she was more willing to try when she could see its connection to her life. The experiences of students like these affected Joe, allowing him to think about new dimensions of math. Math wasn’t just about learning mechanical operations to find correct answers.

As the weeks turned into months, Joe emerged from his “math coma.” He slowly moved toward the front of the class. He volunteered to work certain problems at the board, and he began to offer suggestions to his classmates. By the end of the year, Joe was coming into class with math stories he had found on the Internet, and he was eager to talk about higher math problems that interested him. Most important, he started entering class with a smile on his face.

The key to getting students interested in math is to teach them to think and work like mathematicians. They need to see math as a living, breathing discipline filled with stories about real people, a subject worthy of passion and intensity. As Joe illustrates, once students have gained an appreciation of the beauty, elegance, and relevance of the mathematics, they become open to new mathematical ideas. Once they understand the importance of mistakes and feel safe enough to make them, fear is replaced by curiosity and confidence. The beast vanishes. It is this transformation that inspires me and that I strive to share with my students.
On April 21 and 22, 2009, an exhibit called Eyes Wide Open came to The Grant Rink at Lawrence Academy. Under art teacher Laurie McGowan’s direction, students laid out, in rows by state, the boots of New England soldiers killed in the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Collected by the American Friends Service Committee, the boots bore tags with the soldiers’ names, ages, and—when allowed—hometowns.

Visitors to the exhibit were encouraged to record reactions in a notebook. Entries included “unbelievable” and “This isn't a hockey rink today—it's a sacred place.” Other visitors called the exhibit “eye-opening,” “distressing,” and “a prayer for peace—no?” When we learned that the exhibit inspired at least two members of the community to write poems, we secured permission to publish them here.

“Sowing and Reaping” is by English teacher Mark Haman, who is in his 28th year at Lawrence Academy and currently teaches Junior English Seminar and AP English. “Boots” is by Samuel Feigenbaum ’09, a four-year day student from Cambridge, Mass., who is now filling a gap year with a variety of activities that include intensive language study in France; hiking the Himalayas in Bhutan; and working with street kids in Niger. He will matriculate at Carleton College in the fall. —AJB

**Boots**

There was a fake hibiscus stuck into the top of Robert Moscillo’s left boot.

In a hotel lobby
or wedding bouquet
it never would
have been called vibrant.

Michael Ford
was my age.
So was Travis Fuller.

The one whose
Name was Removed
at Request of Family
had small feet.

And the dirty scarf stuffed
into Robert Hoyt’s
size twelves

was just like the one
my brother wore
the winter he was five

and announced
he wanted to be
a snow fort architect
when he was all grown up.
Sowing and Reaping

1
Mid-April, and students have seeded the school rink
With rows of boots, as if preparing some unnatural harvest.
Raindrops tap, slap, splat, and now tattoo the metal roof,
And I recall Deucalion and Pyrrha, sole survivors of their flood,
Tossing rocks, the bones of their mother, backward over their shoulders
To repopulate their sad and sodden homeland.
Here, where skaters rifled pucks a month or two ago,
No rocks burgeon and bubble upright into human form;
Instead, these empty boots line up, strange spring tag sale
In need of customers who imagine they can fill another's shoes.

Flotsam washed up on this distant shore,
These soles belong to those who did not survive:
The footloose but bootless, breathless now.
Did they slip their bodies' bonds
In such neat rows, straight and striding,
Or did they shuffle off this mortal coil
In slapdash, slipshod fashion …?
Though they did not shuffle off shod in *this* shoe leather,
Though they cannot dash or slip off anywhere now.
Their bodies lie beneath New England soil
Though they fell upon the sands and streets of Iraq:
Seeds that did not sprout there, sparkless flints
That, stone-still, never burned or blossomed.

Some boots are new or freshly polished, but most are scuffed
As when surrendered by their wearers.
Some stand upright as if in pride; others lean as if fatigued;
Some are straight-laced—or tongue-tied even; others loose and lolling.
One non-descript pair bears the legend *Justin Garvey, Townsend, MA, 23*—
My town, my son's age. Why don't I know
If Justin and he were classmates, teammates, sworn enemies,
Or anonymities, separate as stones in their own worlds,
Cast into the same corridors but never walking in the same shoes?
Justin cannot keep pace now, cannot toe the line, cannot take in stride
This sudden shift in course down which his barefoot steps have led him.

2
Outside these corrugated walls, new life roots down
And issues in blasts of green, roadside bombs
That in familiar annual cannonades fail to wake us fully.
Yet even this downpour cannot extinguish their verdant fire.
A second tale may better trace the track these boots have walked:
When Jason harnessed flame-tongued bulls to plow a field,
Then sowed it with the dragon's teeth in ordered rows;
When sandaled hero, wrapped in magic, cast that stone,
The first stone, or boulder, rather, into the plot he had prepared,
And warriors strode whose stalks had sprung like corn
From ossified seeds that he had slung; when Jason scythed them down—
A sudden flood of rain to shake and shatter saplings—
The gardener gutting his own gains, the planter cropping his own crops,
And put his own creation between a rock and the hard edge of his sword, Laying waste what he had sown, as Cadmus did before him, Threshing and flailing and thrashing away At frail flesh his throwing fathered: a golden fleece his goal. But here, the leather shells stand hollow or lie empty, No gilded fells redeeming warriors’ falls, No precious boon borne home, redeemed beyond all wrack.

3

The deluge treads and drums the metal roof, Most droplets marching in battalions, but one small force Makes its incursion and puddles on the floor As if invading these dry husks and moistening their tongues Would spill the stories that they hold: their precious cargo. The boots line up in silence, two by two, As if to start an odyssey and not to end one; Their silence drowns and deafens still like unrelenting rain. No Noah stands to captain this metal ark and steer it anywhere Or find the promise in some rainbow as the flood abates. Still, as I turn and stand where the goal mouth yawned in winter, I count the ranks of paired boots laced together— Four rows to my right, three rows to my left, Arranged as if to face each other … If empty boots had bodies still, if bodies still had living faces. Never fond of casting stones, I yet imagine those boots filled, Those bodies living, faces flushed, feet now stepping Out and down some ramp, a promise arching overhead, A new world springing up beneath. The rain continues its assault, But in it now I hear the rush of many voices, None distinguishable but none to be extinguished, either. I stride outside to walk among their conversations.

LA Poet’s Chapbook to Be Published

Laura Moore, chair of the English department at Lawrence Academy, has been at work on a second chapbook called Yahoodips, a collection of poems written in memory of her father, David Rogerson. Finishing Line Press, a small press in Georgetown, Ky., has offered her a contract to publish the collection. A chapbook is a short volume of work that is typically between 12 and 36 pages in length.

“Yahoodips,” Ms. Moore explains, “is the word that my father used to call out when he was playing hide-and-seek, his favorite game, which he played at any time, in any place, often unannounced. He’d call out, and suddenly everyone would realize that he was gone.”

Having this collection of poems published, she says, enriches her in a number of ways. “Though I have been writing for a long time, getting a chapbook published is the most validation I’ve ever had as a writer, and it feels very good. Having this particular collection of poems be the one that is recognized is bittersweet. I would not have written them if my dad hadn’t passed away.” Ms. Moore’s father served for 23 years on the faculty at Groton School, from which she graduated after growing up on campus.

“I have always found writing to be a way of deepening understanding, a kind of meditation, if you will. I hope I can use this experience to help me better explain to my students how writing can be a useful and enriching part of one’s whole life, not just the school portion, and that my experience will help me encourage them to find ways to keep reading and writing active and essential elements in their worlds.”

One of Ms. Moore’s three daughters, Katherine ’06, will design the cover for the book, which is 26 pages long and may be ordered through the publisher at www.finishinglinepress.com as soon as it becomes available. Please provide the Alumni Development Office with an active email address, and we will send more information.
by Bernie Leed ’09

Starting in the NGP, teachers make students accountable for their own actions. It is all a part of the “student-centered” approach to learning. I remember well from my freshman year when one student arrived ten minutes late to a final exam and was sent back to his dorm—it didn’t happen again. That early tough love makes the Lawrence Academy student body independent and mature. Most students find these early responsibilities to be a source of encouragement and are inspired to achieve more. This outcome, of course, is the most that any school can hope for. This emphasis on responsibility also gives birth to initiatives like the Student Curriculum Committee (SCC).

The SCC, composed entirely of students, was revived last winter from a time long before my arrival at LA. Its goal is not only to promote and enhance student-centeredness within the curriculum but also to offer input on the curriculum itself. As English Department Chair Laura Moore puts it, “LA prides itself on two ideas, democracy and student-centeredness, and I think that the SCC is in keeping with both of those LA traditions.”

Last year, the committee attracted about 15 members, all of whom diligently created surveys on the effectiveness of comment cards, collected feedback on the new class-day schedule, and prepared ideas for courses that they hoped to see in the Lawrence Academy curriculum. The results were often taken to the director of studies or an appropriate department chair. The strong student-faculty relationships formed as a consequence of this process are a wonderful bonus. For 2009–2010, the committee plans to maintain its healthy relationship with the Department Chairs Committee, which oversees the curriculum, by electing student representatives to attend that committee’s meetings.

With the new tri-presidents leading the way, the SCC will no doubt be a growing influence in the academic life of Lawrence Academy. Starting its meetings in the fall and developing an early friendship with Chris Ellsasser, the newly appointed director of studies, will ensure that the committee wastes no time in pursuing the goals it chooses to set. This is especially important as the Curriculum Guide is released in early spring. The work necessary to meet this deadline will be made lighter by an increase in participation of students impressed by the success of the committee’s first year. Like anything, this recent expression of student initiative may take some time to operate smoothly and efficiently. Still, the efforts are a learning experience in and of themselves, and the cause should prove to be as rewarding for the members of the SCC as the result will be for the curriculum.

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Denise Korn ’83 Honored at Cum Laude Day

Following the induction of new Cum Laude Society members and the presentation of awards to deserving students for excellence in a wide variety of academic fields, student body co-president Jess Lunt ’09 introduced the recipient of the Greater Good Award, Denise Korn ’83. A four-year day student from Leominster who spent a lot of time in “the art closer” learning from art teachers Cary Eisenberg, Sue Leppla, and Cynthia Tripp, Denise is the founder and principal of Korn Design.

The Greater Good Award was presented to Denise for “her work in providing opportunities in the world of design and art for underprivileged youth in the Boston area through Youth Design Boston, Kids Can Cook, and The Farm School,” said Jess. Youth Design Boston is a 7-year-old national organization that provides public high school students with professional internships in the Boston area, and Kids Can Cook, a nonprofit co-founded 11 years ago by Denise, uses the kitchen as a space for middle school students who spend a week learning about nutrition and the inside workings of restaurants while developing healthy self-esteem habits. Denise is also involved with The Farm School, a teaching farm in Athol, Massachusetts, and Henrietta’s Table, a farm-to-table restaurant that uses local organic produce and has raised funds to support the Farm School and provide opportunities for the youth of Boston.

In accepting the award, Denise briefly described her work in each of her ventures, emphasizing the importance of inspiring young people to believe that they “can actually make things, create things, that bring beauty into the world.” Her goal is to help urban youth break the grip of whatever is holding them back and recognize and seize opportunities for themselves. On a farm tractor, in a kitchen, or in a design studio, mentors are helping them to find doorways to a brighter future, she said. Recognizing that it was her passion that led her to launch Korn Design, she also believes that her efforts help teenagers discover their passions. Denise credited Lawrence Academy with providing her with “morals and models,” and she paid tribute to Lawrence Academy teachers, including her advisor and English teacher, Bill Mees. She then offered students this advice: “Take that thing you are passionate about and think about how you can share it with others. You don’t have to save the world. I decided to work one kid at a time, and it’s pretty powerful.”

Established to honor those who take seriously their responsibility to use their education to improve the world, the Greater Good Award is presented in the fall to a Lawrence Academy student and on Cum Laude Day to a graduate of the school. It is made possible by the school’s Endowment Fund for Service, Social Justice, and Global Awareness, which was created in 2005 by Jay Dunn ’83 and his family.
Audrey McNiff ’76 Joins Board of Trustees

Audrey McNiff ’76, of Greenwich, Conn., was elected to the Lawrence Academy Board of Trustees at its May 2009 meeting. Audrey retired in 2009 from Goldman Sachs, where she was global co-head of Foreign Exchange and Derivatives Prime Brokerage. Her first 12 years at the firm were spent in foreign exchange, where she managed Global Asset Side Sales and covered the firm’s largest hedge fund clients. Audrey was named managing director in 1997 and partner in 2000. Prior to joining the firm in 1992, Audrey was a vice president and head of foreign exchange sales at Hong Kong Bank New York. Audrey earned a master’s degree in business administration from New York University in 1989 and a bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1980.

She serves as a trustee of Mount Holyoke College, where she chairs the college’s Investment Committee and sits on the Finance, Development, Trustee Development, Education, and Executive Committees.

Audrey has been a loyal supporter of Lawrence Academy since her graduation in 1976 and has been a resource for the school in southern Connecticut and New York City. She has assisted the LA Investment Committee on a regular basis, and she looks forward to bringing her expertise to the LA Board of Trustees. As a four-year day student at Lawrence, Audrey was a star academically and athletically. She was inducted into the Cum Laude Society in her junior year and also was secretary of the Student Council, a contributing member of the school newspaper, and a member of the yearbook staff. Audrey contributed on the athletic field as well, playing varsity soccer, basketball (co-captain), and lacrosse.

Justin Cotter Awarded Departmental Chair for Excellence in Teaching

“Are you a leader or a detractor? Are you hiding or going through the motions? Do you take 100% responsibility for your learning? If these are questions that you ponder,” Mr. Wiggins said when introducing the 2009 recipient of the Departmental Chair for Excellence in Teaching during the year’s final assembly, “you have likely spent some time learning in Justin Cotter’s classroom.”

In presenting the annual award for excellence in teaching, Mr. Wiggins noted that this year’s recipient “wants his students to come away from his classroom having learned that the way that they engage with the world makes a difference.” Mr. Wiggins praised math teacher Justin Cotter for doing precisely what he exhorts students to do: “to jump in with both feet and learn by doing.” He noted that Mr. Cotter had eschewed adopting the AP curriculum when accepting the challenge to design a new honors course in statistics, instead designing a project-based course that asks students to apply the knowledge they learn to real-world problems. He added that Mr. Cotter, on short notice, enlisted his statistics students in collecting data about the new class schedule to support the Department Chairs Committee in its discussions. “This kind of flexibility makes Mr. Cotter’s classes exciting and dynamic, and it assures that his students will be able to put to use the knowledge they gain from him.” That Mr. Cotter spent this year mentoring new math teacher Jarred Gagnon ’03, Mr. Wiggins concluded, demonstrates that this year’s recipient has indeed learned well by doing.

“Mr. Cotter has an infectious enthusiasm for life and learning that makes Lawrence Academy a better place to learn and to live, and so I happily award him with this year’s Departmental Chair for Excellence in Teaching.”

Mr. Cotter, it turns out, was flabbergasted. “It was a huge honor to be chosen for the award,” he said. “There are so many great teachers at LA that I really never saw this coming. As a teacher here, I have always been given the freedom to do things my own way and the support I need to be successful. Our students are motivated and a lot of fun to work with. I feel very fortunate to be a teacher at Lawrence Academy.”

Editor’s note: The following announcement was inadvertently omitted from the last Academy Journal. We regret the omission.

In the 2008 final assembly, Mr. Wiggins saluted science teacher Cindy Moseley as the 2008 recipient of the Departmental Chair for Excellence in Teaching, noting that the lead chemistry teacher who “works hard—and quietly” is known for torn-from-the-headlines crime scenes in her forensics electives to teach timely topics with a hands-on approach. According to Mr. Wiggins, Ms. Moseley’s work in and out of class has her “teaching students the tools they need to solve real problems” and to use what they learn to draw their own conclusions. “Students in her classes learn to be self-directed. This is good teaching and good science.”
Lawrence Academy’s library has been selected as the single facility in Massachusetts to participate in the Alexander Street Press’s 50-State-Plus Advisory Group and benefit from its new collection of documentaries and newsreels titled *American History in Video*.

Sara Anderson, in her fourth year as Lawrence Academy’s head librarian, makes a point of staying active and informed in her field of expertise. She brought this opportunity to the school by applying for the free subscription before attending a workshop on resource and budget issues facing libraries in the current recession. Lawrence Academy is one of only three high schools selected nationwide to participate, with the rest of the advisory group consisting of public libraries and college and university libraries.

To make the most of the resource, Ms. Anderson met with members of the history faculty in August, introducing them to the collection as well as the research capabilities provided within the database. Users are able to choose from 14 search fields, including date, person, or topic; the search results allow users to move quickly to the precise mention of the keyword in any of its videos (with the screen split to show both the video and its scrolling transcript) and also create a personalized archive of video clips to be used in presentations.

*Library Journal* reviewed *American History in Video* favorably in its issue dated August 15, 2009. Cheryl LaGuardia’s review concluded with this ringing endorsement: “This is a product I wish every library in the United States could make accessible to its researchers, from elementary school children to historical scholars, and everybody in between. Resoundingly recommended.”

The Alexander Street Press, established in 2000, is an electronic publisher that provides its subscribers with access to a variety of collections in the humanities and social sciences. In exchange for waiving the annual fee, representatives from selected libraries are asked to provide feedback and suggest improvements to make the resource more accessible, useful, and marketable.
The girls’ hockey team finished with a 22–3–1 overall record, earning a second-place rank in the competitive ISL at 11–1–0. The girls were defeated in the finals of the NEPSAC championships after a earning a triple-overtime victory against Choate in the semifinals. The team, coached by Brooke Whitney, rallied to achieve their success after suffering setbacks in the roster that required changes in roles for several team members.

Senior Chelsea Knapp proved to be one of the best goalies in the ISL, achieving seven shutouts in 15 games and allowing only 17 goals out of 283 shots to earn a .94 save percentage. Tending goal for eight games was junior Kerrin Sperry, who let pass only three of 118 shots and ended the season with six shutouts and a .97 save percentage. The girls also outshot their opponents and outscored them, 124–25.

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The team MVP Ashley Motherwell ’09 provided great flexibility and talent in offensive combinations. This year’s ISL All-League awards went to seniors Nicole Bartlett, Chelsea Knapp, Brenna Morrissey, and Ashley Motherwell, with honorable mention awarded to senior Kelly Horan. Four were recruited to play Division I—Wayne for Union College, Steve for Boston College, and Micah for Bentley University. Senior Brendan Cottam earned ISL honorable mention. Coach Kevin Potter commended the team’s closeness and leadership.

Although the girls’ basketball team finished the season with a 9–13 record, seven of their games were lost by a margin of five or fewer points, and two were lost in overtime. Among the highlights of the season was a win over Pingree, thanks to senior captains Bradie Hutchinson and Ellie Moore combining for 25 points and forcing numerous turnovers, as well as Nell Lapres ’09 and captain Jess Lunt ’09 converting many rebounds into points and assists. The team’s biggest win of the season came against Buckingham Browne & Nichols when, in the Spartans’ final contest, they played a nearly flawless game.

Team MVP Bradie Hutchinson finished the season with 307 points and leaves Lawrence Academy with 846 points scored in just three seasons. Her skills and good sportsmanship earned her a unanimous selection by coaches to the First Team All-ISL and placed her third in line for the league’s MVP award. Also named to NEPSAC’s All-New England team, Bradie will play basketball this year for Connecticut College. ISL honorable mention went to Jess Lunt and Ellie Moore. Coach Michelle Waldie noted, “Our strength was our defense, our hustle, and our 100% effort at every game.”
With the boys’ varsity basketball team posting 20 or more wins for each of the past four seasons, Kevin Wiercinski’s 2008–2009 team had an overall record of 21–4, with a 14–1 record earning them second place in the ISL. Season highlights included winning the LA-Groton School Holiday Tournament for the eighth time in nine years and dismissing Northfield Mt. Hermon, ranked sixth among Class A teams, in a 71–57 victory during the prestigious National Prep School Invitational. Sophomore Shabazz Napier, who was named to the All-Tournament team, scored 37 points (including seven 3s) and made eight steals in the game. The Spartans entered the NEPSAC tournament as the second seed behind St. Mark’s School and hoped for their sixth consecutive trip to the finals—and their seventh in the last decade—but lost to Holderness School in the opening round.

Named to the ISL All-League roster were Denzel Brito ’10, Darryl Cato-Bishop ’09 (who had a 59% FG average, which was second best in the ISL), and Shabazz Napier. ISL honorable mention went to junior Sarkie Ampim, who led the league with a 61% FG average. Team MVP Darryl Cato-Bishop was named the ISL Defensive Player of the Year for the third time in four years. He also leaves as the second leading scorer in LA history—behind Antoine Wright ’02 (now with the Toronto Raptors) and ahead of Richard Roby ’04, who graduated from Colorado University as its all-time leading scorer. A finalist for Player of the Year all four years and pursued by recruiters for both football and basketball, Darryl has chosen to play basketball for North Carolina State.

This year’s ski team coalesced around a solid nucleus returning from last year’s NEPSAC Class C championship squad. Led by captain Nick Caesar ’09, his brother Dan ’11, and Matt Tower ’11, the team of 11 boys included two ninth-graders who made significant contributions, Barrett Kelly and Will Beck. The four girls on the team consisted of three new members who joined returning sophomore Meghan Killian. The team was not very successful in its meets against the top ISL schools, typically finishing in sixth place out of eight schools, but the season ended in spectacular fashion at the NEPSAC Class C championships, when the boys won the combined Giant Slalom and Slalom, successfully defending their 2008 crown.

According to Coach Jon Kaiser’s account of the races, the team struggled to meet the requirement that three of the five competing skiers complete two runs in both events. With each of the Caesar brothers placing and the other team members taking turns at supporting with successful runs, Will Beck clinched the title under pressure as the last skier to complete the course. Barrett Kelly was recognized with ISL honorable mention for an overall performance that earned him 12th place out of more than 70 racers. The girls’ team did not fare well in competition, but there are high hopes that they will return poised to take advantage of the experience they gained. Team MVPs for boys and girls were Dan Caesar and Alex Thornton ’12, respectively.

The wrestling squad, despite a 2–17 overall record, earned praise from Coach Justin Cotter: “I’ve got what every coach wants—this team was all about the team.” The squad depended on veteran leaders Eric McKnight ’10, Alex Benton ’10, and captains Zach Phillips ’10 and Qaasim Ahmed ’09. Two highlights came in victories against Concord Academy and Marianapolis Prep. In both matches, the Spartans forfeited six weight classes, which meant that the team would have to win every single contested match to be victorious—and they did just that in both matches! At the Graves-Kelsey Tournament, sophomore Brian Muller placed sixth after wrestling seven hard-fought matches and Alex Dellacanonica ’12 pinned a top-seeded wrestler from Brooks with a cradle in the third period. Alex Benton scored the fastest pin of the Doug Parker Tournament. Brian Muller was named MVP.
The varsity baseball team finished their 2009 campaign tied for third place in the ISL with a league record of 9–6. The team jumped out to a 6–0 start with impressive victories over St. Mark’s, Middlesex, and Milton Academy. Injuries created a lack of pitching depth during the second half of the season and contributed to the team’s 3–6 finish. However, those three wins were against above-.500 teams, including eventual ISL co-champion Thayer Academy, and three of the losses were very close games that could have gone either way. Coach Chris Margraf said, “Each player’s hard work, positive attitude, and commitment were readily apparent from the time we first took the field during preseason.”

The season was highlighted by some fantastic individual pitching performances in addition to a potent offensive lineup. Steve Whitney ’09 (.474 avg.), senior co-captain Logan Gillis (.420 avg. and a league-leading 26 RBIs), sophomore Joe Napolitano (.373 avg.), and senior co-captain Charley Loeb (.370 avg.) provided a solid offensive attack for LA. On the mound, Joe Napolitano led the charge for the Spartans with three wins, earning two complete-game victories against Thayer and Nobles. Brian Muller ’11 earned two wins, and team shortstop and MVP Logan Gillis, who was recruited to play in Division I for Northeastern University, finished with a 4.85 ERA. Earning ISL all-league honors were Logan Gillis and Joe Napolitano. ISL honorable mention went to Steve Whitney, Charley Loeb, and junior Lucas Sousa, whose record for the year included 19 runs scored and six stolen bases.

The varsity softball team finished with a 9–8 record (6–5 in the ISL). Highlights included a Worcester Academy game in which the Spartans, trailing 2–4 in the fifth, scored four runs in the sixth to win the game, 6–4. During a rain-shortened “Big East” Tournament, the team knocked off Exeter in ten innings with an ESPN-worthy double play in the fifth, and then edged out host and #1 seed Andover, 3–2, for what Coach Leslie Breton called “a glorious victory.” The girls ended their season by defeating both St. Paul’s, 2–1, and Buckingham Browne & Nichols, 9–2. During the first two innings of the BB&N game, which would determine whether it would be a winning or losing season, the team drove in eight runs, and team MVP Brenna Morrissey ’09, a standout at shortstop the entire season, produced two doubles, a triple, and three RBI.

The female contributors, some of whom placed in meets, were Becca Rowse ’11 (100, 200, 4x100, and long jump), Tierra Nieves ’10 (100, 200, 4x100, and long jump), Hilary Cranston ’09 (100, 4x100, short put, and long jump), Kelsey Carroll ’11 (400, 4x400, and long jump), Erica Rowden ’11 (800 and shot put), Irene Bucken ’10 (400 and 4x400) and Molly McNulty ’12 (200, 400, and 4x400). Coach Michele Waldie noted that Steve Zaloudek cut four seconds from his 400-meter time and ran on a 4x400 relay team that slashed its time by 15 seconds by the season’s end and that Erica Rowden had a great finish at the NEPSAC meet at Portsmouth Abbey, where she took almost 30 seconds off of her original time in the 800. MVP honors went to Hilary Cranston and Phil Picard-Fraser.

Only in its second official year and without its own track, Lawrence Academy’s track team was the underdog, competing in four meets against established programs with much larger teams. Noteworthy for having demonstrated their fortitude and determination to succeed and making significant progress during the season were seniors Phil Picard-Fraser (1500 and 4x400), Tristan Haman (800), Mark Dellacanonica (400 and 4x400), Andy Moschitto (400 and 4x400), and Steve Zaloudek (400 and 4x400) and junior Grady McDonald (100, 200, and 4x400), who emerged as the leading male runners on the team.
SPRING SPORTS

GIRLS’ LACROSSE

The girls’ lacrosse team devoted part of their spring break to preseason practices in Florida. After having been winless in the ISL in 2008, the squad ended the 2009 season with an overall record of 7–9, including an early 13–12 victory over St. Mark’s and a win in the final contest against Buckingham Browne & Nichols, the only team to have beaten Nobles, this year’s league champions. According to Coach Eileen Keever, “The entire team effort earned the win.” The team also registered three victories in nonleague games and beat Rivers in the last few minutes of that contest.

Senior captains were Tory Stone, Katie Joumas, and Kat Spring. Kat earned MVP and All-ISL honors and led the team in scoring with 43 goals. Of the three other high scorers, two were freshmen with considerable previous experience, Jaci Gordon (37 goals) and Meg O’Connor (18 goals). Tory Stone contributed with 19 goals for the season. When junior netminder Kerrin Sperry suffered a season-ending injury, classmate Danielle Doherty, a lacrosse rookie, stepped up and learned the position. In the last weekend of the season, Danielle had nearly 25 saves in a game against Andover.

BOYS’ LACROSSE

The boys’ lacrosse squad included as returning players co-captain Bryan Walsh ’10, John Kelley ’10, Jeremy Bellino ’10, Tyler Davis ’09, and co-captain Scooter Manly ’09. Newcomer Ned Selian ’10 came on board as a seasoned netminder and Michael Ferris ’12 added impressive defensive skills. Coach Mark Blackburn’s largely inexperienced team, however, found itself overwhelmed in a competitive league and recorded a winless season. When illness took netminder Ned Selian off the field, freshman Matt Baldino courageously stepped inside the crease for the first time. Highlights of the season included a pair of three-goal performances, one by TJ Hartner ’10 and the other by Jake Waldie ’11. Team MVP honors and ISL honorable mention went to Bryan Walsh.

GIRLS’ TENNIS

Although the girls’ tennis team fought hard, they finished the season with a 1–14 record. Senior co-captain Kate Majike returned from a midseason knee injury to play at #1 singles and produced some exciting matches at the close of the season, winning matches against Rivers and BB&N and earning ISL honorable mention. Junior co-captain and team MVP Caroline Leed stepped up to the #1 position during Kate’s absence, and junior Lia Wickerham, who will co-captain the 2010 team, played at both #2 and #3. Coach David Woo looks forward to the next season, noting that newcomer sophomore Patricia Manent played impressively and was exciting to watch, classmate Hayley Finn finished with the best singles record on the team, and junior Jess DeVito finished the season with an impressive comeback at BB&N.

GOLF

The 2009 coed golf team, memorable for the accomplishments of a very diverse group of players, narrowly escaped a winless record when they tied St. Mark’s late in the season. Longstanding members Dave Edmunds ’09 and team MVP Robby Scamman ’09 competed most of the year in the top two spots. A newcomer from Canada, Zach Shannon ’11 competed at #2 or #3 and won the team’s Fernald Cup. Zach also had an impressive showing at the ISL championships, The Kingman Tournament, where he shot an 87 to become the team’s only ISL medalist. Junior Benno Tubbesing, a one-year student from Germany, was a steady #4. Coach Robert Foote noted that returning varsity member Dan Rice ’09 defeated his St. Mark’s and first-year varsity seniors Landon Fritz and John SanClemente gained valuable experience and some individual victories along the way. Sophomore Emily Field, the team’s only female, developed into a very competitive opponent by season’s end.

BOYS’ TENNIS

The 2009 season was a difficult one for boys’ tennis, as their 0–15 record in the ISL attests. “We did, however, win our two nonleague matches handily,” said longtime tennis coach John Curran, “and there was certainly some good tennis played throughout the season.” Worthy of note were matches by #2 player Johannes Kahl ’10, of Germany, at Middlesex, at Brooks, and especially at Groton, where he prevailed in the day’s last singles match. Highlights included #4 senior Micah Ehiorobo’s come-from-way-behind thrilling victory at Middlesex, senior Tim Caron’s win against Belmont Hill, and senior captain Luke Rogers’s win at Brooks at #1 singles. Max Wertheimer ’11, competing at #5 singles, began the season with an injured shoulder and ended with the team’s best overall singles record. Team MVP honors went to Luke Rogers and Micah Ehiorobo. Junior Phil Kahan will serve as next year’s captain, leading a team that will include promising #3 seed Jack Moore ’12.
In Gratitude for Lessons Learned

On the rainy morning of Friday, May 29, Head of School Scott Wiggins welcomed the family and friends of the Class of 2009 to the gymnasium of The Stone Athletic Center for Lawrence Academy’s 216th commencement exercises. He also greeted those who were unable to travel to campus for the ceremony but were there in spirit while watching a real-time video of the proceedings being broadcast for the first time via the school’s Web site.

After saluting the seniors for having conducted themselves admirably during a year marred by student, staff, and parent deaths, in addition to the lesser threats of the December ice storm and the spring onset of the H1N1 virus, Mr. Wiggins advised them not to seek another Lawrence Academy experience in college. “Your LA experience is here. You’ve come a long way, and you’ve concluded it; now it is time to move on and embrace your next experience wholeheartedly.” Reminding them of their good fortune for being among the minuscule percentage of the school-age population worldwide that attends schools like Lawrence Academy, he said that much would be expected of them in acting for the common good.

Seniors Tim Caron and Julie Consoletti introduced graduation speaker Sam Rowse ’65, former CEO of Veryfine Products of Littleton. Noting that Mr. Rowse was inspired by faculty members Norman Grant, Dick Jeffers, and Headmaster Arthur Ferguson, Tim read aloud a statement by the former headmaster that continues to resonate with Mr. Rowse to this day: “Perhaps never before has there been a greater demand for intelligent leadership. We must not console ourselves with the thoughts that the ills of today will take care of themselves, that someone else will do the job. The challenge lies before us, and we must accept it.” Mr. Rowse is the father of Jessica ’92 and Tracy ’94; other LA graduates in the Rowse family are his father, James ’27; his brother John ’61; and his son-in-law, Rob Moran ’92.

There are members of the Class of 2009, Mr. Rowse pointed out, who attended Lawrence Academy for two, three, or four years; he was delighted to learn, however, that one member of the Graduation Speaker Committee was completing his fifth year. “It shows you how much things at LA have stayed the same and yet how much they have changed: My best friend in the whole world is a five-year grad of Lawrence Academy. And I have to tell you, if I had to do it all over again knowing what I know now, I think I’d spend a fifth year at Lawrence Academy. It was a great place to grow up in the 1960s, and I can see from being involved in the school for so long that it is an even better experience now.”

Mr. Rowse drew from his success as a manufacturer of fruit juices for his analogy when he asked the seniors to help him create the “perfect beverage.” He had them imagine a 4,000-gallon, stainless steel tank, already nearly full with a swirling mixture. “It’s you in there, and you’ve had 17 years or so to fill it up with all that good stuff—and a lot of it from [your time at] Lawrence Academy.” He asked that his listeners consider how they might make the
concoction of themselves even more impressive and desirable and suggested looking closely at five pipes leading into the tank.

Illustrating the addition of each special ingredient with a story from his own experience, he first recommended improving the mix with persistence and energy, advising them to “open the valve and then run for a wrench to take its handle off and let it just run. You are going to need every bit of persistence and energy that you can get.” Second, he extolled the value of respect, explaining how he earned the respect of the Veryfine employees by spending his first three years out of college working each and every job at the company. The third ingredient is mistakes; open that valve, he said, but don’t let it run too long—and yet, he announced, “mistakes are the fastest way to the right answer.” Mr. Rowse advised graduates to open the fourth valve to let its ingredient flow, but not to expect much to come out. Luck is not something he has learned to look for, he said; rather, it is something that you make yourself: “When you make your own luck, you work at something and you work very hard—when the opportunity comes along, you grab it quickly because you’ve done your homework. It looks like luck, but it’s not. You make [the luck] yourself.”

To drive home the importance of the last ingredients, honesty and integrity, Mr. Rowse explained how his father had made good on his promise to pay Veryfine’s creditors every last penny of a debt with which his uncle had burdened the family-owned business. When it comes to the pipeline of your own integrity, he said, hold nothing back: “Open that sucker up; let it flow. Get as much of that as you can. You’re going to need it, want it, and feel a whole lot better later in life if you have lived a life of honesty and integrity.”

In closing, Mr. Rowse read aloud the following statement, which he attributed to the German author Goethe, with apologies for some editing: “The moment one commits oneself, then Providence moves, too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one’s favor all manner of unforeseen incidents, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.”

Following the presentation of awards, Marina Bousa ’09, a boarding student from Wellesley, began addressing the audience after first noting that receiving an award for public speaking had added “just a bit of pressure” on her to do well. Offering the recreational climbing wall to her audience’s right as a metaphor for challenges she and her classmates overcame in reaching that day—and also as a ready distraction to those who might find her remarks boring—Marina explained how her own lackluster first two years of high school before coming to Lawrence Academy had left her with a “pretty awkward” report card that, paired with good test scores and her artistic accomplishments, “screamed ‘slacker!’”

As she tells the story, it was in a “fleeting moment of good judgment” that she applied to leave her single-sex school. Contrary to what some might think (that LA had suffered a lapse of judgment in accepting her), Marina explained, “LA wasn’t so concerned with what I had done, but rather with what I could do. Lawrence Academy had yet to really know me, and still they believed and wanted to give me a chance. That chance ended up being the life-changing, path-straightening opportunity that brought me to this podium today.”
Speaking, finally, of an education as an investment, Marina noted that few parents and students could have expected when “buying in” to the school just how true is Lawrence Academy’s claim to be “something different.” “It is [its] departure from the norm that has allowed us students the freedom to define for ourselves who we are and what we wish to accomplish.” Citing the “fluidity with which students travel from the athletic field and into performance spaces,” the Williams College–bound senior said, “I am so lucky to be in a class with students who refuse to limit themselves, who consistently defy stereotypes, who surrender insecurity in order to figure out for themselves who they will be—both in high school and beyond.”

Harvard senior Ollie Taylor, in his brief remarks, matched Marina’s enthusiasm for the people at Lawrence Academy—those working on the buildings and grounds, in the dining hall, in the classrooms, and on the playing fields. He began at the beginning: “I was a 14-year-old who had no idea what I wanted to do over the course of my career at Lawrence Academy, and, to be honest, I found myself just going through the motions.” It was not until his fifth year on campus, having elected to repeat his junior year, that he realized that belonging to a community means “helping out the school in any way, shape, or form and not wishing and complaining about the school I wanted Lawrence to be and to go out and make that a reality.”

Now headed to Syracuse University, Ollie urged the underclassmen to recognize that the school’s direction was in no small part theirs to determine, and, having noted the passing of sophomore Mark Frattaroli in the fall, to treasure their friends and enjoy their time at Lawrence “because you never know what tomorrow will bring.” Life at LA was certainly not perfect in every way, he concluded, but he did find perfection in moments with friends. “I truly have never been so happy and sad at the same time, and finally, after five exhilarating years, I can now say that my heart is full. Thank you again and God bless!”
Spearheaded by head football coach and LA parent Mike Taylor and his wife Lamia, elaborate improvements to Murbach Field began after the last lacrosse game in late May. They were completed by the end of July, soon after the installation of two-inch Kentucky blue grass sod.

Following the work of bulldozers, a construction crew installed the field’s new irrigation system, carefully laying perforated pipes in gravel-lined trenches. Beginning at a depth of four feet and running toward the northeast corner of the field, the pipes empty through an outlet at a depth of seven feet. With no water seen pooling after approximately nine inches of rainfall in June, there was little doubt about whether the drainage system would be sufficient. The upgrade also required drilling a well and installing a pump near Lovers Lane to provide the field’s sprinkler system with its own source of water.

Workers finished stripping the field of its existing grass and then mixed the soil to achieve a consistent blend of gravel, sand, and sandy loam. Two levels of soil were then applied. Following approximately two days of work to laser grade the field, the surface appeared flatter than most parking lots. The soil was then fertilized, with lime added, balancing the pH to allow the sod to take root. Laying the sod required just one day’s work, thanks to a crew of five and an expert installer who dispensed 64-foot strips of sod as if he were laying living room carpet—but faster. All told, sod was laid over 59,500 square feet of Murbach Field.

Following the installation of new bleachers, Murbach Field, with its scenic backdrop of Gibbet Hill, is now a stunning venue for football and lacrosse games. The school’s other playing fields and the Groton County Club’s fairways add to its picturesque New England setting. The field is named after former faculty member Terry Murbach, who served Lawrence Academy as an English teacher, English department chair, and assistant football coach from 1979 to 1997. He passed away in June 1997. The school community salutes the Taylors for making possible these important improvements to Murbach Field and for honoring Mr. Murbach and Lawrence Academy with such a wonderful gift.
What’s in a Web Site?

You don’t have to be “tweeting” about your daily life, or even know what Twitter or Facebook are, to know that any business without an appealing and information-rich Web site risks being left behind in today’s marketplace. Members of Generation X—born in the mid-1960s to late 1970s and known as Gen Xers—are chasing the baby boomers as customers with impressive wallet power, and, in addition to shopping online for all manner of consumer goods, are also learning online about independent schools alongside their even more Internet-facile children.

Director of Admissions Tony Hawgood, who knows all this only too well, needs no convincing that Lawrence Academy’s Web site is now the school’s most important and powerful marketing tool and information delivery system. In 2008, when it would have been easy to parcel out the duties of a Webmaster to people scattered throughout campus and with other priorities, a practice still observed by most schools, Mr. Wiggins named Peter Hazzard LA’s full-time Webmaster. He entrusted the Web Team—including Andrew Brescia, director of communications; Dale Cunningham, assistant director of communications; and Mark Burkholz, director of technology—with implementing a wholesale redesign of the school’s Web presence at www.lacademy.edu.

After a meeting with the school’s Marketing Committee, the Web Team reviewed a number of Web design firms to find a creative partner capable of providing a site that would set Lawrence Academy apart from its peers and be self-managed, allowing a growing number of representatives from administrative and academic departments, trained and supported by the Webmaster, to keep content fresh and updated. With a variety of people at work on the site’s content, it was imperative that the interface used to edit and post information, images, and documents (known as the content management system, or CMS), be very user friendly. With the advances in mobile devices, it was also important that LA’s next Web site design be viewed easily on such interfaces. Finally, it was decided to tailor the homepage and its functions to prospective students and their families. It goes without saying, as the economy buckled, that the price of the new site needed to be right.

From October 2008 through January 2009, the Web Team met with six companies, four of which specialize in school sites and two that build commercial Web sites. A thorough evaluation process yielded two finalists that were reviewed in more detail during February. In early March 2009, a contract was signed with Finalsite, the school Web site division of Applied Internet Technologies, in East Hartford, Connecticut, with the goal of launching a new site in August. Long before the school dispatched four representatives to Finalsite’s user conference in July, the team was hard at work on the homepage concept and Webmaster Hazzard had begun his own training to develop fluency in the CMS while building pages for the new site.

Thanks to the final design of the new home page, prospective students and their parents will immediately gain insight into LA’s culture about the school without venturing further. Our faculty, staff, and parents will have single-sign-on access to the information sources they likely use on a daily basis, and our alumni will have a more robust section on the site. Any visitor will be able to subscribe to alerts regarding scores, postponements, and cancellations of sporting events as well as reminders about all events on the school calendar. An added benefit of the new site will be having the school’s business office, admissions office, alumni/development office, and Web site share a single database for the first time. That transition is expected to occur by the end of next summer.

Lawrence Academy’s new site—its interactive home page, improved navigation, and electronic alerts to feed any appetite for news—will both increase LA’s visibility throughout the world and enhance communications between the school and its Internet-connected constituents. Visit www.lacademy.edu, sign up for what suits you, and then tell us what you think about the new site!

Feel unplugged? To receive our electronic newsletters, visit www.lacademy.edu and follow the simple instructions at Community Login, remembering to provide us with your email address.

What’s in a Web Site?

http://www.lacademy.edu/
The year’s final assembly provided Head of School Scott Wiggins with an opportunity to bid a public farewell to departing faculty members.

Three teachers have left after serving in one-year positions. **Margaret Ebert**, who replaced science teacher Cindy Moseley during her year’s service as co-director of studies, “established very early that she takes a personal interest in the success of each of her students,” said Mr. Wiggins, who also applauded her for being “a demanding teacher who maintains high standards for her students.” Ms. Ebert has married and is tutoring in the international school system in Rome, Italy. **Robert Foote**, who taught history during Arthur Karp’s sabbatical/leave, was recognized by Mr. Wiggins for his “impressive command of popular culture, movies, and sports, which he used to great effect with his students this year.” Also serving as a football and baseball coach, Mr. Foote was appreciated for his “energy, expertise, and commitment to boarding school life.” He is now teaching at Cushing Academy. Also leaving the history department after one year, **Neil Somers** was saluted for using “a variety of teaching methodologies, including seminars and simulations,” while teaching students in U.S. History and electives. Mr. Wiggins thanked him for being “an exceptionally open, warm, and friendly person” who became “an integral part of the school community in one year.” The school community is fortunate to have Mr. Somers remain on campus in the role of house parent while pursuing his master’s degree.

**Fanny Vera**, who served for three years as a Spanish teacher, joins her husband on the Groton School faculty, where she will cover classes for the department chair for a year. A native of Peru, Ms. Vera introduced students during Winterim to her country and her own family there. “Whether it is in sharing ideas or her positive outlook or in spending her free time working with students who need extra help or just someone in whom to confide,” Mr. Wiggins said, “Ms. Vera gives without hesitation.”

In saying goodbye to **Ken Coard** following his four years in the math department, Mr. Wiggins pointed out that “his easy-going style, playfulness, and genuine fondness for interacting with students made LA a better place.” He also praised Mr. Coard for helping to “coach basketball and develop great players as an assistant varsity coach over the past four years.” Ken moves on to teach math and assume the position of head varsity coach for boys’ basketball at St. Paul’s School. **Hayley Franklin**, who arrived as Hayley Hurson four years ago, began as director of student activities and then moved into full-time admissions work, where her successes included coordinating the planning of recent Revisit Days. Mr. Wiggins described her as “a wonderful role model, coach, and mentor to kids in her dorm, advisor group, and teams, and around campus.” Hayley moves to Maryland with her husband, Charles, to work as a fundraiser for a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting teenagers with autoimmune diseases.

In recognizing **Amy Good** for one year of tutoring and five years of service as Lawrence Academy’s director of academic support, Mr. Wiggins praised her as the very embodiment of student-centered teaching: “Her support of teachers and students alike created an environment where learning takes place in constructive modalities that play to the strengths of our students.” He also recognized her for being forward-thinking in her problem-solving and in helping last year, as interim co-director of studies, to pave the way for the incoming director of studies. Amy has returned home to Hanover, New Hampshire, to assume the role of a learning specialist at Hanover High School.

Finally, Mr. Wiggins saluted the outgoing dean of students, **Charles Franklin**, for his eight years of service to the school. Following graduation from Amherst College, Mr. Franklin joined the history department as a full-time teacher and coach of soccer and basketball. Appointed dean of students three years ago, he “worked tirelessly to give students a chance to learn from their mistakes, to grow, and to take on the mantle of leadership in responsible and effective ways.” Noting that Mr. Franklin helped to bring speakers to campus and promoted a greater commitment among students to school governance, Mr. Wiggins thanked him “for serving as the voice of our standards” and expressed his pride in “exporting an administrator of his caliber to the Boys’ Latin School of Maryland,” where he will serve as dean of students.
Kimberly Bohlin joins the faculty as an assistant director of admissions after spending the past five years in admissions at the Dexter and Southfield Schools. Kim is a graduate of Bowdoin College, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and had a standout soccer career. Kim coaches the LA girls’ varsity soccer team and is also the head coach of the U15 Sachems Futbal Club, a premier club soccer team in Winchester, Mass. She lives on campus and serves as a dormitory super-affiliate.

Christopher Ellsasser returns to his home state of Massachusetts as Lawrence Academy’s new director of studies. He comes from the Sage Hill School in California, where he served as director of curriculum. With a bachelor’s degree in English from Brandeis University and a doctorate in English education from Columbia, Chris served as an associate professor at Pepperdine University. He and his wife, Jackie, an attorney, live in Peabody House with their one-year-old twin boys, two dogs, and a cat. Chris also serves as an on-duty administrator.

Kathy Noble, who is Lawrence Academy’s new athletic director, served in the same capacity for the past five years at Proctor Academy and previously at Miss Porter’s School and The Rivers School. In addition to both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in physical education and athletic administration from Springfield College, Kathy earned her doctorate from Western New England College School of Law. Currently, Kathy serves as an executive board member on the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council and as co-director of NEPSAC Championships. She served for three years on the board of the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. In addition to living on campus, Kathy serves as an on-duty administrator. Kathy and her partner, Deborah, have twin daughters who are college freshman.

Kimberly Poulin joins LA as director of academic support. She comes from the Rivendell Interstate school district in New Hampshire, where she served as a high school special education teacher. Before that, Kimberly served at New Hampton School as director of service learning while working in the academic support program and living in a dormitory. She earned her undergraduate degree in special education from Bloomsburg University and her master’s degree in secondary education from Plymouth State University.

Kimberly and her husband, Michael, live in a faculty residence with their two boys.

Megan Simon is LA’s newest Spanish teacher. She joins the language department after serving at St. Peter’s Prep in New Jersey. Megan earned her bachelor’s degree in Spanish at the University of Richmond and her master’s in Spanish with a concentration on Latin American literature from Florida Atlantic University. In addition to coaching, Megan lives on campus and serves as a dorm head.

Sarah Britton, new to the math department, is a 2007 Hamilton College graduate, having earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics with a minor in communications. She comes to Lawrence Academy after teaching algebra and geometry at Cheshire Academy. Living in Lawrence House, Sarah also serves as a dorm head and coach. She enjoys the outdoors and has served as a trip leader for the Adirondack Adventure Program at Hamilton.

Lauren MacGillivray joins LA from St. Andrew’s School in Rhode Island. At St. Andrew’s, Lauren served as the athletic trainer and physical education teacher. She was also involved with the summer programs as the assistant director. Lauren, who has her master’s degree in kinesiology from James Madison University, lives on campus and serves as a super-affiliate.

Kevin Sullivan ’98 returns to his alma mater to fill the part-time position of director of student activities. He has served LA in the Development Office, and, for the past five years, as an assistant boys’ varsity basketball coach while working in the private sector. He also coaches basketball during summers for national exposure events, working with The Hoop Group and with the staff at Duke University. A resident of Stow, Mass., Kevin attended Babson College.

Kevin Sullivan

Megan Simon

Kimberly Poulin

Kathy Noble

Christopher Ellsasser

Sarah Britton

Lauren MacGillivray

Kimberly Bohlin

Moving In
Dear Alumni:

Are you wondering what you can do for Lawrence Academy—or what the school might do for or with you?

Alumni are serving on the Alumni Council, as class agents, and as ambassadors who represent LA in distant cities and countries. Perhaps you are considering one such opportunity, or maybe you have an idea for a community service project involving alumni and students in your area. You may have heard about the Board of Visitors and are thinking about serving on it and learning about how today’s LA experience compares with your own. Have you thought of supporting a current student’s idea for a Winterim Professional by offering an internship? Would you mentor a current student interested in pursuing a career in your field, or are you interested in networking with recent grads who are in their first job or working with classmates undergoing a career change?

The door swings both ways. If you are looking for an internship or help in entering the workforce or making a career change, then maybe your first step should be to get in touch with us and tap into our alumni network. In the meantime, I hope you are encouraged to hear that this past year was truly remarkable at Lawrence Academy! Among other things, we saw new examples of the strength of our community in the 100% support of the Annual Fund by seniors, senior class parents, trustees, and members of the Alumni Council.

There are so many ways to be involved and support Lawrence Academy besides giving to the Annual Fund, though your contributions continue to be all-important in helping the school cover the costs of an LA education. We welcome your ideas and commitment to supporting LA in any way that benefits our school community and other alumni. Please drop me a line!

Sincerely,

Kevin J. McDonald ’70
President, Lawrence Academy Alumni Council
mcdkevl@verizon.net
Service and Commitment Honored at Reunion 2009 Luncheon

With the dining hall ringing with the noise of conversation, alumni and their families joined faculty for a midday meal and time—precious to all—to catch up with each other. The reminiscing, punctuated with laughter, was briefly interrupted by the presentation of annual awards.

Based upon a vote by the alumni body at large and decided upon by members of the Alumni Council, the Amos Lawrence Award was established in 2004 to acknowledge and honor alumni for their outstanding service to Lawrence Academy, recognizing their loyalty and commitment to forwarding the mission of LA. Two distinguished alumni shared the Amos Lawrence Award, which was presented by Alumni Council President Kevin McDonald ’70.

Paul Husted ’64 was recognized for being the senior member of the Alumni Council, having served since 1992. Recently, he distinguished himself as an extraordinary volunteer through helping faculty member Dick Jeffers to continue the crucial work of the Whipple Archives and the Jeffers Heritage Preservation Center. Paul has also been a phonathon volunteer, a chair of the Ambassador Program, a founding member of the Board of Visitors, and a devoted class agent.

Betsy Bresnahan Dolan ’89 has been on the Alumni Council since 2004, serving as its president for two years. During her tenure as president, Betsy demonstrated superlative leadership and shepherded in a new era of active involvement by council members. Just as LA is student-centered and students are taught to be more than spectators, Betsy ensured that each Council member became involved in taking over an area of the council’s work. She has also been on the school’s Strategic Planning Committee and Board of Visitors and has served as a reunion coordinator and class agent.

For a list of past recipients of the Amos Lawrence Awards, please see the box on page 56.

Kevin also presented The Alumni Faculty Appreciation Award to longtime faculty member Ned Mitchell. The award is voted on by the alumni each year and presented to a past or present member of the faculty, living or deceased, who played an important role in the lives of students as a teacher, coach, dorm parent, or advisor. It is given annually to recognize dedication and commitment to the students of Lawrence Academy. In chronological order, beginning in 1997, the past recipients have been Dick Jeffers, Terry Murbach, Arthur Ferguson, Dick Gagné, Bill Mees, Joe Sheppard, Bob Shepherd, Richmond Baker, Don Morse, Jack Burckes, John Curran, and Donna Mastrangelo.

Ned Mitchell has been enriching minds at Lawrence Academy since 1978, when he moved into Spaulding Hall with his wife, Mary, and their children, Charlie and Julie. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Dartmouth College, Ned teaches in the Ninth Grade Program (NGP), coaches boys’ soccer and senior softball, develops and maintains the school’s video library, and serves on the Intervention Team. He has enjoyed the total immersion that goes with living at a residential school and teaching skills for lifelong learning in the NGP. After more than 30 years in the classroom, it is clear every day at school that Ned’s enthusiasm for his work at LA is undiminished: “It’s exhilarating. I work with the greatest people in the world.”

As a special gesture to Ned’s exemplary service, Arden Robbins ’85 flew in from Florida with his family to speak about the difference that Ned has made in his life. The following testimonial excerpted from Arden’s comments captures what countless alumni feel about Ned: “When Molly Richardson called me to ask if I would present LA’s ‘lifetime’ teaching award to Ned Mitchell, it took me all of a minute to book a flight from Florida. Mitch was there for me as an advisor, teacher, dorm master, and friend from day one of my freshman year. He guided me through all the highs and lows of a high school experience. He was especially supportive during my junior year, which was filled with challenges—academically, athletically, in the dorm (Waters House), and with the dean of students. It was Mitch’s counsel that guided me through that difficult year and into a terrific senior year, concluding with getting into Hobart College and winning the Headmaster’s Award. Thank you, Mitch; it is with honor that I present this award to you.”
LA Reunion Weekend

Charlie Mancuso ’74
Fred Rowe ’59
L–R: Fred Rowe ’59, Sherm Hunter ’59, and Tracy Rowse Crowell ’94

Dean Blackey ’94
Fred Rowe ’59 and Sherm Hunter ’59
L–R: Carl Campagna ’44, Fred Rowe ’59, and Bill Cooper ’59

Bill Cooper ’59, Kat Spring ’09, and Martha Cooper
L–R: Bill Cooper ’59, Kat Spring ’09, and Martha Cooper

L–R: Charlie Mancuso ’74, Stan Silbert ’44, Dean Blackey ’94, and Tracy Rowse Crowell ’94

L–R: Tracy Rowse Crowell ’94, David Schultz ’74, and George Peabody and trustee Kevin Anderson ’85

L–R: Paul Davidson ’59, Martha Cooper, Ellen Shiff, Bob Shiff ’59, and Bill Cooper ’59

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LA Reunion Weekend

Carrie Blackey Tovar ’99

Sasha Weigel ’98

Andy Goldstein ’94

Dick Gagné and Tiffany O’Connor Hofmann ’94

L–R: Tom Hegarty ’70, Molly Richardson, and Joe Hegarty ’38

Dev Barron ’86 and Dave Bresnahan ’86

Al Gordon ’59 and Warren Reich ’57

L–R: Caitlin McLellan ’84, Frank Busconi ’84, and Greg Osborn ’84

Jenny Kolloff ’99

Carrie Blackey Tovar ’99

George Peabody (former Faculty)

David Hajjar ’69 and Bob Loring ’69

L–R: Tony Sampas ’74, Tom Fahey ’74, Robin Martin Adams ’75, Vicki Lamb ’73, Sandy Sweeney Gallo ’75, and Deb Baker Gray ’74

Dick Gagné and Tiffany O’Connor Hofmann ’94

Sasha Weigel ’98

L–R: Skip Davis ’64, Bob Kimball ’64, Neil Klar ’64 (standing), Edie and Rich Baker, Doug Joseph ’64, and Paul Husted ’64

L–R: Tom Hegarty ’70, Molly Richardson, and Joe Hegarty ’38

Al Gordon ’59 and Warren Reich ’57

L–R: Caitlin McLellan ’84, Frank Busconi ’84, and Greg Osborn ’84
LA Reunion Weekend

Memorial Garden bench

Jim Howley ’84

Rick Niejadlik ’89

Greg Osborn ’84 and Leslie Remark Edquist ’84

Frank Hirai ’59 and Sherm Hunter ’59

Reunion Giving Committee 2009

Walton Kilbourn ’49

Jeremy Rosenthal ’88 and Val Campolieto Templeton ’89 with her two sons, Michael and Jack

Marianne Crescenzi Balfour ’88, Betsy Bresnahan Dolan ’89, and Jeff Maclaren ’70 (Alumni Council members)

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LA Reunion Weekend

Chris Gothorpe ’99 and Artie O’Connor (former faculty)

Jonathan Goodwin and Danielle Culgin Goodwin ’99

Jeremy Rosenthal ’88 and Britt Ellison Dressler ’89

Betsy Bresnahan Dolan ’89 with daughter Abby

L–R: Heather Curtis ’84 and Amy Hall Casey ’84 with her husband, Tom

Class of ’84 planting their tree

L–R: Heather Curtis ’84 and Amy Hall Casey ’84 with her husband, Tom

L–R: Matt Kilfoyle ’04, Ken Kaufmann ’04, Mary Valley ’04, and Doc Haman (faculty)

Walton Kilbourn ’49 with Rich and Edie Baker

Stanley Silbert ’44 and Carl Campagna ’44

Jeremy Rosenthal ’88 and Britt Ellison Dressler ’89

L–R: Cindy Ryder Matthes ’84, Leslie Remark Edquist ’84 and Jim Howley ’84

Stanley Silbert ’44 and Carl Campagna ’44

L–R: Joe Fahey ’84, Greg Osborn ’84, Rob Lawlor ’84, and Harry Gordon ’84

Jonathan Goodwin and Danielle Culgin Goodwin ’99

Class of ’84 planting their tree

L–R: Cindy Ryder Matthes ’84, Leslie Remark Edquist ’84 and Jim Howley ’84

Betsy Bresnahan Dolan ’89 with daughter Abby
Friends and Former Faculty

Molly Richardson of the Development Office spoke with Helen E. Fielden, who was hoping to attend Reunion this year. She was at Lawrence Academy in the ’70s as the school nurse and asked to be remembered to any and all who knew her. Her health has been failing, but LA meant enough to her that she was trying to get back to campus for a visit.

Becky Josephson and her family are doing well in New Hampshire. Her husband, Peter, is still teaching at St. Anselm College, and Becky is at The Derryfield School in Manchester, which she describes as “a little indie day school.” Cozy, their daughter, graduated in June with a bachelor’s degree in theatre from Seattle University and is looking for work while trying to get some more acting experience in the Seattle area. Wilson is starting tenth grade at Northfield Mount Hermon and loving it there.

Jennifer Wolter has decided to stay in South Africa and has signed a new contract to stay on for at least three more years at the African Leadership Academy. She will be teaching biology there and maybe some environmental science, eventually. She writes, “These kids remind me why I teach!” The Academy is a boarding school with leadership classes and community service opportunities. Jen says that the school’s Web site has a lot of cool stories, and she encourages everyone to check it out at www.africanleadershipacademy.org.

1941

Dick Lawton included a kind of life equation on the back of his Golden Alumni postcard: “7 great grandchildren + 11 grandchildren + 7 children + 7 spouses = 32 immediate family; add Doris and Dick, and that makes 34 in the family.”

1942

John Curley is keeping busy doing “some church volunteer ‘work’ and giving advice that no one follows.” He is meeting more and more LA grads who are old and retiring on the Cape, but, he adds, “’42 was the best year of my life, still!” John’s classmate Gardner Pickup is keeping busy, as well as “young,” by leading a physically active life.

He sends his regards to the LA family and writes that he received his bachelor of arts degree from Brown University. He is now widowed, unfortunately, and enjoys the company of his daughter Brenda. He retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. In his younger days, he served four years on active duty in the U.S. Navy, plus 16 more in the Retired Navy Reserve.

1944

Carl Campagna and his wife, Evelyn, made the trip all the way from California for his 65th Reunion this past May. In returning his Golden Alumni postcard, he wrote, “I trust the Academy will have an ample supply of polish to burnish and restore the patina of age which otherwise could be mistaken for corrosion—for those of us who are more ‘golden’ than others.” It turns out that there was no polish needed for the members of the Class of ’44 who made it back this year: They were a glowing group.

1945

Herbert Geist wrote on a returned Golden Alumni postcard that he is married with four children. He is now retired and living in Green Valley, AZ, and Fort Collins, CO, alternating six months in each. Herbert is enjoying volunteering at an animal shelter, as well as hiking, biking, and traveling.

Ben Mayer, on the other hand, has slowed his traveling and has moved his family back to its roots in Montana. After having his academic journey interrupted twice by a total of six years of military service, Ben graduated from the University of Michigan. His traveling began when he was a Japanese interpreter after WWII and then a Chinese interpreter in Korea, but it didn’t end there: “Of the subsequent 35 years with an international oil company, some 26 were spent in Asian and European residence.” He credits his success with “being comfortable in five languages,” adding, “It was just part of doing business.” This was especially true during the 10 years he resided in Switzerland as CEO of a Swiss petroleum company. His last stop before settling into retirement was in New York at the corporate headquarters of the same company. Ben is proud of his three children, who are all “pursuing successful careers,” and he remains very active in his community. He sent his best and wished that others enjoy a very successful Golden Alumni Reunion.

1948

Dick Boyle regretted that he would not be able to make Reunion this year and wrote, “At my age, travel is not likely. All the best to my classmates!”

1949

Tom Gill received his bachelor of arts degree from Dartmouth and his master’s in business administration from Babson. He retired in April 1984 to the Florida Keys for sun and fun. He’s “still above ground at 83” and is pretty impressed by that. Tom’s classmate Norman (Bitsy) Grant Jr. joins him above ground and is taking it one step further. He is “learning the computer so that he can go surfing.” Life has brought Bitsy to Seattle, where he is now living with his daughter and son-in-law. He married Nancy, and together they had two children; he also has two stepchildren and three adopted children. Bitsy spent 47 years in Alaska as a registered guide. He owned liquor stores, sold insurance and real estate, collected firearms, was an insurance adjuster and attorney’s investigator, and appeared as a fire arms expert before federal and state courts. He recently sold everything and moved to Seattle. We hope he enjoys his “surfing.”

1952

Philip Tierney wrote on his returned Golden Alumni postcard, “Bob Grey ’53 and I will attend the 2010 ‘Old Timers Reunion’ provided Bob Kessler does, as well. Just returned from my wife’s 50th at Wellesley College. Many old people! Are we that old?” Were Reid Wiesman to answer that question, he would say no, since he is preparing for his 60th anniversary run of the Boston Marathon. His plan is to add 2010 to 1951, 1981, and 2001.

1953

John Ferguson Sr. regretfully was not able to make it back for Reunion Weekend again this year. It seems each year that we catch his family as they are making the change from their Florida home in the
Villages to the back woods of Maine. He wrote that he will be 75 years old in April and is not sure where the years have gone.

1954
Working with the Arab Water Council, Ted Engman is helping them to use satellite data to identify their water needs.

1955
Arnold Clickstein has been busy since leaving LA. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees, he became the headmaster of an independent school, CEO of the American Jewish Historical Society, vice president of the Lexington Organizational Group, regional CEO for International Youth Hostel Movement, executive coach in a private practice, adjunct professor/lecturer at Cambridge College, and author of *Cardinal Principles of Governance: Strengthening the Governance of Nonprofit Organizations in America's Communities*. Arnold is very active in the Boy Scouts and on the Winchester School District Technology Committee. He maintains a blog at strategicnonprofit.blogspot.com. He has five children and four grandchildren. His youngest child is in 9th grade, and Arnold is married to Susan Lynn Hurwitz. He writes that he plans to retire in 2026, and he encourages his classmates to visit his Web site at www.strategicwise.com.

1957
Jed Eliades was not able to make it back to Reunion this year as he was at his granddaughter's graduation. He did write on his returned Golden Alumni postcard that he received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and continued on to his postgraduate studies at Betriebs Fachschule in Germany, where he stayed and found employment with Kochs Adler GmbH Bielefeld. He returned home in 1966 and joined the United States Marine Corps. Ted then went on to become the chief engineer at Chandler Machine Company in Ayer, where he worked until 1976. This turned out to be a big year for him as he founded Maxant Iron & Steel Corp and married his wife, Christine E. Poulos, a teacher from Ayer. Together, they had Christa L. Maxant, who went on to graduate from Barnard and is now working as a medical researcher. In 2000, Ted founded Red Tail Golf Club; he retired in 2003. He spends his time skiing, sailing, farming, and traveling. Ted is the proud owner of a Hinckley Pilot 35 and sails the coast of Maine from Bath to Lubec. In 2007, he and his son-in-law purchased Maxant Honey Equip. Corp. from Ted's father's estate, for which he is now the chief engineer. Art Ross, too, has been very busy and wrote to share with us some of his details. After one year at WPI in chemical engineering, he went into the insurance business by accident through a summer job and spent almost 35 years at it. In the middle of that run, there was a five-year stint on Wall Street. His last job was as senior vice president and director of
international relations for Lincoln National Corp. “I really racked up the frequent-flyer miles until retiring in December 1999. I married a lovely and talented southern belle, Kathy Bowman, on April 18, 1998. Best move of my life since selecting Lawrence Academy. My recreational passion since 1975 has been sailing the Maine coast. We have a summer home there, but no boat at the moment. Other interests include genealogy work, the computer, and reading—history, especially—and sports: Boston Bruins, New York Giants, and the Red Sox.” Sharing Art’s passion for sailing is classmate Fred Rowe Jr. Fred received his bachelor’s degree from Northeastern University and then married and had three children; he now has seven grandkids. He is the president/owner of Pension Planners, Inc., and enjoys skiing when the weather won’t allow sailing.

1965
Rob Orchard, who has served as the American Repertory Theater’s executive director since its founding, recently retired after 40 years of service. In an article printed in The Boston Globe, Robert Brustein, ART’s founding director referred to Rob as having been “the nervous system and the blood stream” of the company, adding, “Nothing we have accomplished could have been done without his wisdom, advice, and direction.” Since retiring in June, Rob has been named Emerson College’s first executive director of the arts.

1970
Witney Schneidman passed along a review that he had written on Dead Aid by Demisa Moyo. The review was published in the July 13, 2009, issue of Newsweek and is titled “Helping Africa Save Itself.” Witney served as U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in the Clinton Administration and is now the president of Schneidman and Associates International in Washington, D.C.

1971
Molly Richardson of the Development Office spoke with Randy Guerra, who announced that he and his wife, Elsa, have a four-year-old son, Joseph, from Guatemala. They adopted him at 20 months and are truly enjoying being new parents.

1973
Robb Bunnen wrote to Rob Moore of the Development Office of his “totally amazing experience” playing tennis at the 18th Maccabiah Games (the Jewish Olympics). “The experience started with praying at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem on Friday night Shabbat; being bar mitzvahed at Hebrew University in Jerusalem; visiting the Dead Sea (the lowest point on Earth at 1200 feet below sea level) and Masada (the site of the Jews’ last stand against the Romans in a.d. 66); dining along the Tel Aviv port area next to the Mediterranean sea—and, oh, yeah—there was some tennis. The conditions over here are ridiculous. It’s 107° on the hard courts and it feels hotter. Anyhoo, I lost in the third-set tiebreaker in the semis to the silver medal winner. I did win the bronze medal match today, so I did bring home some hardware. Opening ceremonies were amazing, with 900 USA athletes, 7,500 total athletes from 65 countries, and Netanyahu, Shimon Perez, and, of course, Jason Lezak (3-time Olympic gold medal winner)—he just won the ESPY
for best finish of ’08; think Michael Phelps) lighting the Maccabiah torch.”

1974

John Romac taught classes in navigation on a 125-foot fishing schooner named the Spirit of Massachusetts during the Tall Ship Regatta. He was participating in a program called Ocean’s Classroom and sailed for three weeks from Boothbay to Boston to Halifax and back to Boston with a crew of six, 18 kids, and two adults, including himself.

1983

Benjamin Carl Ansin was born to Ken Ansin and his girlfriend Jane, one day after the birthday of Ken’s father, Ron, which is March 28. Also enjoying parenthood, John Ritz and his wife Kara Murphy ’85 love their new life with their twins in their new timber-frame home in Durham, Me.

1984

David Bradbury is president of VCET, Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies, which collaborates with eight Vermont colleges and the private sector. He is operating a technology business incubator program that churns out new life-sciences software and technology start-ups. His classmate James Gordon wrote, “It has been fun to receive the 25th Reunion information; receive a call from one of the organizers, Greg Osborn; and scan the class list and see what people are doing 25 years later. I hope this letter finds you all healthy, happy, and pursuing your passions. In high school, I never imagined that I would be teaching high school, but in a few weeks I am nearing 10 years of teaching history in Colorado, coupled with previous teaching experiences in Kenya and Pakistan. End-of-year teaching responsibilities and spending time with my family prior to making a trip to Kenya, where I am beginning to undertake school development projects in the summer, have me scrambling for time I wish I had more of and will mean I’ll have to hear about your latest news and stories of the reunion through the next alumni magazine. I wish you and your families the best and hope you have a great weekend at Lawrence. If you are ever traveling through Colorado, please say hello, or if you have any interest in assisting with school development projects in Kenya, please let me know. Again, best wishes!” (Happily, Greg made it to Reunion after all.)

1985

Jay Ackerman shares some exciting news. “On June 16, we welcomed into our family Jonah Phillip. Brayden is overjoyed and looking forward to being a big brother. We were in Jacksonville, FL, for his adoption, and everything went remarkably well. We are now back in California and enjoying many sleepless nights.”
1986
Memo Cantu has welcomed another child into the world: Simon Cantu Sanchez, born March 20, 2009. Simon joins his sister Martina, 3, and brother Guillermo, 2.

Nancy just left her Boston Blazers job to be home with her daughter for the summer and lives in Concord. I also live in Concord and am an attorney.

1988
Ed Bae, married and with two children, moved to Germany in 1999. He studied transportation design at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and went to Germany to work for Volkswagen, where he worked for eight years designing the exterior and interior of future VWs. He has since left VW and is now working as an independent design consultant. He lives just two hours west of Berlin.

1989
Betsy Bresnahan Dolan recently accepted a position as an elementary school counselor for the Ayer school district: “I love helping students of all ages and look forward to helping students with their academic, social, and emotional issues.” Betsy also said, “It was great seeing everyone at our 20-year reunion this past May, and I look forward to seeing everyone again at our 25th.” T.J. Diab is the CEO of Johnny Loves Vodka and was a contestant on the VH1 TV show “Megan Wants a Millionaire” until it was canceled.

Danielle Germain, too, is playing a new role in life as she was recently sworn in as chief of staff of the U.S. General Services Administration. This is a behind-the-scenes government agency that provides support functions for all of the other government agencies. Danielle has lived in Washington, D.C., for 12 years, since moving there to finish her graduate studies. She has a bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College and a master’s degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She’s also dabbled in politics during her career, working as a Congressional aide for the late Senator Edward Kennedy. Also in the entertainment world from the Class of ’89 is Bryson Lang. He wrote to share that he is still performing his comedy acts around the world in casino shows, on cruise ships, at corporate events, and in clubs. He was just performing in Beijing for five weeks and on a ship off the coast of Alaska. In addition to his comedy act, Bryson plays guitar in a band in Los Angeles and is really enjoying both careers.
1991
Sarah Calabria has left Ocean Spray to join BJ's Wholesale Club as the vice president, Total Rewards and HRIS. BJ's has $10B in revenue and 22,000 employees in 182 clubs. It is public and in the Fortune 300. At BJ's Sarah will be responsible for all of the pay (base, bonus, stock, recognition, benefits, and wellness programs) and HR systems. In a quick note that she had passed along to us, she wrote, “I think this is a great move for me, expanding my technical responsibilities in a larger, public company. In addition, I will have a great opportunity to broaden my skill set both in and out of HR. So, it was a very difficult decision to leave Ocean Spray, but this opportunity literally fell in my lap and I had to take it.” Robin Soloway Farmanfarmaian is currently the co-president of San Francisco Ballet’s ENCORE! organization and a volunteer coordinator for the San Francisco Opera’s BRAVO Club. She is also running the marketing department for Ad Valorem Appraisal as a day job.

1992
Katie Baldwin Watts was married last October to John Watts at a ceremony in New Hampshire. She wrote that “it was so great that some friends from LA could be there to celebrate with us.” In attendance were classmates Jason Gesing, Tara Piantoni Glazerman, Beth Smith, Christian Foster, and Keith Wentworth, as well as Chris Baldwin ’90 and Brian LaGrasse ’91.

1994
We would like to congratulate Jessica Cera Ahn Works for winning the Climate Community Citizenship Award for her efforts to combat climate change. Read her blog—http://jesscera.wordpress.com—to learn more about her projects and non-profits, and, in the next Elm Tree, look for more on what Jessica is doing to live a responsible and sustainable life.

1995
Kim Knox has just accepted the head coaching position for Arlington Catholic girls’ ice hockey. “I am also the head coach of the Massachusetts Spitfires U16 girls’ hockey team. We finished second in the state this year.” Also noteworthy in the world of hockey, Laurie Baker was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame for her participation on the 1998 U.S. women’s Olympic team, which brought home the gold medal!

1996
After 10 years of working in the music business in Los Angeles, New York City, and Sydney (Australia), Avi Melniker is heading to Japan to teach English next year for all of 2010 with her long-term Aussie boyfriend, to whom she is now engaged. “We are even learning Japanese!” Avi, who is very excited about becoming an Australian citizen at the end of the year, mentioned that in Brooklyn, New York, she just saw “Jocelyn Kaley (now Jocelyn Kaye), who is the cutest and just had a second baby boy, Gideon (her first son is named Ellis). They are adorable, too!”
1997
Marissa Hederson Hansen married Michael Hansen on June 27, 2009, at Shaker Hills Golf Club in Harvard, Mass. LA guests included Jason Rabinow '94, Jay Badger '95 (who walked Marissa's mother down the aisle), Bethe Rabinow Mays '95, and Chad Clifford.

1998
Josh Sagor married Tara McKinley at Wedgewood Pines in Stow, Mass., on August 29, 2009. Brendan Stone was one of his groomsmen, and classmates John Crocker and Chris Pendleton were there to celebrate, as well. Ben Wellenbach is now a father: "Lilah Marilyn Wellenbach was born on July 28 at 3:04 p.m. The future Olympian was happy and healthy. A note to all you boys: ‘Watch out, because I will be all over you!’"

1999
Carrie Blackey Tovar and her husband, Hector, had a baby girl. Samantha Jane, who was born on January 19, 2009, is happy and healthy.

2001
Stephanie M. Blackburn published Summer at Nineteen in January through iUniverse, and it’s available through Amazon. This was Stephanie's first book, and she is currently working on her second.

2002
Two very close friends, Denise and Anne-Marie Duggan, joined Kristin Achtmeyer for the Susan G. Komen Boston 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk. “Our team, ‘Walking With Love,’ raised over $9,800, which was contributed to the Boston total of over $4 million. The three of us had all participated in the walk a few years before, but it was still quite a challenge. Since 2001, I have met more and more people who have faced cancer. In 2002, I first did the 3-day in honor of my mother, Cande, who passed away in 2001 from breast cancer. This year, I was proud to walk in memory of my mother and in celebration of a close friend who has battled breast cancer, as well. As years go by, more and more women are faced with cancer, and I will continue to walk the 3-day until there is a cure. Along the walk I ran into two classmates, Lindsay Murdock and Talia Rosenblum. They raised over $3,000 for the cause and took on the challenge of 60 miles. The 3-day informs all men and women of the importance of early detection and overall awareness. It is a great walk and the support from the families along the way is truly an experience. The number of children and women holding up signs saying, ‘Thank you for walking for my mother’ or ‘This walk saved my life’ makes every mile worth it. You push yourself to finish each day because you can, and you know that what you are doing is helping to save a mother, daughter, sister, and friend. It was a great weekend, and I encourage everyone to either participate in the walk next year or support a walker; you will be helping to end cancer!” Larissa Ezzo passed her licensing exam and is now a registered pharmacist working with her mother at their family business, Pepperell Family Pharmacy.

2003
Chris Hazzard sent an email informing us about his new job. “I’m working for Steven Wolfe, the producer of 500 Days of Summer (a film that was just released). I started in July, and we just wrapped shooting a Forrest Whittaker film that should be coming out in 2010.”

2004
Kristen Beaudouin spent the last year living in Boston and working with adolescent girls with behavioral issues. In the fall, she will start at Columbia University on a master’s in social work. She is hoping ultimately to do clinical work with multicultural teenagers. Chad Bouchard, who was the last golfer in the Massachusetts Amateur Championship to make the cut from stroke play to match play, was the first to advance to the quarter finals. “You gotta stay levelheaded.”
Bouchard explained. “It’s the same thing, just next hole, next shot, one shot at a time, especially in match play. I just got lucky, got a look at one [putt] on the first playoff hole, and it went in. Just kept playing hard, stayed in my zone.” Chad hopes to turn pro this coming winter. He followed up his 19-hole thriller with a 3-and-2 victory over Dan White to advance to the quarterfinals of the championship.

2006

Matt Beaulieu was commended for a job well done as a member of the St. Michael’s College baseball team in an article featured in Globe West Sports. “Littleton’s Matt Beaulieu was off to a torrid start for the St. Michael’s College baseball team with a .515 batting average and .691 slugging percentage through 19 games. The 6-foot-2, 185-pound Beaulieu (35 for 68 at the plate) has a team-leading 19 runs, with three triples, a homer, and 11 runs batted in. A junior center fielder who bats second and also serves as the pitching staff’s closer, Beaulieu started 25 of St. Michael’s 32 games last season and led the squad with a .506 slugging percentage. He spent most of his time as a pitcher his freshman year, when the team had several veteran outfielders. ‘Matt sits inside the ball real well and hits a lot of line drives. He really works at hitting, and he corrects himself a lot better this season,’ said head coach Paul Morgan, a former Williams College shortstop in his first year at the St. Michael’s helm.”

Colin Havey has a pair of two-day-a-week internships, one at Great Escape Productions (movies), which just released The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3, and the other at Magic Elves (TV), which produces Top Chef and “Project Runway.” To see Colin’s blogs, click on his name in the list on the Web site called “Elon in LA” (http://elonina.wordpress.com/).

Pam Nwaako was named this year to Glamour’s list of Top 10 College Women, which honors “budding leaders in every field.” A senior at Georgetown University who is majoring in government with a minor in Spanish, Pam was chosen because of her considerable involvement with tutoring and mentoring underprivileged teens. She received tutoring from New Jersey SEEDS before coming to Lawrence, and Pam is now co-directing Girl Talk, a peer-to-peer mentoring program in Washington, D.C., while staying involved with SEEDS. In 2008, Pam was named a Goldman Sachs Global Leader for her commitment to academics and community service. Pam wants to attend law school next year.

2007

Cory Peterson has pulled off his third music festival in as many years. His most recent, held in August 2009, attracted over 1,500 concert goers who came from across the Northeast to see the headliner Rusted Root, along with acts such as the Ryan Mountbleu Band, and the final date of the combined Pete Francis (of Dispatch) and Barefoot Truth’s summer tour. This year’s festival benefited the Fresh Air Fund. With the success of the festival, Cory and his colleagues at Naukabout have already begun preparing for next year. Prior to this year’s festival, Cory organized the first Naukabout Music Festival, which benefited the Elias Fund. In his senior year at LA, he organized and ran his first festival, EliasFest, which generated over $10,000 for the Elias Fund, for which at that time he served as Northeast director. Cory is currently a junior at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. He is a global studies major with minors in European economics and sociology. Besides running a music festival this past summer, Cory was an intern at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, New York, where he was responsible for developing the museum’s current Web capabilities. He also interned with the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation.

2008

After taking the 2008–2009 academic year off and having bunion surgery on both feet, Mia Huntley will be attending The College of the Holy Cross, where she will be taking courses in theatre, secondary education, and deaf studies.
Parents
Richard Goldman, M.D., of Sudbury, died on April 4, 2009. Richard is survived by his wife, Barbara Kaplan Goldman; their two daughters, Stephanie and Samantha ’09; and his brother Kenneth.

Charles A. Rosebrock, 53, of Concord, died at Emerson Hospital on July 25, 2009, very soon after being diagnosed with cancer. Married to Mary Lee Jacobs for 23 years, Charles was the father of Hilary Rosebrock ’06.

Alumni
1941
John C. Marriott, 82, died on Sunday, April 10, 2005, from complications of heart disease and diabetes. John was born on April 1, 1923, in West Newton, and spent most of his life in New England before retiring to North Carolina and then to Arizona. John received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Maine before earning his doctorate in education from Boston University. John was a Navy ensign in WWII and married Mary Flaro in 1945. After beginning a career in education, he became an engineer for General Electric, where he was employed for 26 years. John loved barbershop singing and participated in this activity for 30 years. He is survived by his wife Mary; their four children, including Steve ’67; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Oliver M. Drown, 81, died at his home in New London, New Hampshire, on Thursday, May 21, 2009, from complications of severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was born June 5, 1927, in Rochester, New Hampshire, the only child of Eli and Faith Charles Drown. Oliver grew up in Jackson and attended school in Gorham. He graduated from Lawrence Academy in 1945 and, after serving three years in the U.S. Army Air Corps, from Keene Teachers College in 1954. After moving to Newport, Oliver began working at The Sugar River Savings Bank, becoming its president and CEO before retiring after 34 years in its employ. He was president of the New Hampshire Association of Mutual Savings Banks in 1973. As a resident of Newport, Oliver was active in many town and civic affairs. Upon retirement, he and his wife moved to the Eastman Community and lived there for 19 years before moving to New London in 2006. He was a longtime member of the South Congregational Church, the Lake Sunapee Yacht Club, and Eastman Golf Club, and was an associate member in the 10th Mountain Ski Division. In his earlier years, he was a certified ski instructor with the United States Ski and Snowboard Association. Oliver and his wife, Ellie, enjoyed skiing, sailing, canoeing, hiking, tennis, golf, traveling, and visiting their children and grandchildren. They loved living surrounded by the beauty of the Lake Sunapee area. Oliver is survived by Ellie, his wife of 58 years; their three daughters; and their grandchildren.

Franklin W. Harlow, 82, passed away on Thursday, June 17, 2009, while a patient at Baystate Medical Center. He was born on January 17, 1927, to Holden and Eva Harlow. After attending Lawrence Academy, Frank graduated from Springfield College. After serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII, he went to work for Friendly’s Ice Cream as a manager in the Palmer store for many years. Following years of managing, he went to work in the plant until his retirement. A member of the Wilbraham United Church, he enjoyed playing the trumpet, listening to jazz, and gardening, and was a loyal Red Sox fan. Frank was also an avid dog lover. He enjoyed the annual family trip to Old Orchard Beach, Maine. He would do anything for anyone, but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Frank leaves his loving wife, Penny Harlow, whom he married in 1950; four children; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his brother

Holden ’49. Frank was predeceased by his son, James Harlow, in 1976.

1949
Ralph (Joe) Bicknell, 78, of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, formerly of Groton, died on April 14, 2009, after a brief illness. He served in the United States Army and worked for the United States Public Health Service until his retirement in 1991. Joe was born in Groton on May 20, 1930, to Ralph and Mary Walsh Bicknell. He attended Groton High School before attending and graduating from Lawrence Academy. He was active in sports, playing baseball and basketball on the town teams. Joe was the husband of the late Mary Shanley Bicknell. He is survived by his second wife, Marylyn Loseke Bicknell, as well as two children, six grandchildren, and a cousin.

1955
Don Nicholas Weber, 72, passed away after a three-year battle with non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Don was born to Claude and Gertrude Weber in Detroit, Michigan, and raised in Belmont. He graduated from Indiana University and Boston College School of Law. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he was a member of the United States Army’s 101st Airborne Division and became a Green Beret. He married Carolyn Faye Dawson in 1964, and in 1967 they moved to Cape Cod, where he started practicing law. In addition to running a successful personal injury law practice, Don was a pillar of his community and a member of many organizations, including the Massachusetts Bar Association, Barnstable County Bar Association, Barnstable Police Association, Barnstable Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association, and Barnstable Park and Recreation Committee. He was also a board member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Special Forces Association. An active parishioner of Our Lady of Victory Church in Centerville, he shared his love of God with many and celebrated his faith through organizations such as the Cursillo Retreat
Movement, Residents Encounter Christ, and by volunteering at the Barnstable House of Correction. He was instrumental in helping to establish Birthright of Cape Cod. A generous and kind man who befriended all he met, Don loved Cape Cod, and, as a child who spent summers there, decided to raise his family in Centerville. He loved the sunshine and the water and was a member of the Hyannis Yacht Club. He was most happy spending time with his family and friends, and his favorite hobbies included travel, music, skiing, reading, painting, and video games. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Carolyn; three children; and a brother.

1956

H. Alfred Shiffer Jr., 72, of Sarasota, Florida, died on May 30, 2009. He was formerly of Laguna Beach, California; Newport Beach, California; Summit, New Jersey; Penllyn, Pennsylvania; and Warwick, Rhode Island. Al was born in Providence, Rhode Island, was brought up in the Gaspee Plateau area of Warwick, attended Aldrich High School, and graduated from Lawrence Academy and then Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. He worked for Mueller’s Macaroni for 16 years and retired after 25 years at Familiar Foods. He is survived by his wife Brenda and a brother, among others.

1962

James Lawrence O’Dea III, 64, died on June 21, 2009, at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, following a long illness. Born in Lowell on January 11, 1945, to James and Carol F. O’Dea, Jim attended the College of the Holy Cross and worked as a criminal defense lawyer for over 30 years in Washington, D.C., while being very active in the Democratic Party and serving for many years on the local alcohol licensing board. He was a one-time partner of F. Bradford Morse, former undersecretary of the United Nations. By 1997, he had closed his office in Lowell and appeared twice on CNBC’s Hardball, once to discuss the Kennedys and the second time, invited as a “leading criminal defense attorney,” to participate in a discussion about police behavior. Jim is survived by his mother, Carol O’Dea; his three brothers; and his dear friend Brenda Sanchez. He was predeceased by his father, James O’Dea II, a Massachusetts legislator and Middlesex District Attorney.

1964

Peter Michael Mark died in Houston, Texas. Born August 4, 1945, to Griffith Mark and Janet Moffett Mark, Peter attended school in Northfield and Winnetka, Illinois, before enrolling at Lawrence Academy in 1961. While at Lawrence, he participated in football, cross-country running, wrestling, and baseball, as well as the Glee Club, German Club, and Student Council. He served as class treasurer-secretary in his junior and senior years. Peter attended St. Olaf College, graduating in 1968 with a bachelor’s degree in history and political science. Very active in student government while at St. Olaf, he served as president of Sigma Tau; second vice-chairman of the Minnesota Federation of College Republican Clubs; sophomore class treasurer; president of the junior class; and, in 1967–68, president of the student body. In 1967, he also served as a delegate to the National Student Association, a confederation of college and university student governments. From 1968 until 1971, Peter taught history and Spanish at Lawrence Academy, and, before leaving Lawrence, was elected to the executive board of the Alumni Association as its treasurer. In 1973, he earned a master’s degree in history from George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs. Peter married Karen Liedtke in April 1973 in Houston, with George H. and Barbara Bush attending, and they raised three children: Peter Jr., Caroline, and Blake. Elected to the Board of Trustees in May 1977, he served until 1995. He established the Mark Family Fund Endowment to support the ongoing costs associated with the Madigan Student Center, which was completed in 1980, and he also supported fundraising efforts for the hockey rink. Over his career, Peter worked for Pennzoil in Houston, as director of the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, D.C., and finally established his own firm, Mark Resource Corporation, in Charleston, West Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Houston. At the time of its sale in 1994, Mark Resources had among its assets interests in nearly 700 producing wells, 230 miles of gas gathering lines, and over 200 proven drilling locations, primarily in Appalachia. Known as a perfect gentleman, sun-lover, host to large gatherings, world traveler, and amateur historian, Peter enjoyed summering in Cape Cod. He is survived by Karen, their children, and his brother Fritz Mark ’62, who sent reflections on his brother to Rob Moore, including the following: “Peter was a gentle soul who had a deep sense of loyalty and affection for his family, his friends, and particularly for Lawrence Academy, which was, in many senses, his home, since this is where he found both family and friends. He loved everything about Lawrence, so much so that after graduating from St. Olaf, he returned to teach Spanish for several years and later returned to serve as a trustee. He never lost touch with the Madigans, Morses, Bakers, Gagnes, Pickering, Grants, Jefferes, Fergusons, Shepherds, Whipples, and many others, especially fellow students. Peter would want me to thank this school, from the deepest part of his being, for all that it was to him as a young man, as an adult, as a person of integrity and character. Thank you, Lawrence.”

We have received word that the following alumni have also passed away, but we are not yet able to provide additional information. If you have information we could share with our readers, please contact Amanda Doyle ’98 in our Alumni/Development Office.

Ernest Westbrook ’43 died on February 9, 2009.
Kevin Guy ’58 died on May 31, 2007.
Paul Shoote ’89
Stephen Kupetz ’63, died on September 5, 2008.
Join with the LA community as we celebrate Vintage LA 1793 a wine-tasting event Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the Gray Building Fun, food, beverages, live and silent auction All proceeds to benefit Lawrence Academy scholarships Sponsored by the Parents’ Association

Fringe 2009

While in Edinburgh, Scotland, for the Fringe Festival in the summer of 2009, Lawrence Academy’s dance troupe was invited by LA trustee Patrick Cunningham ’91 for hearty hors d’oeuvres at Prestonfield Estate. They were joined by the parents of Marina Bousa ’09, Maureen and Edward, and Marina’s siblings. L–R, Emily Fox ’11, Rosa Valentín ’09, Jess DeVito ’10, Marina Bousa ’09, Caitlin Morrison ’10, dance teacher Brian Feigenbaum, Hilary Cranston ’09, Maddy Cunningham ’10, Sam Greenberg ’10, Patrick Cunningham ’91, Danielle Pedra ’10, Whitney Martin ’09, Lisa Berman ’10, Izzy Lawrence ’10, and Stephanie Saywell ’10. The photo is courtesy of Dina Mordeno, an NGP art teacher who served in a support capacity during the trip.